

Site Improvement Plan

Breydon Water

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)

UK9009181 Breydon Water SPA

Site description

Breydon Water SPA consists of an inland tidal estuary with extensive areas of mud flats that are exposed during low tide forming the only intertidal flats occurring on the east coast of Norfolk.

Large numbers of wildfowl and waders that overwinter at the site are attracted to the abundant food supply, with some species numbers being nationally and internationally important during appropriate seasons. The mosaic of small areas of saltmarsh, reedbeds and brackish water communities in the surrounding borrow dykes has considerable botanical and invertebrate rich interest. Breydon Water is part of the Broads National Park, for which the Broads Plan is established. Actions in this SIP also inform the implementation of the Broads Plan.

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 Shooting/ scaring	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A132(NB) Avocet, A140(NB) Golden plover, A142(NB) Northern lapwing, A151(NB) Ruff, A193(B) Common tern, Waterbird assemblage	Investigate and advise wildfowl shooting	Natural England
2 Change in land management	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A132(NB) Avocet, A140(NB) Golden plover, A142(NB) Northern lapwing, A151(NB) Ruff, A193(B) Common tern, Waterbird assemblage	Monitoring and advice to raise awareness of the potential impact of surrounding habitat change on interest features	Natural England
3 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A132(NB) Avocet, A140(NB) Golden plover, A142(NB) Northern lapwing, A151(NB) Ruff, A193(B) Common tern, Waterbird assemblage	Investigate the impact of recreational disturbances	Natural England, RSPB, The Broads Authority
4 Hydrological changes	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A132(NB) Avocet, A140(NB) Golden plover, A142(NB) Northern lapwing, A151(NB) Ruff, A193(B) Common tern, Waterbird assemblage	Change the water level management practice	Broads IDB, Environment Agency, Natural England

5 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Pressure/
Threat

A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A132(NB) Avocet, A140(NB) Golden plover, A142(NB) Northern lapwing, A151(NB) Ruff, A193(B) Common tern, Waterbird assemblage

Introduce appropriate management where required and ensure compliance

Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England, The Broads Authority

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 Shooting/ scaring

Land surrounding Breydon Water is used to entice wildfowl for shooting. This may affect the wildfowl numbers that use Breydon Water which could lead to significant declines. Bird numbers could decline at Breydon Water if birds leave the site for the surrounding land and the numbers could decline due to disturbance from shooting on the surrounding land.

<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	Investigate the activities of the land use around Breydon Water and whether it has significant effects on the interest features of the site. Establish the dependence of SPA birds on surrounding land.	£50,000	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	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	Establish wildfowling best practice and establish agreed management between Natural England and landowners to ensure sustainable wildfowling/shooting practices.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Advice: Negotiation	Not yet determined	Natural England	

2 Change in land management

There is a threat to the SPA features of expiring HLS/ESA agreements and changing land use from grassland to arable. Alterations to water levels in the ditches (both on site and surrounding) could affect conditions that are appropriate for aquatic plants and invertebrates, which are a very important food source to the notified features of Breydon Water. The surrounding habitat appears to have been important in the general improvement of the SPA over the last two decades (increased bird numbers, due to implementation of HLS/ESA Schemes). If land has been within grassland without physical or chemical intervention for over 15 years, EIA (agricultural) regulations will apply.

<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	Monitor to see if there is a change in land management and widescale land use. As part of this it would include the monitoring of changes in water level management practice (this may have implications for the status of WFD waterbodies).	Not yet determined	2014-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	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>
2B	Advise landowners about land management where necessary, also to achieve Water Framework Directive targets.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Advice: Negotiation	Not yet determined	Natural England	

3 Public Access/Disturbance

There is potential for adverse impacts on birds from recreational disturbance at Breydon Water.

<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	Assess whether recreational activities are having a detrimental impact on the interest features at Breydon Water.	£20,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	RSPB, The Broads Authority

4 Hydrological changes

The security of a fresh water supply is an issue to Breydon Water which could affect the bird assemblages at Breydon Water directly and indirectly through their food supply. Current saline intrusion events are possibly a threat to bird assemblages. There should be a better use of fresh water from the fleet by pumping water to where it is necessary to maintain the interest features.

<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	Change the water level management practice to address water availability issues to protect the freshwater supply for the bird assemblage SPA features at Breydon Water.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Water Level Management Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Broads IDB, Environment Agency, Natural England

5 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Commercial fishing activities categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in EMSs require assessment and (where appropriate) management. This assessment will be undertaken by EIFCA. 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. Where these assessments indicate management is required, appropriate measures will be introduced by the Regulator by 2016. If management measures are established to protect the feature(s), on-going work will be required by the Regulator to ensure compliance and 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. There is also current work on the most important amber/green interactions. The mid to high level risk interactions between surface-feeding birds and netting/bait digging are known to occur in this SPA and the IFCA is currently working on both a mono-filament nets database and a bait digging investigation in order to quantify the extent of these activities and inform any further regulatory notices applied to manage them in the future.

<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	Where the assessments indicate management is required, introduce appropriate measures.	Not yet determined	2016	Regulation: Creation / amendment of byelaws	Not yet determined	Natural England	The Broads Authority
5B	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	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Breydon Water SPA	A132(NB) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> : Pied avocet
	A140(NB) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> : European golden plover
	A142(NB) <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> : Northern lapwing
	Waterbird assemblage
	A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> : Common tern
	A151(NB) <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> : Ruff
	A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> : Bewick swan

Site location and links

Breydon Water SPA

Area (ha)	1202.94	Grid reference	TG453047	Map link
Local Authorities				Norfolk
Site Conservation Objectives				Breydon Water SPA
European Marine Site conservation advice				Breydon Water SPA
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.

Breydon Water SPA

River basin

[Anglian RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Broadland Rivers

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB105034050810

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Breydon Water SPA	Halvergate Marshes SSSI Breydon Water SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Breydon Water SPA	n/a
Ramsar	
Breydon Water SPA	Breydon Water
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Breydon Water SPA	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2.0	08/03/2018	Broads Authority name corrected

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