

Site Improvement Plan

Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden

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)

UK0012741 Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC

Site description

Staverton Park is an ancient park with a well documented medieval history. It is composed of three main areas of woodland on sandy soil. The Park is an open canopy wood pasture, predominantly of over-mature pollard Oak *Quercus robur* but Holly *Ilex aquifolium*, Birch *Betula pubescens* and *B. pendula* and Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* also occur. Some of these trees achieve great age.

Below the canopy, there are dense stands of Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, patches of Bramble *Rubus spp.*, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and grassy glades *Holcus mollis* and *Dactylis glomerata*. There are also small areas of acid grassland with some heathland elements. An eight hectare deer enclosure has been fenced off in the northern part of the Park.

The Thicks is an area of about twenty hectares of dense, closed canopy Holly wood. Many of these hollies have attained great size and are reputed to be the largest in Britain. Mature oaks also occur, but many are suppressed by the shade of the holly. There is little ground vegetation.

Little Staverton is a small outlying oak-birch woodland within the original boundary of the medieval park and has similarities with the Park. The site has rich corticolous and lignicolous lichen flora and a large invertebrate fauna including several rare species only associated with ancient parkland trees. Additionally, the site is of ornithological interest.

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 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure	H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland	Create and implement a bracken control plan	Forestry Commission, Natural England
2 Disease	Pressure/Threat	H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland	Monitor disease, and replant/allow natural regeneration	Forestry Commission, Natural England, Suffolk County Council
3 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure/Threat	H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland	Assess levels of damage and disturbance and review access management	Natural England, Suffolk Coastal District Council
4 Deer	Pressure	H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland	Create and implement a deer management plan	Forestry Commission, Natural England, Local deer group
5 Hydrological changes	Pressure/Threat	H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland	Monitor hydrological changes and assess the impacts on older trees	Forestry Commission, Natural England

6 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Pressure

H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland

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 Forestry and woodland management

Dense bracken in places prevents regeneration.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Undertake a survey to identify areas where bracken still needs to be controlled, and create a management plan to manage the bracken over the whole site taking into account any work currently happening through HLS.	£2,000	2015-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Grant in aid	Natural England	Forestry Commission
1B	Introduce bracken control and monitor the outcomes.	Not yet determined	2017-27	Advice	Natural England, Grant in aid	Natural England	Forestry Commission

2 Disease

Acute Oak Dieback is found at the site, other tree disease may be present

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Record and monitor levels of acute oak decline and other tree diseases at the site. Determine if diversification is needed of tree species (either through natural regeneration or planting).	£3,000	2014 onwards	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, External funding, Grant in aid, Research project	Natural England	Forestry Commission

<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	Implement a planting or natural regeneration programme.	£5,000-£10,000	2015-25	Advice	Natural England, Grant in aid	Natural England	Suffolk County Council

3 Public Access/Disturbance

The site is accessed illegally, leading to an increased risk of damage and fires on 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>
3A	Assess levels of disturbance and damage by illegal access. Implement changes to signage and furniture along footpaths and public rights of way.	£10,000	2015-20	Advice: Access Strategy	Natural England, Grant in aid	Natural England	Suffolk Coastal District Council

4 Deer

Deer browsing prevents regeneration in parts of the wood.

<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	Create a fully integrated deer management plan that takes into account any existing work through Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) or on nearby sites.	£2,000	2015-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Grant in aid, Income from venison	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Local deer group
4B	Introduce additional deer management, and monitor the outcomes.	£15,000	2017-27	Advice: Other	Natural England, Grant in aid, Income from venison	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Local deer group

5 Hydrological changes

A change in the water table could be leading to stress in the older trees.

<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	Monitor levels of the water table and assess if this is contributing to stress in the older trees.	£5,000	2014 onwards	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Grant in aid	Natural England	Forestry Commission

6 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. The impact is unclear, but this could be a contributing factor to the observed thick bracken which prevents regeneration of the wood.

<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, 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

Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains

Site location and links

Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC

Area (ha) **81.45** Grid reference **TM356509** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Suffolk

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden 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.

Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC

<i>River basin</i>	Anglian RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	East Suffolk
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC	Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SSSI
---	---

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC	n/a
---	-----

Ramsar

Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC	n/a
---	-----

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

Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC	n/a
---	-----

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	21/01/2015	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

