

Site Improvement Plan

Flamborough and Filey Coast

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)

UK9006101 Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA

UK0013036 Flamborough Head SAC

Site description

Flamborough Head SAC and Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA are located on the central Yorkshire coast of eastern England. The pSPA extends to an area between South Landing and Cunstone Nab (excluding an area from Speeton, to north of Filey Town), with the SAC covering an area north of Bridlington to Speeton. The cliffs project into the North Sea, rising to 135m at Bempton Cliffs, exposing a wide section of chalk strata. The cliff-top vegetation comprises maritime grassland vegetation growing alongside species more typical of chalk grassland. The site supports large numbers of breeding seabirds including Kittiwake, Guillemot and Razorbill, as well as the only mainland-breeding colony of Gannet in the UK. The seabirds feed and raft in the waters around the cliffs and the intertidal chalk platforms are used as roosting sites at low water, notably by juvenile Kittiwakes.

The sublittoral and littoral reef habitats at Flamborough are considered to be the most diverse in the UK. The intertidal area below the cliffs is predominantly rocky and partly extend into the subtidal area. The adjacent sea out to 2 km off Flamborough Head, as well as the area at Filey Brigg to Cunstone Nab, is characterised by chalk reefs comprising kelp forest communities in the shallow subtidal and faunal turf communities below 2 metre water depths. There are more than 200 caves within the site, particularly around the headland and on the north-facing cliffs. Caves cut into soft rock exposures are important for their abundant specialised cave algal communities.

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 Changes in species distributions	Pressure	A188(B) Black-legged kittiwake, Seabird assemblage	Investigate the causes of decline	Natural England, North Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Flamborough Management Scheme
2 Marine and freshwater fishery	Pressure/ Threat	H1170 Reefs, Seabird assemblage	Investigate potential impacts of fisheries	Natural England, North Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)

3 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A016 Northern gannet, A188(B) Black-legged kittiwake, A199(B) Guillemot, A200(B) Razorbill, Seabird assemblage	Prevent bird disturbance	East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Natural England, RSPB, Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Flamborough Management Scheme
4 Invasive species	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Investigate the impact of invasive species	East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Environment Agency, National Trust, Natural England, Scarborough Borough Council, Wildlife Trust(s), Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Flamborough Management Scheme

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 Changes in species distributions

Kittiwake failed the monitoring target for aggregations of breeding bird species and has therefore been assessed as unfavourable declining. Black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* numbers have declined significantly from 80,180 (1979) to the current figure of 42,520 pairs on the Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA citation (a reduction of 53%, confirmed by the Seabird 2000 census). Site-specific monitoring targets for species populations state 'where the limits of natural fluctuations are not known, maintain the population above 75% of that at designation - loss of 25% or more unacceptable.' The decline in kittiwake at Flamborough is similar to the national decline over the same period, the main factor considered as being low productivity, probably due to reductions in sand eel abundance and changes to sea temperature (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2889>). In 2014, overall productivity from kittiwake at Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs averaged at 0.78 chicks per pair; at Filey, productivity averaged at 0.45 chicks per pair (Aitken, D., Babcock, M., & Clarkson, K., 2014. Filey Cliffs Seabird Monitoring Report; Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA Seabird Monitoring Programme). The national reference mean for kittiwake is 0.68 chicks per pair, recorded 1986-2008 (Mavor *et al.* 2008).

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Investigate the causes for Kittiwake decline.	£175,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	North Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), RSPB, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Flamborough Management Scheme

2 Marine and freshwater fishery

Issue 1: The impacts of potting on SAC features are not currently sufficiently understood. The recent technological advances in fishing mean that there is not a thorough understanding of their impacts on the features. Impacts of abrasion from the pots as well as the impacts of the fishery on species composition of the reef feature need to be better understood. Further information is needed also to inform the Inshore Fishery Conservation Authorities management decisions under Article 6 of the Habitats Regulations.

Issue 2: There is a lack of knowledge of the level of netting that occurs within and within close proximity of the site as well as its impact on SPA features. There can be significant numbers of seabird mortality associated with netting therefore more investigation is needed, to inform management measures.

<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>
2A	Investigate the impacts of potting activities on the SAC features.	£50,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	North Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)
<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>
2B	Investigate the level of netting that occurs within, and within close proximity of the site as well as its impact on SPA features.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	North Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England

3 Public Access/Disturbance

Jet skis primarily launched from around the Bridlington harbour area cause disturbance to breeding birds. Activity is difficult to control as there are no governing bodies and skis are being launched from different sites. East Riding of Yorkshire Council have published a Code of Conduct at launch sites in relation to public safety, but launching is being undertaken from non-authorised sites. The Flamborough Management Scheme published a Code of Conduct in 2008 in relation to impacts which such activities could have on the features of the site.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	Work to prevent public disturbance in and around the designated site.	£25,000	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Natural England, RSPB, Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Flamborough Management Scheme
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3B	Work to prevent public disturbance in and around the designated site.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Enforcement: Other	Not yet determined	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Natural England, RSPB, Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Flamborough Management Scheme

4 Invasive species

Colonisation of non-native species from illegal dumping of garden waste, for example *Montbretia* on cliffs is leading to colonisation of sea cliffs with non-native species and subsequent reduction in native species-rich grassland.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4A	Investigation into the presence and extent of invasive species (such as <i>Montbretia</i>) will help gain more knowledge about these species and how to remove them from the designated site.	£20,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire 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>
4B	Raise public awareness of the impact of dumping garden waste over cliff tops.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	Natural England	East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Scarborough Borough Council, Yorkshire 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>
4C	Work with other partners with experience of managing invasive species on cliff areas, which are difficult to access. Consult with organisations with practical experience.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Advice	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency, National Trust, Wildlife Trust(s), Natural Resources Wales

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA	A016 <i>Morus bassanus</i> : Northern gannet A199(B) <i>Uria aalge</i> : Common guillemot A200(B) <i>Alca torda</i> : Razorbill Seabird assemblage A188(B) <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> : Black-legged kittiwake
Flamborough Head SAC	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts H1170 Reefs H8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

Site location and links

Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA

Area (ha) **212.17** Grid reference **TA233723**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

East Riding of Yorkshire Council; North Yorkshire County Council; Scarborough Borough Council

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Flamborough Head & Bempton Cliffs SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[n/a](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[n/a](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

Flamborough Head SAC

Area (ha) **6311.96** Grid reference **TA257701**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

East Riding of Yorkshire Council; North Yorkshire County Council; Scarborough Borough Council

Site Conservation Objectives

[Flamborough Head SAC](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[Flamborough Head SAC](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

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.

Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA

<i>River basin</i>	Humber RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Derwent (Humber)
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

Flamborough Head SAC

<i>River basin</i>	Humber RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Hull and East Riding
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	GB104026072780

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA	Flamborough Head SSSI
Flamborough Head SAC	Flamborough Head SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA	n/a
Flamborough Head SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA	n/a
Flamborough Head SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Flamborough and Filey Coast pSPA	Flamborough Head SAC
Flamborough Head SAC	Flamborough Head & Bempton Cliffs SPA

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	25/02/2015	

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