

Site Improvement Plan

Walton Moss

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)

UK0030093 Walton Moss SAC

Site description

Walton Moss is a largely intact raised mire system encompassing the basins of Broomhill, Glebe and part of Breaks Mosses well as Walton Moss.

The peat spills over the main basin area to form blanket mire and as such is regarded as intermediate mire. Sphagnum bog with hummocks and hollows are present throughout supporting numerous species of Sphagnum as well as many higher plant species. The site also comprises areas of rand and lagg which is often absent from many remaining lowland raised bogs.

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 Drainage	Pressure/Threat	H7110 Active raised bogs, H7120 Degraded raised bog	Remediation works around the edge of the bog, to the defunct drains and resultant slumping	Natural England, Landowner/occupier
2 Change in land management	Threat	H7110 Active raised bogs, H7120 Degraded raised bog	Implement a revised grazing regime	Natural England, Landowner/occupier, Commoners
3 Hydrological changes	Threat	H7110 Active raised bogs, H7120 Degraded raised bog	Remediation of areas of peat cracking and slumping outside of the current SAC boundary	Natural England, Landowner/occupier, Commoners
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H7110 Active raised bogs, H7120 Degraded raised bog	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	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 Drainage

Walton Moss has a number of defunct drains within the SAC. These continue to have a negative impact upon the condition of the site and are hampering the recovery or parts of the site. This is particularly prevalent around the edge of the bog and throughout the NNR unit.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Defunct drains and resultant slumping around the edge of the bog need to be remediated through active measures, including bunding and reprofiling works.	£150,000	2014-20	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	EU Life, Natural England	Natural England	n/a
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1B	Defunct drains and resultant slumping around the edge of the bog need to be remediated through active measures, including bunding and reprofiling works.	£100,000	2014-21	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Landowner/occupier

2 Change in land management

Parts of Walton Moss are currently lightly grazed with cattle and sheep. Whilst these numbers are within acceptable limits there are rights to graze more animals than present which could lead to significant damage to the interest features of the bog. It is also desirable to have greater control over the number and frequency of grazing on the bog, since it is currently uncontrolled and the exercising of full rights could be detrimental.

<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	Following the remediation works, reassess appropriate grazing levels and secure the implementation of any changes required.	£5,000	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Landowner/occupier, Commoners

3 Hydrological changes

Where drying out has led to cracking and slumping around the edges of the bog, some parts are not within the current boundary of the SAC (and are therefore outwith protection from drain clearance). There is a threat to the hydrology of 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>
3A	Areas of peat cracking and slumping outside of the current SAC boundary need to be remediated through a programme of bunding and reprofiling of the peat, together with any revegetation works in order to maintain site integrity.	£40,000	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Landowner/occupier, Commoners
3B	Review the appropriateness of current SAC boundaries to ensure they match the need to securing good ecological site condition.	Not yet determined	2014-21	Designation strategy (SSSI)	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads

<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	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Walton Moss SAC

H7110# Active raised bogs

H7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

Site location and links

Walton Moss SAC

Area (ha) **285.89**

Grid reference **NY504665**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Cumbria

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Walton Moss 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.

Walton Moss SAC

<i>River basin</i>	Solway Tweed	Solway Tweed RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Eden and Esk	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	GB102077074150	

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Walton Moss SAC	Walton Moss SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Walton Moss SAC	Walton Moss NNR

Ramsar	
Walton Moss SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Walton Moss SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	10/10/2014	

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