

# Site Improvement Plan

## Marazion Marsh

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)**

**UK9020289    Marazion Marsh SPA**

## Site description

Marazion Marsh SPA is located on the south coast of Cornwall to the east of Penzance at the head of Mounts Bay.

It is the largest fresh water reedbed in Cornwall and is important for passage and wintering birds associated with it. These include overwintering bittern and passage migrant Aquatic warbler.

## 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	Pressure	A021(NB) Bittern, A294(NB) Aquatic warbler	Devise and implement a Water Level Management Plan	Natural England, RSPB
2 Water Pollution	Pressure	A021(NB) Bittern	Devise and implement Diffuse Water Pollution Plan	Environment Agency, Natural England
3 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A021(NB) Bittern, A294(NB) Aquatic warbler	Explore prospects or introduce voluntary codes or local bylaws	Natural England, RSPB
4 Invasive species	Threat	A021(NB) Bittern	Monitor and undertake control action as necessary	Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB
5 Climate change	Threat	A021(NB) Bittern, A294(NB) Aquatic warbler	Prepare a more detailed strategy to consider the options for the Marazion Marsh area as per the action in the Shoreline Management Plan	Cornwall Council, 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 Hydrological changes

The canalising of the Red River at the mouth in summer coupled with low water flow has resulted in heavy siltation reducing water levels and leading to the seasonal drying out of the marsh. The main feeder stream from the north through Crowlas has a large number of abstraction licences and in dry summers very little water is left by the time it reaches the SPA.

<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>1A</b>	Devise and implement Water Level Management Plan. (This is likely to involve a levelling study; options appraisal; development of a design specification; agreement of the plan with EA, partners and stakeholders; implementation of the scheme and monitoring)	£50,000	2015-2020	Water Level Management Plan	Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Agri-environment scheme	Natural England	RSPB
<b>1B</b>	Remove accumulated silt from Longrock Pool	£150,000	2017-2020	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Habitat restoration	Rural Development Programme (RDPE), Agri-environment scheme, Landfill tax	RSPB	Natural England

## 2 Water Pollution

Soil sediment and agricultural run-off (high levels of N & P) are affecting the site. Strong evidence indicates that the main cause of siltation is sediment entering the site from surrounding farmland via streams, ditches, roads, tracks and culverts. The predominant land use is vegetable growing and bulbs for the cut flower market on land with soils that have been conditioned with sea sand over many centuries. Sediment samples have shown high concentrations of copper and tin as a legacy of mining in the catchment including the SPA itself. Concentrations of N and P are also high and the eutrophic conditions have resulted in toxic algal blooms in recent years. Engagement with purchasers as well as landowners, tenants and contract growers is required.

<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>	Devise and implement Diffuse Water Pollution Plan. This will include completing evidence projects; identifying targetted actions in the catchment; stakeholder and partner working at the catchment level.	£45,000	2015-2020	Water Level Management Plan	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Natural England	RSPB
<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>	Define and agree appropriate water quality objectives for the site (including sediment targets).	No cost	2016-2017	Advice: Review Conservation Objectives	Natural England	Natural England	Environment Agency, RSPB
<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>	Undertake a survey of high risk road drainage and identify improvements to reduce diffuse pollution.	Not yet determined	2015-2020	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Local authority (Highways), Highways Agency	Cornwall Council	Environment Agency, Highways 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>2D</b>	Provide CSF advice and capital grants in the site's catchment.	Not yet determined	2015-2020	England Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Environment Agency

### 3 Public Access/Disturbance

Kite surfing is an issue for bird populations. No monitoring of this activity has ever been undertaken but RSPB have recorded kite surfing related disturbances on their database when reported. This form of disturbance only takes place at high tide in a strong southerly wind and it is only when the parachutes appear "over" the SPA.

<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>	Develop a public engagement plan to reduce disturbance from kite surfing.	£10,000	2010-2015	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Natural England, Grant in aid, Voluntary conservation organisation	RSPB	Natural England

### 4 Invasive species

The water fern, *Azolla filiculoides* is a limited threat. It appears some years and completely covers the open water bodies but at one of these areas, Longrock Pool, it has disappeared completely, probably as a result of saline intrusion there. The occurrence of this plant is erratic and may be linked to hot summers and the eutrophic conditions prevalent at such times. EA have suggested eradication by chemical treatment but this has not been undertaken to date. Japanese knotweed is present on the edge of the site.

<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>	Survey in and around the SPA to identify invasives species present	£4,000	2015-2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Natural England	Environment Agency, RSPB

<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>	Develop and implement a plan to control problem invasive species	£20,000	2016-2020	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Natural England, Water Framework Directive (WFD)	Natural England	Environment Agency, RSPB

## 5 Climate change

In terms of management of the coast the latest Shoreline Management Plan contains a preferred plan recommendation for the Marazion Marsh frontage which states that 'in order to adhere to legislation and maintain the integrity of this internationally important freshwater wetland site, a hold the line policy is preferred through all three epochs.' However it goes on to state that: 'a more detailed strategy is required to consider the options for this area in more detail at the earliest opportunity'. One option which should be explored, planning for the long-term impacts of climate change, is the opportunity for managed 'retreat' and habitat creation with compensatory measures for the SPA features/supporting habitats upstream.

<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>	Prepare a more detailed strategy to consider the options for the Marazion Marsh area in more detail as per the action in the Shoreline Management Plan	Not yet determined	2015-2020	Shoreline Management Plan and Strategies	Environment Agency, Natural England, Grant in aid	Not yet determined	Cornwall Council, Environment Agency, Natural England

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

<b>Marazion Marsh SPA</b>	A294(NB) <i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> : Aquatic warbler
	A021(NB) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern

### Site location and links

#### Marazion Marsh SPA

Area (ha) <b>54.58</b>	Grid reference <b>SW517319</b>	<a href="#">Map link</a>
Local Authorities	Cornwall	
Site Conservation Objectives	<a href="#">European Site Conservation Objectives for Marazion Marsh SPA</a>	
European Marine Site conservation advice	<a href="#">n/a</a>	
Regulation 33/35 Package	<a href="#">n/a</a>	
Marine Management Organisation site plan	<a href="#">n/a</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.*

### **Marazion Marsh SPA**

*River basin*

[South West RBMP](#)

*WFD Management catchment*

West Cornwall and the Fal

*WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)*

GB108048002110

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Marazion Marsh SPA	n/a

Ramsar	
Marazion Marsh SPA	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Marazion Marsh SPA	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	19/12/14	

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



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