

Site Improvement Plan

Cannock Extension Canal

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)

UK0012672 Cannock Extension Canal SAC

Site description

Cannock Extension Canal SAC supports the largest known population of Floating Water-plantain *Luronium natans* in Staffordshire. Floating water-plantain is a rare, small white-flowered water plant only found in Europe. In the UK it is considered a nationally scarce plant. It is found in Wales, and central England, growing in lakes, reservoirs, ponds, slow-flowing rivers and canals.

Floating water-plantain occurs as two forms: in shallow water with floating oval leaves; in deep water with submerged rosettes of narrow leaves. The assemblage of 34 aquatic plant species places this site in the top 20% of British canals. The site also has a good dragonfly assemblage.

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 Water Pollution	Pressure	S1831 Floating water-plantain	Assess and reduce sediment inputs and diffuse pollution	Canal and River Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, Landowner(s)
2 Overgrazing	Pressure	S1831 Floating water-plantain	Assess the effects of Canada geese	Canal and River Trust, Natural England
3 Invasive species	Pressure/ Threat	S1831 Floating water-plantain	Monitor and control invasive non-native species.	Canal and River Trust, Natural England
4 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	S1831 Floating water-plantain	Develop a Site Nitrogen Action Plan	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 Water Pollution

Historic sediment loads into the canal have occurred, the origin of which has now been resolved. However this may need to be revisited to protect the site in the future as heavy rainfall events cause stained inflows into the site indicating that there is still a sediment load, albeit low, in the inflow water. In addition all other inflows into the canal need to be assessed to ensure that only clean water is entering the canal.

<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 known inflow to make sure that previous works to control sediments are still having the desired effect. If these are not working properly, they need to be rectified to address the problem.	Not yet determined	2014-2015	Partnership agreement	Not yet determined	Natural England	Canal and River Trust, Environment Agency, Landowner(s)
<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	There is a need to understand the flow of water from all land surrounding the site, including any road drainage.Undertake a catchment walkover to assess all inflows, including any discharges from boats, moorings and roads. Devise solutions if any problems are found.	Not yet determined	2014-18	Partnership agreement	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency, Local Authorities, Landowner(s)

2 Overgrazing

Large groups of Canada geese are grazing on the waterplants in the canal. There is a risk that this could affect the vegetation community including Floating water-plantain as well as contributing additional nutrients via excreta.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	The effects of grazing on aquatic macrophytes by large groups of Canada geese needs to be assessed and resolved.	Not yet determined	2014-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Conservation Enhancement Scheme (CES)	Canal and River Trust	Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2B	Raise awareness of the importance of the site with the local community if the feeding of geese (e.g. with bread) is an issue.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	Canal and River Trust	Natural England

3 Invasive species

Water fern *Azolla filiculoides* and Water pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* have been present on the canal in the recent past and have been successfully controlled by the Canal and Rivers Trust. Any invasive species that get into the canal need to be eradicated to prevent damage to the interest features and associated biodiversity of the site.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	Continue to monitor regularly and control as necessary all invasive non-native species.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Invasive Control Plan: Other	Not yet determined	Canal and River Trust	Natural England

4 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical load. The site could be affected by major roads, industrial estates and farming in the vicinity.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4A	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

Cannock Extension Canal SAC

S1831 *Luronium natans*: Floating water-plantain

Site location and links

Cannock Extension Canal SAC

Area (ha) **5.47** Grid reference **SK020058** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Staffordshire; Walsall

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Cannock Extension Canal 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.

Cannock Extension Canal SAC

<i>River basin</i>	Humber	Humber RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Staffordshire Trent Valley	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a	

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	Cannock Extension Canal SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
0.3	07/10/2014	

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