

Site Improvement Plan

Clints Quarry

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)

UK0030035 Clints Quarry SAC

Site description

This disused quarry in north-west England contains several pools that support a large great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* population which has shown evidence of recruitment in recent years. Terrestrial habitat associated with the breeding areas is quarry spoil, early successional vegetation and surrounding pasture.

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 Fisheries: Freshwater	Pressure	S1166 Great crested newt	Remove stone loach	Environment Agency, Natural England
2 Hydrological changes	Threat	S1166 Great crested newt	Investigate the hydrology of the site	Cumbria County Council, Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority, 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 Fisheries: Freshwater

The presence of stone loach in the breeding pools tends to prevent newts from inhabiting these locations. This may have led to a contraction in the size of the breeding population. If not addressed there is potential that the population could be eventually lost. The most effective method would be apply Rotenone to the waters, a piscicide. The use of piscicides is authorised by the Environment Agency under Section 5 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975), and under this authorisation use is only permitted under two circumstances: a.) for a scientific purpose, or b.) for the purpose of protecting, improving or replacing stocks of fish. While it has been used historically on a few occasions to remove stickleback for newt conservation as a scientific research project, the EA's interpretation is that 'a scientific purpose' cannot be used as a means to justify conservation management action. Equally the latter justification precludes the use of any noxious substance including a piscicide if it is not done for the protection, improvement or replacement of fish stocks, which in this case given we would be destroying fish to conserve amphibians, clearly doesn't apply.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Remove stone loach - involves identifying an effective method (use of Rotenone is currently illegal).	£10,000	2014-16	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Natural England, Grant in aid	Natural England	Environment Agency

2 Hydrological changes

There is a risk that if the water levels in the adjacent quarries were lowered this could possibly draw down the water table and lead to loss of the breeding pools. Quarry de-watering does not require an abstraction licence and is currently controlled by the Minerals & Waste Planning Authority - Cumbria County Council. The nearest groundwater abstraction licences are 5.1km away at Aspatria and 6.1km away at Marstons Brewery and these are related to different geology types.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Hydrological investigation to assess the relationship between the water levels in the SAC and the groundwater and its management.	£20,000	2014-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Grant in aid	Natural England	Cumbria County Council, Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority

<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>
2B	If appropriate, informed by a hydrological investigation of groundwater, review and amend operations undertaken as part of extant planning permission.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Enforcement: Planning Permission - Enforcement / Revocation	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Cumbria County Council, Lake District National Park Authority, Natural England

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Clints Quarry SAC S1166 *Triturus cristatus*: Great crested newt

Site location and links

Clints Quarry SAC

Area (ha) **12.03** Grid reference **NY161357** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Cumbria

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Clints Quarry 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.

Clints Quarry SAC

River basin

[North West RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Derwent (NW)

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Clints Quarry SAC	Clints Quarry, Moota SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Clints Quarry SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Clints Quarry SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Clints Quarry SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
0.3	09/12/2014	

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