

Site Improvement Plan

Rixton Clay Pits

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)

UK0030265 Rixton Clay Pits SAC

Site description

Rixton Clay Pits is situated to the east of Warrington within disused brickworks. The site comprises a mosaic of habitats including open water, fen, swamp, wet woodland and meadow that have all developed within the flooded workings since quarrying ceased in the 1960s.

Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* are known to occur in at least 20 ponds across the site, indeed the site supports the largest population of great crested newts in Cheshire. The reserve is now managed for wildlife and amenity purposes by the local authority ranger service.

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 Direct impact from 3rd party	Pressure/ Threat	S1166 Great crested newt	Remove existing fly-tipping waste and use enforcement to prevent further tipping	Natural England, Warrington Borough Council

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 Direct impact from 3rd party

There have been issues with tipping into the reserve from adjacent properties, resulting in damage.

<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>
1A	Remove fly-tipping waste.	£10,000	2014-15	Waste removal operations: Fly-tipping waste removal	Local Authority	Warrington Borough Council	Natural England
<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>
1B	Take enforcement action to address fly-tipping.	Not yet determined	2014-15	Enforcement: Other	Local Authority	Warrington Borough Council	Natural England

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Rixton Clay Pits SAC S1166 *Triturus cristatus*: Great crested newt

Site location and links

Rixton Clay Pits SAC

Area (ha) **13.99** Grid reference **SJ684901** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Warrington

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Rixton Clay Pits 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.

Rixton Clay Pits SAC

<i>River basin</i>	North West	North West RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Weaver/Gowy	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a	

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	Rixton Clay Pits SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Rixton Clay Pits SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	09/10/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

