

Site Improvement Plan

Sandlings

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)

UK9020286 Sandlings SPA

Site description

The site is notified for its internationally important populations of woodlark and nightjar. The SPA is made up of lowland heathland, acid grassland and forestry plantations on sandy soils which once supported extensive heathland; the main conservation interest of which lies in the open areas such as young plantation and rotational clearfell which provide suitable breeding habitat.

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	Threat	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark	Address causes of Woodlark and Nightjar population decline once they have been identified	Forestry Commission, Natural England, RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust
2 Inappropriate scrub control	Pressure	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark	Establish a network of appropriately managed habitat throughout the SPA	Forestry Commission, Natural England, RSPB, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Wildlife Trust
3 Deer	Threat	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark	Reduce the impact of deer through implementation of a deer management plan	Forestry Commission, Natural England
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Natural England
5 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark	Determine the impacts of recreational pressure, particularly by dogs off leads	Forestry Commission, Local Authority(ies), Natural England, RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s)

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

Woodlark and Nightjar populations on the Suffolk coast have declined by 65% and 66% respectively since notification in 2001.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Research to determine the causes of population decline.	£10,000	2015-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Forestry Commission, RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

2 Inappropriate scrub control

Scrub encroachment is reducing habitat suitability for Woodlark and Nightjar. Regular management is essential to maintain and restore the supporting heathland habitat to favourable condition.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Increase availability of suitable breeding habitat by revising management plans for open habitats.	£20,000	2015-20	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Habitat restoration	Natural England	Natural England	Forestry Commission, RSPB, Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

3 Deer

A large deer population exerting grazing pressure on habitats will affect quality of nesting habitat. There is also potential for deer to trample nests.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	Determine the impact of deer browsing on breeding habitat.	£5,000	2015-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Forestry Commission

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads.

<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>
4A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

5 Public Access/Disturbance

The need to understand recreational pressure and implement appropriate management is an ongoing issue. Recreational pressure could be increased by new housing developments in the area and by the potential displacement of visitors during the construction of Sizewell C.

<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>
5A	Determine if there is a disturbance impact from public access.	£10,000	2015-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Local Authority(ies), RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s)

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Sandlings SPA A224(B) *Caprimulgus europaeus*: European nightjar

A246(B) *Lullula arborea*: Woodlark

Site location and links

Sandlings SPA

Area (ha) **3391.8** Grid reference **TM359479** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Suffolk

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Sandlings 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.

Sandlings SPA

River basin

[Anglian RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

East Suffolk

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB105035040160, GB105035040190, GB105035046260

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Sandlings SPA	Sandlings Forest SSSI
	Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI
	Blaxhall Heath SSSI
	Tunstall Common SSSI
	Sutton & Hollesley Heaths SSSI
	Snape Warren SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Sandlings SPA	n/a
Ramsar	
Sandlings SPA	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Sandlings SPA	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	13/05/2015	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

