

Site Improvement Plan

Dungeness

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)

UK0013059 Dungeness SAC

UK9012091 Dungeness to Pett Level SPA

Site description

Dungeness SAC consists of the UK's largest shingle structure which is one of the best examples of a vegetated shingle beach in Britain and Europe. The shingle beach has many diverse features such as vegetated shingle comprising of two Annex 1 Habitats (Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks (PVSB) and Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines (AVDL)), saline lagoons, natural freshwater pits and basin fens. These in turn support over 600 species of plants, many uncommon, and one of the most important assemblages of invertebrates in Britain with an unusually high number of rare and scarce species, including some endemics.

The combination of the shingle beaches, dunes, reedbeds, saltmarsh and grazing marshes result in a landscape that is renowned for its impressive geomorphology, and that is considered one of the best examples of a Cuspate Foreland in the world. The active and static geomorphological interest of the area is an SSSI notification feature and is described as underpinning the European designations. The active processes have created and continue to create the unique habitats found at Dungeness. It is fundamental to the mix of animals and plants found on the site.

The Dungeness to Pett Levels SPA regularly supports numbers of European importance of breeding Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* and Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, and wintering Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* and Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. The Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay pSPA is currently under review for designation and would almost triple in area the current SPA designation and include additional features. These are breeding Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, wintering Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, and passage Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* in numbers of European importance, as well as an assemblage of over 20,000 waterbirds in the non-breeding season. For completeness the SIP includes pSPA features and the issues affecting them, however, these are not shown in the list of qualifying features on page 16.

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 Military	Pressure	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines, H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves, S1166 Great crested newt	Produce a fire plan to reduce the impact of fires through an improved response	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), Fire and Rescue Service(s)

2 Vehicles: illicit	Pressure/ Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines, H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves	Improve partnership working to manage incidences and improve education and awareness	Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB, Shepway District Council, Landowner(s), Dungeness Estate Trust, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, Nuclear power stations
3 Predation	Threat	A132(B) Avocet, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A191(B) Sandwich tern, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern	Investigate and implement further control of predators.	Ministry of Defence (MoD), Natural England, RSPB, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s)
4 Changes in species distributions	Pressure/ Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern	Bird surveys to understand bird species movement across the whole area	Developer, Natural England, RSPB
5 Invasive species	Pressure/ Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines, H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves, S1166 Great crested newt	Contain current extent to prevent further spread. Identify suitable control mechanisms	Environment Agency, Natural England, Shepway District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s), EDF Energy, Romney Marshes Area IDB
6 Inappropriate scrub control	Pressure/ Threat	H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves, S1166 Great crested newt	Implement willow growth control programmes at Lydd Airport and MoD ranges	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)
7 Overgrazing	Pressure/ Threat	H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves	Strategic approach to rabbit control across a number of land ownerships	Natural England, RSPB, Shepway District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s), EDF Energy
8 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure/ Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves	Strategic approach to visitor access management and improve education and awareness	Environment Agency, Natural England, Rother District Council, RSPB, Shepway District Council, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership
9 Direct impact from 3rd party	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines, H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves, S1166 Great crested newt	Phased programme of enforcement mailouts	Natural England, Rother District Council, Shepway District Council, Landowner(s)

10	Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Threat	H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined
11	Inappropriate water levels	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, S1166 Great crested newt	Review Water Level Management Plan for Romney Marsh and Denge Marsh	Environment Agency, Natural England, Romney Marshes Area IDB
12	Inappropriate ditch management	Pressure	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern	Joint site management plan for coordinated approach to ditch management	Environment Agency, Natural England, Landowner(s), Romney Marshes Area IDB
13	Coastal squeeze	Threat	A132(NB) Avocet, A140(NB) Golden plover, A151(NB) Ruff, Waterbird assemblage	Review the Shoreline Management Plan to better understand coastal squeeze issues	Environment Agency, Natural England
14	Water Pollution	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines, H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves, S1166 Great crested newt	Investigate water quality concerns at Greatstone.	Environment Agency
15	Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A056(NB) Shoveler, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern	Introduce appropriate management measures and ensure compliance with existing bye-laws	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England, Sussex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)

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 Military

There is potential for fire occurring across the SAC designation in areas of established Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks (PVSB) habitat to directly impact the SAC habitats and features. In dry weather, fire could travel very rapidly across the site. The MoD training range at Lydd is particularly vulnerable to fire damage due to the very nature of the training activities required by the MoD. The RSPB reserve holds a large area of prime PVSB habitat with restricted access for fire fighting activities. Fire could also directly impact upon breeding and roosting pSPA and SPA features.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	On the MoD Lydd Ranges assess the current impact of fire damage to Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks (PVSB) habitat and draw together a specific fire plan with an aim to reduce the impact of fires through improved response, which should include gaining a better understanding of the differences between the shingle and grassland/wetland habitats and the responses to fire: fire breaks, availability of water, vehicle access, fire wardens.	£4,000	2014-15	Major Landowner Group land ownership activities : Undertake Specific Management Works	Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)	Fire and Rescue Service(s)

2 Vehicles: illicit

Illicit vehicles crossing the vegetated shingle habitats cause direct impacts to the surface geomorphology and vegetated shingle habitat. Vegetation (SAC features) is lost through the churning up the shingle surface by vehicle wheels. There is serious permanent loss if this occurs in areas of shingle that have not previously been disturbed. Vehicles crossing the SPA and pSPA intertidal areas or off track disturb birds all year but particularly during over wintering season on the foreshore.

<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>
2A	Continue with reporting incidences of illegal off-road vehicle use across shingle.	Staff time	2015-20	Enforcement: S34 Road Traffic Act/ S28p(6) Liaison With Natural England	Natural England	Natural England	RSPB, Shepway District Council, Landowner(s), Dungeness Estate Trust, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, Nuclear power stations
<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	Collate information regarding known incidences of illicit vehicle use for enforcement where third party damage or disturbance is observed.	Staff time	2015-20	Enforcement	Natural England	Natural England	n/a
<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>
2C	Improve partnership working with police; Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership; Shepway District Council; Dungeness Estate Trust; RSPB; nuclear power stations; MoD; Environment Agency to ensure quick response to incidences and accurate reporting. Set up a Memorandum of Understanding / partnership group to agree protocol to manage incidences.	Not yet determined	2015	Partnership agreement	n/a	Natural England	Environment Agency, RSPB, Shepway District Council, Landowner(s), Dungeness Estate Trust, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, Nuclear power stations

<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>
2D	Improve education and awareness of the issues around vehicles crossing shingle habitat, and the lasting impact it has on the SAC feature.	£2,000	2015-16	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Natural England, Other partnership	Natural England	n/a

3 Predation

Mammalian, corvid and gull predation is an issue within the site for breeding SPA species. This includes nesting seabird colonies on shingle islands at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and the RSPB reserve, as well as breeding avocets across the site, but in the main at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, the RSPB reserve, and MoD ranges. Control of fox numbers and exclusion fencing are effective to an extent but further control needs to be investigated and implemented.

<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>
3A	A strategic approach to predator control is needed across a number of land ownerships. Partnership working is key to control predator pressure across the key areas of the site for breeding SPA species. The partnership agreement would set out the scope of areas for predator control, joint working arrangements and secure commitment from all partners to deliver.	£100,000	2015-20	Partnership agreement	External funding	Natural England	Ministry of Defence (MoD), RSPB, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s)

4 Changes in species distributions

SPA bird species move across the whole area on a diurnal, seasonal and annual basis. More detailed understanding of the movement of these birds and their use of the site would add to the BTO WeBS data and provide an improved evidence base for management, particularly advising on planning work and on going applications for consent from wildfowling, airport bird control and windfarm proposals.

<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	Vantage point bird survey across the full scope of the site, including functional land, to understand bird species movement across the whole area on a diurnal, seasonal and annual basis. More detailed understanding of the movement of these birds and their use of the site would add to the BTO WeBS data and provide an improved evidence base for management, particularly advising on planning work and on going applications for consent from wildfowling, airport bird control and windfarm proposals.	£40,000	2014-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, External funding, Other partnership	Natural England	Developer, RSPB

5 Invasive species

Freshwater non-native species within the ditch systems could cause an imbalance in the ecosystem and disrupt feeding patterns. The growth of non-native species such as Crassula could block access to, and thus the use of these ditch systems, given the carpet nature of the spread of this species. Red valerian and garden escapes on the shingle habitat can outcompete and smother native species. Seabuckthorn is a concern across the dune habitats on Greatstone Sands and Camber Sands and is outcompeting the native species and also stabilising the dunes, however, works are currently funded through HLS agreements with Local Authority and grant funding respectively.

<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>
5A	No known effective methods of control and eradication for Crassula. Suitable mechanisms should be identified and developed based on up-to-date trials and research, led by national policy and guidance.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Environment Agency	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>
5B	Until current research provides a solution to control and eradicate <i>Crassula</i> land owners are being asked to map and contain current extent to prevent further spread.	£150,000	2015-20	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Environment Agency, Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Environment Agency, Landowner(s), Romney Marshes Area IDB
5C	Action is required to prevent spread of other non-native species into the pSPA/SAC, including mapping of all INNS within the catchment, that pose a threat. Information and clear guidance needs to be provided to landowners and watercourse users about how to prevent the spread; report; and manage identified INNS.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Natural England, Romney Marshes Area IDB
5D	Identify areas that require control of Red valerian and garden escapes. Particularly where these are directly shading out native shingle vegetation.	£10,000	2015	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Environment Agency, Local Authority, Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s), National Nature Reserve (NNR) running costs	Natural England	Environment Agency, Shepway District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, National Nature Reserve (NNR), EDF Energy

<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>
5E	Control programmes are in place to control Red valerian and garden escapes on historically disturbed shingle such as along Coast Drive, Dungeness Point, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and around the Nuclear Power Station A and B site. Other sites need to be identified and engage in a similar approach to compliment the current work. Aim for each landowner to reduce extent of main stands, and to remove all newly-colonised sites as they occur. Agree among partners to identify areas where there is zero-tolerance, such as pristine shingle areas on RSPB land. Support from partners to coordinate a publicity campaign /engagement with property owners on how to avoid recolonisation.	£100,000	2015-20	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Environment Agency, Local Authority, Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s), National Nature Reserve (NNR) running costs	Natural England	Environment Agency, Shepway District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, National Nature Reserve (NNR), EDF Energy

6 Inappropriate scrub control

Scrub control is required on the margins of both manmade water bodies created through historic aggregate extraction activities and on natural pits within the shingle habitat. Inappropriate scrub has the potential to outcompete native species on the SAC habitat and its features. Lack of scrub control on the natural pit wetlands on the shingle ridges (located on the RSPB reserve) would result in loss of fen species due to overshadowing of the wetlands. Great crested newt breeding ponds require regular scrub management on the margins to control the negative effects of overshadowing.

<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>
6A	Control programmes are in place to control Willow growth on the margins of wetland bodies such as Long Pits and the natural pits on RSPB reserve. Other sites require a similar approach such as Lydd Airport and MoD ranges.	£100,000	2015-20	Non-Natural England funded site management plan	Ministry of Defence (MoD), London Ashford Airport Ltd	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)	n/a

7 Overgrazing

Rabbit overgrazing across Dungeness Point and Rye Harbour affects the perennial vegetation.

<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>
7A	Strategic approach to rabbit control is needed across a number of land ownerships. Partnership working is key to maintain rabbit grazing pressures within reasonable limits. The partnership agreement would set out the scope of area to be controls, joint working arrangements and secure commitment from all partners to deliver.	£300,000	2015-20	Partnership agreement	Local Authority, Natural England (NNR running costs), RSPB, Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s)	Natural England	RSPB, Shepway District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, EDF Energy

8 Public Access/Disturbance

Public access throughout the SAC allows direct access to the vegetated shingle. The resultant trampling disturbs and damages the SAC habitats Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines (AVDL) and Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks (PVSB) Annex 1 habitats (vegetation) all year round. Disturbance during the bird breeding season from public accessing the territories of sensitive breeding bird species could impact on breeding success. Public access onto over-wintering feeding and roosting areas particularly on the intertidal zones on the coast could impact on SPA bird features. Recreational activities such as dog walking, (particularly if dogs are let off the lead) and sand yachting at low tide across the intertidal areas on the shingle, dune and saltmarsh habitats, may disturb SPA and pSPA birds. Recreational waterborne activities such as kite boarding, wind surfing throughout the tidal cycle across the large intertidal areas on the dune and saltmarsh habitats may disturb SPA and pSPA birds.

<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>
8A	Develop a strategic approach to visitor access management in partnership with relevant authorities in order to reduce disturbance / other impacts to the SAC and SPA/pSPA features.	£15,000	2015	Advice: Access Strategy	Local Authority, Other stakeholder(s) contributions	Shepway District Council	Environment Agency, Natural England, Rother District Council

<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>
8B	Develop a strategic approach to improve education and awareness of the issues around public access in partnership with relevant authorities such as the local authority, NNR, and other landowners to 1. the shingle habitat, and the lasting impact it has on the SAC feature; 2. the breeding and over-wintering habitats for SPA and pSPA birds.	£50,000	2015-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Local Authority, External funding, Other stakeholder(s) contributions, Sponsorship	Shepway District Council	Natural England, Rother District Council
<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>
8C	Increase warden presence on site across the coastal areas where pressures from public access are greatest. Currently only part-time warden presence is funded by Natural England.	£150,000	2015-20	Advice: Wardening	Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), External funding	RSPB	Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership

9 Direct impact from 3rd party

Houses that adjoin both Natura 2000 sites sites have erected fences, extended garden mangement activities and dumped garden refuse and household items at the back of garden fences - all these activities encroach onto the designated site. Concerns lie with the cumulative affect of these activities across the site.

<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>
9A	Phased programme of enforcement mailouts to all properties encroaching onto designated land eg. Unconsented activities such as dumping garden waste, garden encroachment, and erection of structures. Follow-on enforcement action may be necessary, including prosecutions.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Enforcement	Not yet determined	Natural England	Rother District Council, Shepway District Council, Landowner(s)

10 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

The SAC Annex 1 habitat Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks (PVSB), is made up of numerous lichen species. 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>
10A	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

11 Inappropriate water levels

Water levels across the grazing marsh areas potentially impact habitats supporting birds using the site. Feeding and roosting areas in winter. Breeding areas for waders, reedbed birds and sea birds. Infrastructure to help manage water levels in the complex ditch network, including the Royal Military Canal, across the grazing marsh habitat is critical for the fine balance of water levels and movement of water across the site. Great crested newt breeding ponds are scattered across the SAC designation and would be seriously impacted if water levels were reduced to the point of drying out ponds permanently.

<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>
11A	Review current draft Water Level Management Plan (2010) for 'Walland Marsh Area', which could be expanded to include Denge and Romney Warren. Further ecological reviews and studies would support this work. Reviews of the WLMPs across the site including Rye Harbour, Pett Levels (2006) and Dungeness (1998) could present opportunities that would bring additional biodiversity gain to the wider site.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Water Level Management Plan	Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Natural England, Romney Marshes Area IDB

12 Inappropriate ditch management

The methodology followed for ditch management needs to take account of the pSPA bird species that use the habitat for breeding and winter roosting. The EA, Romney Marsh Area IDB and individual landowners manage the extensive ditch network across the designated site. A coordinated approach is needed across the ditch network to provide a balance of ditches displaying different stages of management.

<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>
12A	A joint site management plan is needed for a coordinated approach with the Environment Agency, Romney Marsh Area Internal Drainage Board and individual landowners across the ditch network to deliver appropriate ditch management to provide a balance of ditches displaying different stages of management.	Not yet determined	2015	Non-Natural England funded site management plan	Environment Agency, Natural England, Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	Environment Agency	Natural England, Landowner(s), Romney Marshes Area IDB

13 Coastal squeeze

Overwintering bird assemblages use large intertidal areas for feeding and roosting. Rising sea levels and coastal defences in the area may lead to loss of habitat for pSPA birds due to coastal squeeze.

<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>
13A	Review and update the Shoreline Management Plan to gain a better understanding of the issues of coastal squeeze specifically along the designated coastline. This should consider opportunities to achieve benefits for coastal habitats which may not be part of flood risk management e.g. restoration of previously damaged areas, removal of hard points.	Not yet determined	2016-20	Shoreline Management Plan and Strategies	Not yet determined	Environment Agency	Natural England

14 Water Pollution

Across the site historically, there has been a reliance on soakaway facilities. Southern Water installed on-line sewage facilities in early 2000s. Private connection to the new system by householders has been slow in take up. Data gathered by the EA shows diffuse pollution moving landward from the housing at Greatstone. This could be impacting the SPA lakes, and requires further investigation.

<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>
14A	Investigate whether there is a significant risk to the SPA lakes from diffuse pollution in the area of Greatstone.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Environment Agency	Environment Agency	n/a

15 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Commercial fishing activities categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in EMSs will be/are being assessed by K&EIFCA and SxIFCA. For activities categorised as 'green', these assessments should take account of any in-combination effects of amber activities, and/or appropriate plans or projects, in the site.

<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>
15A	Where the assessments indicate management is required, introduce appropriate measures.	Not yet determined	2014-16	Regulation: Creation / amendment of byelaws	Not yet determined	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England, Sussex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)
<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>
15B	If management measures are established, ensure compliance with bye-law and provide an appropriate level of reporting to ensure sites are well managed and to enable Natural England to provide advice on the condition of features and potential condition threats.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Regulation: Creation / amendment of byelaws	Not yet determined	Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England, Sussex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Dungeness SAC	S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i> : Great crested newt
	H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines
	H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
Dungeness to Pett Level SPA	A176(B) <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> : Mediterranean gull
	A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> : Common tern
	A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern
	A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> : Bewick swan
	A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i> : Northern shoveler

Site location and links

Dungeness SAC

Area (ha) 3223.56	Grid reference TR075175	Map link
Local Authorities	East Sussex; Kent	
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Dungeness SAC	
European Marine Site conservation advice	Dungeness EMS	
Regulation 33/35 Package	Regulation 33/35 package link	
Marine Management Organisation site plan	n/a	

Dungeness to Pett Level SPA

Area (ha) **1474.04** Grid reference **TQ932182**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

East Sussex; Kent

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Dungeness to Pett Level SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[Dungeness EMS](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

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.

Dungeness SAC

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Rother

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB107040013450, GB30744935, GB30745015, GB30745035, GB30745060, GB30745061, GB30745064

Dungeness to Pett Level SPA

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Rother

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB107040013390, GB107040013450, GB30744935, GB30745009, GB30745015, GB30745035, GB30745055, GB30745060, GB30745061, GB30745212

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI
Dungeness to Pett Level SPA	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Dungeness SAC	Dungeness NNR
Dungeness to Pett Level SPA	Dungeness NNR
Ramsar	
Dungeness SAC	n/a
Dungeness to Pett Level SPA	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Dungeness SAC	Dungeness to Pett Level SPA
Dungeness to Pett Level SPA	Dungeness SAC

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	18/12/14	

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