

# Site Improvement Plan

## Studland to Portland

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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

**This Site Improvement Plan covers the following Natura 2000 site(s)**

**UK0030382 Studland to Portland cSAC**

## Site description

Studland to Portland cSAC was designated for the outstanding diversity of its Annex 1 reef habitats. The site is situated on the south Dorset coast, spanning an area of 33191.09 hectares that extends from the Isle of Portland in the west to Swanage Bay in the east.

Bedrock reef is the dominant reef type throughout the Studland to Portland cSAC. It occurs in a variety of complex geomorphologic forms, including exposed chalk bedrock; exposed shales and clays; limestone and cementstone ledges; flat bedrock; areas of fragmented rock; and rugged limestone boulders providing deep gullies and overhangs. This mosaic of reef habitats support a diverse range of marine life including cup corals, sponges, anemones, nudibranchs and hydroids.

Dense mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds are found to occur on bedrock associated with strong currents off the eastern side of Portland Bill. *Mytilus edulis* also occurs in high numbers in the infralittoral zones of the eastern reefs amongst kelp forests.

## 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: Commercial marine and estuarine	Pressure	H1170 Reefs	Ensure continuing compliance with byelaws	Southern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
2 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Pressure	H1170 Reefs	Complete assessments to establish whether management is required	Southern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Marine Management Organisation (MMO)



## 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: Commercial marine and estuarine

Dredges (inc. Hydraulic), benthic trawls and seines are categorised as 'Red' for this interest feature (and specifically the sub-features: Bedrock reef communities; Stony reef communities) as part of Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries management in European Marine Sites (EMS). Bottom towed fishing gear is operated within the site and could damage the reef should this activity coincide with the feature. Seed mussel dredging also takes place over bedrock reef in an area to the south-east of Portland Bill.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Ensure compliance with bye-laws 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 onwards	Enforcement	Not yet determined	Southern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

### 2 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Crab/lobster pots and gill, tangle and trammel nets are all used in the area, and are categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites (EMS) and thus require assessment and (where appropriate) management. This assessment is being undertaken by Southern IFCA and the Marine Management Organisation. 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.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Where the assessments indicate management is required, introduce appropriate measures.	Not yet determined	2016	Regulation: Other	Not yet determined	Southern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

**Studland to Portland cSAC**

H1170 Reefs

### Site location and links

#### Studland to Portland cSAC

Area (ha) **33191.09**      Grid reference **50 33 17 N,** [Map link](#)  
**02 10 03 W**

Local Authorities      Purbeck; West Dorset; Weymouth and Portland

Site Conservation Objectives      [Studland to Portland cSAC](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice      [Studland to Portland cSAC](#)

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.*

### **Studland to Portland cSAC**

*River basin*

[South West RBMP](#)

*WFD Management catchment*

Dorset

*WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)*

GB108044009920

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)		
Studland to Portland cSAC	South Dorset Coast SSSI	
	Purbeck Ridge (East) SSSI	
	Studland Cliffs SSSI	
	Isle of Portland SSSI	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)		
Studland to Portland cSAC	Durlston NNR	
Ramsar		
Studland to Portland cSAC	n/a	
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)		
Studland to Portland	cSAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	03/07/2015	

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000)

