

# Site Improvement Plan

## Rutland Water

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)**

**UK9008051 Rutland Water SPA**

## Site description

Rutland Water SPA is a large public water supply reservoir constructed in 1975 and located within the county of Rutland in central England.

The SPA is a wetland of international importance by regularly supporting over 20,000 non-breeding waterfowl annually. Notable components of this assemblage include internationally important numbers of non-breeding shoveler and gadwall, as well as nationally important numbers of non-breeding coot, goldeneye, goosander, great crested grebe, mute swan, teal, tufted duck and wigeon.

## 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 abstraction	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Explore the possibility of the inclusion of compensation areas within the designation	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Natural England
2 Inappropriate water levels	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Establish and maintain suitable compensatory habitats for waterfowl in the new lagoons during extreme drawdown events	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Natural England
3 Direct impact from 3rd party	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Monitor 3rd party impacts on waterfowl numbers and distribution	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Natural England
4 Invasive species	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Develop a non-native invasive species strategy	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Environment Agency, Natural England

5 Water Pollution	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Establish a nutrient mass balance for the reservoir	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Environment Agency, Natural England
6 Planning Permission: general	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Produce a planning and development strategy for Rutland Water	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Natural England, Rutland County Council, Rutland Water Partnership
7 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Develop a recreation strategy to maintain the suitability of Rutland Water for both recreation and nature conservation	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Rutland County Council
8 Fisheries: Freshwater	Threat	A005(NB) Great Crested Grebe, A036(NB) Mute swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A056(NB) Shoveler, A061(NB) Tufted Duck, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A070(NB) Goosander, A125(NB) Common coot, Waterbird assemblage	Produce a fishery management strategy	Anglian Water Services Ltd, 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 Water abstraction

Increased water abstraction is proposed that will radically alter water levels in the reservoir which may result in a proportion of waterbirds utilising areas provided as compensation but which are currently outside the SPA.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Explore the possibility of future inclusion within the designated site of the outlying areas currently provided as compensation for increased water abstraction, thereby ensuring that waterbirds using these areas contribute to the waterbird counts of the whole SPA and are fully protected by these designations.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Designation strategy: Notification Amendment	Natural England	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

### 2 Inappropriate water levels

Water levels of the reserve are managed primarily for public water supply and water storage and not specifically for non-breeding water birds. This can influence the number of specific species of non-breeding waterbirds using the site at certain times of year. At the moment, this is not causing any long-term deterioration of the site. However, when the proposed new increased abstraction regime is implemented, appropriate management of the water levels in the compensation and mitigation water bodies will be required to offset the impacts of the abstraction.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Review current water level management prescriptions for the mitigation and compensation areas, to sustain numbers of non-breeding waterbirds within the SPA at favourable levels, during different abstraction scenarios.	£20,000	2015-16	Conservation Enhancement Scheme (CES)	Natural England	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

<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>	Implement and monitor appropriate water level management prescriptions to sustain numbers of non-breeding waterbirds within the SPA at favourable levels in mitigation and compensation for extreme abstraction scenarios.	Not yet determined	2016 onwards	Non-Natural England funded site management plan	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Natural England

### 3 Direct impact from 3rd party

Cumulative impacts from unregulated third party activities like private firework displays in properties adjacent to the SPA, hot air balloon flights, and private aircraft flights (including microlites and military aircraft flights) is unknown. Investigation is needed to better understand the frequency of these disturbances and the cumulative impacts of these activities upon the waterbirds using Rutland Water.

<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>	Qualification and quantification of cumulative impacts from unregulated third party activities like private firework displays in properties adjacent to the SPA, hot air balloon flights, private aircraft flights including microlites and military aircraft flights.	Staff time	2014-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust

<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>3B</b>	Work with identified third parties undertaking unregulated activities which are causing significant disturbance to waterbirds within the SPA.	Staff time	2015 onwards	Advice: Negotiation	Natural England	Natural England	n/a

<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>3C</b>	Undertake enforcement against third parties persistently undertaking activities which are having a likely significant effect on the SPA.	Staff time	2015 onwards	Enforcement	Natural England	Natural England	n/a

#### 4 Invasive species

Rutland Water has been colonised by several invasive non-native species, including zebra mussel, bloody red mysid, Canadian pondweed, Nutall's pond weed and more recently by signal crayfish. Whilst some non-natives like the pondweeds can have a positive impact on the SPA interest features, this is not necessarily the case for all species. This is because non-native species can, either by themselves or in combination with other non-native species, significantly alter foodwebs which can lead to dramatic decreases in some taxa and to subtle changes in species composition.

<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>	Develop a non-native invasive species strategy.	£20,000	2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Environment Agency, EU Life, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Environment Agency

<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>4B</b>	Implement a non-native invasive species strategy where appropriate for species.	Not yet determined	2017 onwards	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Environment Agency, EU Life, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Environment Agency, Natural England
<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>4C</b>	Implement a non-native invasive species strategy where appropriate for species.	£10,000	2016 onwards	Bio-security plan	Environment Agency, EU Life, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD), Anglian Water Services Ltd	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Environment Agency, Natural England

## 5 Water Pollution

The inflows into Rutland Water currently receive regulated discharges of treated sewage as well as unregulated treated sewage discharges from septic tanks. Further nutrient inputs come from diffuse sources (such as agriculture) which maintain the reservoir in a highly eutrophic state and has led in the past to regular algal blooms.

<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>	Qualification and quantification of the nutrient loading of the inflows into, and outputs from Rutland Water.	£60,000	2016-18	Integrated Nutrient Management Plan: Nutrient Reduction Management Plan	Environment Agency, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD), Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF), Anglian Water Services Ltd	Environment Agency	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Natural England
<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>5B</b>	Implementation of an Integrated Nutrient Management Plan to achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets.	Not yet determined	2019 onwards	Integrated Nutrient Management Plan: Nutrient Reduction Management Plan	Environment Agency, EU Life, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Environment Agency	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Natural England



<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>5C</b>	Develop links with other plans, strategies and partnership work (e.g. WFD River Basin Management Plans, Diffuse Water Pollution plans, Catchment Sensitive Farming) to help deliver the water quality objectives for Rutland Water.	Not yet determined	2016 onwards	England Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Environment Agency, EU Life, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Environment Agency

## 6 Planning Permission: general

In the wider area surrounding the SPA, wind farms and other development is being proposed and is taking place. However the impacts upon the waterfowl behaviour during nocturnal migration and dispersal to and from the reservoir and their interactions with the environment in the surrounding countryside is poorly understood. Investigation is needed to better understand the cumulative impact of existing and planned wind farm and other local developments on the waterfowl using Rutland Water.

<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>6A</b>	Investigation into the cumulative impact of existing and planned wind farm, tourist facilities and other local developments on the waterfowl using Rutland Water SPA.	£15,000	2017	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Rutland County Council
<b>6B</b>	Develop planning guidance to steer where and what types of development take place around Rutland Water based on likely significant impacts upon the SPA	Not yet determined	2018	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Rutland County Council	Natural England, Rutland Water Partnership

## 7 Public Access/Disturbance

The reservoir and surrounding area is a very important destination for undertaking recreational activities. These include a range of watersports, fishing, cycling, birdwatching and walking. Several large events are also held on the banks of the reservoir each year. Future recreational proposals will need to avoid likely significant effects on the SPA and to do this properly will require an audit of existing recreational activities to evaluate and manage potential impacts prior to any deterioration of the SPA interest features.

<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>7A</b>	Audit of current recreational access provision in and around Rutland Water to determine current capacity and the potential cumulative impacts of future provision.	£20,000	2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Rutland County Council
<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>7B</b>	Provide advice to ensure decisions taken are Habitats Regulations compliant.	Staff time	2017 onwards	Advice	Natural England	Natural England	Anglian Water Services Ltd

## 8 Fisheries: Freshwater

Rutland Water is currently managed as a put and take trout fishery. Trout essentially have a controlling impact on coarse fish populations. However, future changes in coarse fish populations could create a shift in the ecological balance of the water body. In addition, fish diseases or parasite outbreaks (e.g. Red Vent Syndrome (RVS)) could potentially cause harm to the current fishery and the ecological status of the water body.

<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>8A</b>	Evaluate risks to current fishery sustainability - the site is currently managed as a put and take trout fishery. Trout essentially have a controlling impact on coarse fish populations. However, future changes in course fish populations could create a shift in the ecological balance of the water body. In addition, fish diseases or parasite outbreaks (e.g. Red Vent Syndrome (RVS)) could potentially cause harm to the current fishery and the ecological status of the water body.	Not yet determined	2017 onwards	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Environment Agency, EU Life, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Environment Agency	Anglian Water Services Ltd, Natural England
<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>8B</b>	Implement a fishery management strategy.	No costs	2017 onwards	Bio-security plan	Environment Agency, EU Life, Natural England, Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Environment Agency, Natural England

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

#### Rutland Water SPA

Waterbird assemblage

A005(NB) *Podiceps cristatus* Great crested grebe

A050(NB) *Anas penelope*: Eurasian wigeon

A051(NB) *Anas strepera*: Gadwall

A052(NB) *Anas crecca*: Eurasian teal

A056(NB) *Anas clypeata*: Northern shoveler

A061(NB) *Aythya fuligula*: Tufted duck

A067(NB) *Bucephala clangula*: Common goldeneye

A070(NB) *Mergus merganser*: Goosander

A125(NB) *Fulica atra*: Common coot

### Site location and links

#### Rutland Water SPA

Area (ha) **1556.87**      Grid reference **SK903064**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      Rutland

Site Conservation Objectives      [European Site Conservation Objectives for Rutland Water SPA](#)

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.*

### **Rutland Water SPA**

*River basin*

[Anglian RBMP](#)

*WFD Management catchment*

Welland

*WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)*

GB105031050480, GB105031050490, GB105031050610, GB30536479

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Rutland Water SPA	Rutland Water SSSI

  

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Rutland Water SPA	n/a

  

Ramsar	
Rutland Water SPA	n/a Rutland Water

  

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Rutland Water SPA	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	18/12/2014	

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

