

# Site Improvement Plan

## The Lizard

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)**

**UK0012799    The Lizard SAC**

## Site description

The Lizard SAC supports extensive areas of lowland heathland and maritime cliff and slope vegetation. A wide range of species-rich plant communities occur in a complex mosaic, reflecting the acidic to ultra-basic conditions that are derived from the serpentine geology, associated soil types and long management history of the site.

The heathland transitions are dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bell-heather *Erica cinerea* and Bristle-bent *Agrostis curtisii* in acidic areas where loess deposits occur, and abundant Cornish heath *Erica vagans*, Black Bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans* and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* in the wetter, more base-rich areas.

There are extensive areas displaying continuous sequences of cliff ledge to gently sloping, species-rich grazed and ungrazed maritime grasslands with species such as Spring squill *Scilla verna*, Wild asparagus *Asparagus officinalis ssp. prostratus* and Prostrate Juniper *Juniperus communis ssp. hemisphaerica* and many scarce and rare Clovers *Trifolium spp.*

Scattered throughout the site is a series of nationally unique waterbodies known as Mediterranean temporary ponds, this serpentine variant of which supports the rare plants Dwarf rush *Juncus capitatus*, Land quillwort *Isoetes hystrix* and Pygmy rush *Juncus pygmaeus* and invertebrates including the water beetle *Graptodytes flavipes*.

There is also a number of oligo-mesotrophic pools with stoneworts *Chara* species more typical of calcareous lakes together with species normally associated with acid conditions, such as Bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*.

## 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 Invasive species	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Control and manage invasive species	Cornwall Council, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Ministry of Defence (MoD), National Trust, Natural England
2 Change in land management	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs, H3170 Mediterranean temporary ponds, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H4040 Dry coastal heaths with Cornish heath	Ensure appropriate grazing	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Ministry of Defence (MoD), National Trust, Natural England, Plantlife
3 Inappropriate coastal management	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Restore and create cliff top habitat in advance of cliff recession	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England

4	Habitat fragmentation	Pressure/ Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs, H3170 Mediterranean temporary ponds, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H4040 Dry coastal heaths with Cornish heath	Create conditions in the adjoining farmland for SAC habitats and species.	Cornwall AONB, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Ministry of Defence (MoD), National Trust, Natural England, National Farmers' Union (NFU)
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## 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 Invasive species

There are several invasive species that have taken hold on the areas of vegetated sea cliff vegetation and threaten these communities and associated rare plant species. The invasive species include *Carpobrotus* and related succulent species which form large, continuous mats of cover that shade out the species-rich communities, change the nature of the soil itself and reduce the area of grazeable vegetation.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>1A</b>	Map the extent of invasive species across the SAC.	£5,000	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, National Trust, Cornwall County Council, Cornwall AONB	Local partnership	Cornwall Council, National Trust, Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>1B</b>	Develop an Invasives Control Plan with stakeholders	£5,000	2016-17	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Natural England, National Trust, Cornwall County Council, Cornwall AONB	Local partnership	Cornwall Council, National Trust, 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>1C</b>	Implement the management required for invasive species control on the NNR	£10,000	2017-2022	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Natural England	Natural England	Cornwall Council, National Trust
<b>1D</b>	Implement the management required for invasive species control off the NNR/on the SAC	£50,000	2017-2022	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Cornwall Council, Ministry Of Defence (Rights), National Trust
<b>1E</b>	Implement the management required for invasive species control off the NNR/on the SAC	£25,000	2017-2022	Conservation Enhancement Scheme (CES)	Natural England	Natural England	Cornwall Council, National Trust

## 2 Change in land management

There is a lack of grazing pressure to maintain the short sward/bare ground habitats of plant species associated with the Mediterranean temporary ponds and the vegetated sea cliffs.

<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>2A</b>	Targeted scrub cutting/burning and grazing on key rare plant locations on the National Nature Reserve (NNR).	£30,000	2014-2020	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Natural England	Natural England	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National 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>	Targeted scrub cutting/burning and grazing on key rare plant locations on the SAC.	£30,000	2014-2020	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Ministry of Defence (MoD), National 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>2C</b>	Targeted scrub cutting/burning and grazing on key rare plant locations off the NNR/SAC	£30,000	2014-2020	Partnership agreement: Other	Landfill tax SITA 2013-14 (coordinated by Plantlife)	Plantlife	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England

### 3 Inappropriate coastal management

Coastal erosion in the form of slippages and slumpages is causing a gradual loss of the narrow strip of sea cliff vegetation habitat from the seaward edge, with little replacement of this occurring on the landward side. Over time the extent of the vegetated sea cliff habitat will diminish unless areas can be restored on the landward side.

<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>	Plan for the creation of landward space for species-rich coastal habitats to roll back	£20,000	2014-16	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Creation of new habitat	Linking the Lizard application for HLF/Tubney Trust/NT/NE funding	Local partnership	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust, 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>3B</b>	Target areas to create landward space for species-rich coastal habitats to roll back	£1,000,000	2014-2024	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Cornwall Wildlife Trust, National Trust

#### 4 Habitat fragmentation

The inland areas of the SAC are sharply defined by the surrounding relatively intensely farmed dairy/beef/arable land, which is currently not compatible for many of the habitats and species of the SAC features to migrate into or cross. Management of this farmland to enable the expansion of the SAC features in the longer term needs to be encouraged.

<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>	Encourage habitat creation on adjacent farmland and Predannack Airfield.	£10,000,000	2015-35	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Cornwall AONB, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Ministry of Defence (MoD), National Trust, National Farmers' Union (NFU)

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

#### The Lizard SAC

H3170# Mediterranean temporary ponds

H4030 European dry heaths

H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

H4040# Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with *Erica vagans*

H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp*

H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

### Site location and links

#### The Lizard SAC

Area (ha) **3257.11**      Grid reference **SW690174**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      Cornwall

Site Conservation Objectives      [European Site Conservation Objectives for The Lizard 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.*

### **The Lizard SAC**

<i>River basin</i>	South West	<a href="#">South West RBMP</a>
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	West Cornwall and the Fal	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	GB108048001640, GB108048001650, GB108048001710, GB108048001750	

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
The Lizard SAC	East Lizard Heathlands SSSI Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI Kennack to Coverack SSSI Goonhilly Downs SSSI West Lizard SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
The Lizard SAC	The Lizard NNR
Ramsar	
The Lizard SAC	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
The Lizard SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
3.0	06/10/2014	

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

