

Site Improvement Plan

Chew Valley Lake

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)

UK9010041 Chew Valley Lake SPA

Site description

Chew Valley Lake SPA is located south of Bristol and is the largest artificial freshwater lake in South West England. It is a large, shallow reservoir with peripheral areas of reedbeds, carr woodland and neutral grassland.

The water conditions are eutrophic and open water plant communities are rather sparse. The open water of the reservoir and its margins are of high value for wintering waterbirds, specifically overwintering Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

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 Hydrological changes	Threat	A056(NB) Shoveler	Investigate impact of water levels on site suitability for Shoveler	Bristol Water Plc, Natural England
2 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure/Threat	A056(NB) Shoveler	Investigate current disturbance limitation measures and explore improvements	Bristol Water Plc, 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 Hydrological changes

The site is owned and managed by Bristol Water Plc to supply drinking water to the city of Bristol and surrounding area. There is evidence that water levels can significantly impact upon the suitability of the site for shoveler (a relationship indicated by Wetland Bird Survey data). This issue is affected both by annual changes in rainfall and the functioning of the reservoir.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Develop an understanding of the hydrological requirements of ideal Shoveler habitat to meet favourable condition addressing uncertainties by appropriate monitoring and investigation.	£20,000	2018	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	LIFE, Natural England, AMP process, Bristol Water	Natural England	Bristol Water Plc

2 Public Access/Disturbance

Large numbers of people use the area for recreational activities including fishing for trout and pike, sailing, and walking. There are existing refuge areas and conditions applied to maintain suitable habitat, but it is uncertain whether this is sufficient.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Review existing strategies for limiting disturbance from public use and seek improvements where possible.	£10,000	2014-15	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	LIFE, Natural England, Bristol Water	Natural England	Bristol Water Plc

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Chew Valley Lake SPA A056(NB) *Anas clypeata*: Northern shoveler

Site location and links

Chew Valley Lake SPA

Area (ha) **575.73** Grid reference **ST569597** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Bath and North East Somerset

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Chew Valley Lake 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.

Chew Valley Lake SPA

River basin

[Severn RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Bristol Avon & North Somerset Streams

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB109053021850, GB30943096

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Chew Valley Lake SPA	Chew Valley Lake SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Chew Valley Lake SPA	n/a

Ramsar	
Chew Valley Lake SPA	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Chew Valley Lake SPA	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	26/11/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

