

Site Improvement Plan

Stodmarsh

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)

UK0030283 Stodmarsh SAC

UK9012121 Stodmarsh SPA

Site description

Stodmarsh SPA is a wetland comprising open water bodies, reedbeds, grazing marshes and alder-carr. The site provides wintering and breeding habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders. It regularly supports nationally important over-wintering populations of bittern and hen harrier. It supports over 1% of the national breeding population of gadwall, bearded tit and shovler. It regularly supports a diverse assemblage of breeding birds including great crested grebe, lapwing, redshank, snipe, grasshopper warbler, savi's warbler, sedge warbler and reed warbler. It also regularly supports a diverse assemblage of over-wintering birds including white-fronted goose, wigeon, mallard, pochard, tufted duck, water rail, lapwing and snipe.

Stodmarsh SAC supports the UKBAP species Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* which occurs within the site on emergent vegetation in fen areas and along ditches in the grazing marsh.

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 Water Pollution	Pressure	A021(NB) Bittern, A051(B) Gadwall, A051(NB) Gadwall	Nutrient investigation and sluice and river wall repairs.	Environment Agency, Natural England
2 Invasive species	Pressure/Threat	A021(NB) Bittern, A051(B) Gadwall, A051(NB) Gadwall, A056(NB) Shoveler, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Monitor and develop a control programme for Crassula	Natural England
3 Inappropriate scrub control	Threat	A021(NB) Bittern, A051(B) Gadwall, A051(NB) Gadwall, A056(NB) Shoveler, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	One-hit removal of scrub from reedbed	Natural England
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	A021(NB) Bittern, A051(B) Gadwall, A051(NB) Gadwall, A056(NB) Shoveler, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, Breeding bird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined

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 Water Pollution

Poor water quality has been recorded in the NNR lake (Unit 10) and associated reedbeds. The Lampen stream and Great Stour which feeds into the lake have fairly high nitrogen levels, and orthophosphate levels regularly over 100ug/L, especially since 2009. This leads to a reduction in fish stocks and macrophytes, which impacts on food availability for SPA birds (bittern, gadwall). It is unknown what impact it may have on populations of the SAC feature (Desmoulin's whorl snail).

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Research work on water quality (2011-13) recommended de-silting of the main NNR lake (Unit 10) to reduce the Phosphorus store, following algae blooms and fish-kill. Action proposed here is a nutrient investigation which will collate information and monitor water entering the lake from the Lampen Stream (and from the sluice on the Great Stour) and in the sediment, in order to determine what management measures are required to improve water quality.	£20,000	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Natural England	Environment Agency
1B	Confirm ownership and repair the river sluice (TR21972 62046) and adjacent section of the river wall which overtops on occasions.	£75,000	2015 - 2020	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1C	Outcomes from the nutrient investigation (Action 1A) may include recommendation for an Integrated Nutrient Management Plan and potentially a Lake Restoration Plan.	Not yet determined	2016-17	Integrated Nutrient Management Plan: Nutrient Reduction Management Plan	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Environment Agency	Natural England

2 Invasive species

Crassula is present within several areas of the NNR and potentially elsewhere within the site. *Crassula* forms a blanket of vegetation which can reduce food source and hinder birds finding food.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	<i>Crassula</i> monitoring.	£5,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England (NNR running costs)	Natural England	n/a

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2B	Implement <i>Crassula</i> control methods (costs are included in those for Action 2A).	Not yet determined	2014 onwards	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Natural England (NNR running costs)	Natural England	n/a

3 Inappropriate scrub control

Scrub cover is too high in the reedbed and around the lakes (approximately 12 ha). Development of scrub can reduce habitat suitability for SPA birds.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	One hit removal of scrub from reedbed (12 ha).	£50,000	2015-16	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Habitat restoration	Natural England (NNR running costs)	Natural England	n/a

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical loads.

<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	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Stodmarsh SAC	S1016 <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> : Desmoulin`s whorl snail
Stodmarsh SPA	A021(NB) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern
	A051(B) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall
	A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall
	A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i> : Northern shoveler
	A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i> : Hen harrier
	Breeding bird assemblage
	Waterbird assemblage

Site location and links

Stodmarsh SAC

Area (ha) 564.64	Grid reference TR211612	Map link
Local Authorities	Kent	
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Stodmarsh SAC	
European Marine Site conservation advice	n/a	
Regulation 33/35 Package	n/a	
Marine Management Organisation site plan	n/a	

Stodmarsh SPA

Area (ha) 481.33	Grid reference TR211610	Map link
Local Authorities	Kent	
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Stodmarsh SPA	
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.

Stodmarsh SAC

River basin	South East RBMP
WFD Management catchment	Stour
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB107040019743, GB107040019790, GB30743087, GB30743097, GB30743127, GB30743156, GB30743164

Stodmarsh SPA

River basin	South East RBMP
WFD Management catchment	Stour
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB107040019743, GB107040019790, GB30743087, GB30743097, GB30743127, GB30743156, GB30743164

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Stodmarsh SAC	Stodmarsh SSSI
Stodmarsh SPA	Stodmarsh SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Stodmarsh SAC	Stodmarsh NNR
Stodmarsh SPA	Stodmarsh NNR

Ramsar	
Stodmarsh SAC	Stodmarsh
Stodmarsh SPA	Stodmarsh

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Stodmarsh SAC	Stodmarsh SPA
Stodmarsh SPA	Stodmarsh SAC

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	30/10/14	

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