

## Site Improvement Plan

# North Meadow & Clattinger Farm

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)**

**UK0016372 North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC**

## Site description

North Meadow & Clattinger Farm Meadows SAC consists of a series of traditionally managed unimproved grasslands within the floodplain of the Upper Thames which continue to be managed as pasture and as hay-meadow.

It contains a rich variety of species-rich grassland types including the rare MG4 community for which the SAC is designated as well as a number of notable plant species. These grasslands represent rare and scattered remnants of a much more widespread unimproved grassland habitat before agricultural intensification and extensive gravel quarrying locally were responsible for widespread losses of this habitat and its subsequent fragmentation.

## 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 Inappropriate water levels	Pressure/Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Review and update Water Level Management Plan	Environment Agency, Natural England
2 Habitat fragmentation	Pressure/Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Habitat restoration to improve the site's resilience	Natural England, Landowner(s)
3 Commons management	Pressure/Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Landowner agreement for livestock fencing	Defra: Common Land Branch, Natural England, Landowner(s)
4 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure/Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Manage and mitigate the effects of public access	Natural England
5 Water Pollution	Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Investigate the risks from diffuse pollution carried in floodwaters	Environment Agency, Natural England

## 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 Inappropriate water levels

An effective WLMP needs to be in place in order to protect the integrity of the site. The current one, possibly 20 years old, is no longer fit for purpose. There have been several unseasonal floods over the last six years which are beginning to cause changes and losses in the vegetation communities on the site.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	A revised Water Level Management Plan (WLMP) needs to be produced and implemented, based on an evaluation of eco-hydrological data. Flooding events have happened more regularly which may have resulted in changes to the vegetation composition and boundaries. Accordingly a WLMP should consider ways to minimise the effects of such events.	£6,000	2015-16	Water Level Management Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

### 2 Habitat fragmentation

The previously extensive species-rich grasslands have been lost over half a century to modern intensive agriculture and to widespread gravel extraction leaving only scattered remnants. The two component SSSIs are located 8km apart. Inclusion and restoration of a number of intervening sites locally would increase the habitat, thereby making it more resilient to fluctuating water levels in the face of climate change. The NNR team at North Meadow has, over a number of years, been working to achieve this aim. Also, one option is that additional land should be included within the North Meadow SSSI for this purpose. This would help buffer the site, possibly provide space for adaptation in anticipation of the effects of climate change, and better manage visitor impacts. Clattinger forms part of a more extensive site which provides good opportunities for on-site management.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Reduce the fragmentation of semi-natural grasslands in the area around the SAC due to changes in agricultural practices and also gravel extraction by taking steps to restore the remaining areas.	£150,000	2014-24	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Improvements to habitat connectivity	Not yet determined	Natural England	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>
<b>2B</b>	Secure long term conservation management of buffer land adjacent to North Meadow to allow semi-natural grassland to be restored. Identification and implementation of a mechanism to this end is necessary.	£110,000	2014-24	Land / Tenancy Acquisition: Land Acquisition	Not yet determined	Natural England	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>
<b>2C</b>	Explore undertaking a review of the SSSI boundary.	No cost	2015-20	Designation strategy (SSSI)	No funding required	Natural England	n/a

### 3 Commons management

Fencing is required to keep livestock from straying off site. North Meadow NNR is common land and it is the responsibility of neighbouring landowners to erect fences. There are a number of problems involved in achieving this.

<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>
<b>3A</b>	Seek agreement with neighbouring landowners to fence their boundaries to allow the site (common land) to be grazed effectively.	£10,000	2014-16	Partnership agreement	Not yet determined	Natural England	Defra: Common Land Branch, Landowner(s)

### 4 Public Access/Disturbance

There is increasing visitor pressure especially during the flowering time of Snake's-head Fritillary leading to localised damage on sites in the SAC.

<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>
<b>4A</b>	Seek to minimise the impact of high levels of trampling by the general public, especially during times when Snake's head fritillary is in flower	£5,000	2015	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

## 5 Water Pollution

The SAC's hay meadow vegetation communities are sensitive to elevated nutrient levels. With increasing flooding there is an increased risk of flood water carrying diffuse pollution onto the site and causing soil enrichment with negative consequences for the species richness of the meadows.

<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>
<b>5A</b>	Investigate the risks of diffuse pollution and if appropriate develop a Diffuse Water Pollution Plan for the SAC.	No cost	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Natural England	Environment Agency

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

**North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC** H6510 Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)

### Site location and links

#### North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC

Area (ha) **104.88**      Grid reference **SU014934**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      Wiltshire

Site Conservation Objectives      [European Site Conservation Objectives for North Meadow & Clattinger Farm 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.*

### **North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC**

<i>River basin</i>	<a href="#">Thames RBMP</a>
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Cotswolds
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC	Clattinger Farm SSSI North Meadow, Cricklade SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC	North Meadow, Cricklade NNR
Ramsar	
North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
North Meadow & Clattinger Farm SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	21/11/2014	

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

