Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) Planning for the Future

Site Improvement Plan Sefton Ribble

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)

UK9005103 Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA

UK0013076 Sefton Coast SAC

Site description

The Sefton Coast SAC and the Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA, together cover 16,976.28ha of estuary, tidal river, salt marsh, sand dunes, dune heath and dune slacks on the north west coast of England.

The Sefton Coast supports Great crested newt and the plant, petalwort. The Ribble and Alt Estuaries support internationally important populations of breeding and wintering seabirds, widlfowl and waders. Pressure comes from low-impact recreation due to its proximity with a large, urban population, as well as development.

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 Coastal squeeze	Threat	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Agree methodology for and carry out consultation via Forest Plan. Work closely with the National Trust's Coastal Adaptation Project at Formby	National Trust, Natural England, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, Sefton Coast Partnership, Formby Golf Club
2 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Threat	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks, S1166 Great crested newt, S1395 Petalwort	Reduce and mitigate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Natural England, Sefton Coast Partnership
3 Inappropriate scrub control	Pressure/ Threat	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Raise public awareness via Landscape Partnership Scheme and the new Sefton Coastal Strategy	Lancs, Manchester and Nth Merseyside Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
4 Invasive species	Threat	H2130 Dune grassland, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Use current research to help understand the spread of non natives and secure funding to draw up coastal strategy	
5 Hydrological changes	Threat	H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks, S1166 Great crested newt, S1395 Petalwort	Investigate and restore hydrological functioning	Sefton Coast Partnership, Southampton University

6 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's Swan, A038(NB) Whooper Swan, A040(NB) Pink-footed Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A054(NB) Pintail, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A151(B) Ruff, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A183(B) Lesser Black-backed Gull, A193(B) Common Tern, H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks, S1166 Great crested newt, S1395 Petalwort, Seabird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Raise public awareness via Landscape Partmership Scheme and the new Sefton Coastal Strategy	Natural England, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, Sefton Coast Partnership
7 Inappropriate coastal management	Pressure/ Threat	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks, S1166 Great crested newt	Investigate long-term alternatives to parking on beach and promote value of Green Beach through Landscape Partnership Scheme	Sefton Coast Partnership
8 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Pressure	A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A143(NB) Red knot	Work with NW Inshore Fisheries Conservation Association	North Western Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)
9 Change to site conditions	Pressure	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Secure funding to determine levels of pollution and cost-effective solution for removal or containment	Environment Agency
10 Inappropriate coastal management	Pressure	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2170 Dunes with creeping willow, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Secure funding to determine levels of pollution and cost-effective solution for removal or containment	Sefton Coast Partnership
11 Shooting/ scaring	Pressure	Seabird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Continue to support collection of data on gull numbers	Natural England

12 Invasive species	Pressure/ Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's Swan, A038(NB) Whooper Swan, A040(NB) Pink-footed Goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A054(NB) Pintail, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A137(NB) Ringed Plover, A140(NB) Golden Plover, A141(NB) Grey Plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A151(B) Ruff, A156(NB) Black-tailed Godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed Godwit, A162(NB) Common redshank, A183(B) Lesser Black-backed Gull, A193(B) Common Tern, Seabird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Use current and future research to determine whether action is needed	Environment Agency, Natural England, North Western Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)
13 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown	Pressure	Seabird assemblage, Waterbird assemblage	Improve population data and monitor impact of activities on local populations	Natural England, Local wildfowling club(s)

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 Coastal squeeze

The coastline is eroding around Formby Point. Woodland behind the eroding dunes means that the natural process of roll-back can not occur, leading to fragmentation of dune habitats and loss of embryo and mobile dune habitats.

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Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)			
1A	Establish consensus with partners over the consultation process for coastal adaptation	Not yet determined	2014	Existing Local Project	Not yet determined	Natural England	National Trust, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, Formby Golf Club			
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)			
1B	Carry out consultation in order to produce a management plan for the Frontal Woodlands.	£10,000	2015	Existing Local Project	Natural England, Natural England (NNR running costs)	Sefton Coast Partnership	Natural England			
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)			
1C	Implement the management plan to mitigate coastal squeeze.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Sefton Coast Partnership	National Trust, Natural England, Formby Golf Club			

Nitroge	Pollution: risk of atmospheric ni en deposition exceeds critical loads and sociated habitats and species.			tion on transitional dune	habitats; leading t	to loss of early succession	nal vegetation communiti
	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2 A	Combat effects by restoring early successional vegetation communities on the NNR.	Not yet determined	2014-20	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2B	Combat effects by restoring early successional vegetation communities outside the NNR.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Advice	Not yet determined	Sefton Coast Partnership	Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timaggala	Mechanism	Eunding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery results on (a)
	Action description		Timescale		Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2C	Reduce atmospheric nitrogen deposition.	Not yet determined	2020	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	n/a
3 Ina	ppropriate scrub control						
nadec	uate control of encroaching scrub into	fixed dunes and	dune slacks, di	ue to lack of mowing and	d / or grazing leads	s to loss of dune habitat.	
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	Raise awareness of the threat to protected habitats and species through inappropriate scrub control	Not yet determined	2014-16	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	Lancs, Manchester a Nth Merseyside Wild

Trust, Natural England

protected habitats and species through inappropriate scrub control.

Action 3B	Provide Local Nature Reserve with the means to control scrub effectively	Cost estimate £20,000	Timescale 2014-16	Mechanism Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Funding option Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Delivery lead body Not yet determined	Delivery partner(s) Not yet determined
	vasive species	to manifest language	on the Control				in an artist of the state of th
dunes	pachment of non-native vegetation (whi	te popiar, Japane	ese rose, Sea bu	icktnorn) is affecting dy	namism of mobile	dune nabitats and vegetat	ion composition on fixed
Action	n Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4A	Map location and distribution of Japanese Rose.	Not yet determined	2014	Existing Local Project	Natural England	Merseyside BioBank	n/a
Action	n Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4B	Draw up a coordinated plan for invasive species control on the Sefton Coast SAC.	£2,000	2015	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Natural England	Natural England	n/a
Action	n Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4C	Implement control measures for invasive species.	Not yet determined	2016-20	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

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Available water in the dunes is affected by presence of invasive scrub; man-made plantations and drainage systems within the adjacent urban settlement. Research has been carried out into dune hydrology and effects of woodland on the water table.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5A	Continue research and monitoring of dune hydrology and management options	Not yet determined	2014-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Southampton University
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5B	Restore the functional hydrology of the dune system based on the investigation	Not yet determined	2020	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Natural England	Sefton Coast Partnership

6 Public Access/Disturbance

Disturbance of bird populations through terrestrial and marine recreation (walkers, joggers, dog walkers, off-road vehicles, sand yachting, kite surfing, jet ski, boating, angling) and disturbance to dune and foreshore species and habitats through these recreational activities. Localised nutrient enrichment of dune flora by dog fouling and disturbance of dune slacks by dogs.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
6A	Increase public awareness of how recreational activities can cause disturbance.	£2,500	2014-16	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	Sefton Coast Partnership	Natural England, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
6B	Assess effects of new open access policy on the NNR and implement	£15,000	2015-18	Investigation / Research /	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

7 Inappropriate coastal management

Authorised parking on Ainsdale Beach, regulated by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, interrupts development of the Green Beach.

2015-20

Action Action description

Cost estimate Timescale

Funding option

Delivery lead body

Delivery partner(s)

Ensure parking on the beach at **7A** Ainsdale does not increase in area and investigate long-term solution to allow Green Beach to develop.

Not yet determined Mechanism Advice: Negotiation

Not yet determined Sefton Coast Partnership

n/a

8 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Commercial fishing activities categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in EMSs require assessment and (where appropriate) management. This assessment will be undertaken by NWIFCA. 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. There is a potential commercial electro-clam razor fishery on the Sefton Coast. Fishing can cause issues relating to access and disturbance; competition for bird food; disturbance through quad bikes and other vehicles. Unauthorised access rare due to police, EA and IFCA presence.

Action Action description

Cost estimate

Timescale

Mechanism

Funding option

Delivery lead body

Delivery partner(s)

Amber/Green site/features - Where **A8** these assessments indicate management is required, appropriate measures will be introduced by the NWIFCA. If management measures are established to protect the feature(s), on-going work will be required by the NWIFCA to ensure compliance and 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.

Determine levels of pollution and

2014-16 Not yet determined

Non-Natural England funded site management plan

Not yet determined North Western Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)

n/a

9 Change to site conditions

Erosion and retreat of the dune system leads to the exposure of historic remains from the cigarette industry (nicotene waste) at Formby. This has resulted in increased levels of nutrients, leading to changes in plant species. The nicotene cliffs also affect natural dune processes.

Action Action description

Cost estimate

Timescale

Mechanism

Investigation /

Not yet determined

Funding option

Delivery lead body Not yet determined Delivery partner(s)

containment

Not yet cost-effective solution for removal or determined 2014-20

Research / Monitoring

Environment Agency

9A

10	Inappropr	iate coastal	I management
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A large quantity of rubble from the Blitz in Liverpool was used to stabilize the coast at Crosby. This has now become exposed and forms an artificial shingle beach, of value to some species. There is, however, an associated risk to human health from hazardous waste and natural coastal processes are inhibited.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
10A	Additional work to assess threat from waste materials and its impact on Natura 2000 features.	£10000	2016-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Sefton Coast Partnership	n/a

11 Shooting/ scaring

There are concerns that consented cull of herring gulls and lesser black backed gulls on the Ribble Estuary may result in significant disturbance of the breeding colony and other species, if the conditions are not adhered to.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
11A	Ensure that gull scaring and monitoring plan is adhered to and shooting carried out in accordance with the conditions of the consent	Not yet determined	2014-20	Existing Local Project	Natural England	Natural England	n/a
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
11B	On-going monitoring of the population of gulls in the colony (every 5 years)	£200	2014-19	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Natural England (NNR running costs)	Natural England	n/a

12 Invasive species

Liverpool Docks is known to host several species of Marine invasive non-native species (Japanese skeleton shrimp, Caprella mutica and seaweed species Undaris pinnafitida. The Dee Estuary has also recorded Chinese Mitten crab Erocheir sinensis - all of which can spread to the site and affect roosting or feeding habitat (e.g. through competition with native species on which the birds depend)

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
12A	Implement best practice biosecurity and biosecurity planning. Investigate current population trends and identify areas at risk.	Staff time	2020	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	North Western Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Environment Agency, Natural England

13 F	eature location/ extent/ condition	unknown					
There are gaps in current data and monitoring of SPA bird populations. More comprehensive data gathering would facilitate adequate site management, including Habitats Regulations Assessments.							ement, including Habitats
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
13A	Improve population data and monitor impacts of activities on local populations	Not yet determined	2014-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Local wildfowling club(s)

Site details

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

Qualifying fe	atures
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#UK Special responsibility

Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA

A156(NB) Limosa limosa islandica: Black-tailed godwit

A048(NB) Tadorna tadorna: Common shelduck

A143(NB) Calidris canutus: Red knot

A183(B) Larus fuscus: Lesser black-backed gull

A137(NB) Charadrius hiaticula: Ringed plover

A157(NB) Limosa lapponica: Bar-tailed godwit

A050(NB) Anas penelope: Eurasian wigeon

A144(NB) Calidris alba: Sanderling

A144(NB) Calidris alba: Sanderling

A038(NB) Cygnus cygnus: Whooper swan

A140(NB) Pluvialis apricaria : European golden plover

A149(NB) Calidris alpina alpina: Dunlin

A193(B) Sterna hirundo: Common tern

A040(NB) Anser brachyrhynchus: Pink-footed goose

A050(NB)* Cygnus columbianus bewickii: Bewick swan

A162(NB) Tringa totanus: Common redshank

A141(NB) Pluvialis squatarola: Grey plover

A151(B) Philomachus pugnax: Ruff

A052(NB) Anas crecca: Eurasian teal

A130(NB) Haematopus ostralegus: Eurasian oystercatcher

Seabird assemblage

Waterbird assemblage

A037(NB) Cygnus columbianus bewickii: Bewick swan

A054(NB) Anas acuta: Northern pintail

Sefton Coast SAC H2130# Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")

H2150# Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)

H2170 Dunes with Salix repens ssp argentea (Salicion arenariae)

H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

H2190 Humid dune slacks

H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")

S1166 Triturus cristatus: Great crested newt

S1395 Petalophyllum ralfsii: Petalwort

Site location and links

Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA

Area (ha) 12412.31 Grid reference sd348237 Map link

Local Authorities Lancashire; Sefton

Site Conservation Objectives

Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA

European Marine Site conservation advice

Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA

Regulation 33/35 Package Regulation 33/35 package link

Marine Management Organisation site plan <u>n/a</u>

Sefton Coast SAC

Area (ha) 4563.97 Grid reference SD281099 Map link
Local Authorities Sefton

Site Conservation Objectives <u>European Site Conservation Objectives for Sefton Coast SAC</u>

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 (RMBP) 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.

Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA

River basin North West RBMP

WFD Management catchment Alt/Crossens

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft) GB112070064880

Sefton Coast SAC

River basin North West RBMP

WFD Management catchment Alt/Crossens

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft) n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(S) of Special Scientific Interest (SSS)	Site(s)	of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI
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Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA Sefton Coast SSSI

Ribble Estuary SSSI

Sefton Coast SAC Sefton Coast SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA Ainsdale Sand Dunes NNR

Cabin Hill NNR

Ribble Estuary NNR

Sefton Coast SAC Ainsdale Sand Dunes NNR

Cabin Hill NNR

Ramsar

Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA Ribble & Alt Estuaries

Sefton Coast SAC Ribble & Alt Estuaries

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

Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA Sefton Coast SAC

Sefton Coast SAC Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA







