Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS)

Planning for the Future

Site Improvement Plan

Tintagel Marsland Clovelly 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)

UK0013047 Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC

Site description

This site comprises an extensive length of largely hard coastal cliff and side-valleys, with a range of maritime influences and mosaics of characteristic coastal and heath vegetation types developed on hard neutral to acidic sedimentary rocks. Stands of sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles are also a feature.

The greater part of the site, totalling approximately 60 km, is west facing and fully exposed to Atlantic storms, and is therefore strongly maritime in character. The section east of Hartland Point faces north and north-east, and is relativley sheltered.

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 Undergrazing	Pressure/ Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs, H4030 European dry heaths, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Addition of capital works funds to existing HLS agreements and the re-introduction of grazing in priority areas	Natural England
2 Deer	Threat	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Effective deer control to encourage natural woodland regeneration	Forestry Commission, Natural England
3 Invasive species	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Effective control of non-native invasive plant species	Forestry Commission, Natural England
4 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Remove immature beech from sessile oak stands	Forestry Commission, Natural England
5 Disease	Threat	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Monitor for infestations of ash die-back to inform appropriate action	Forestry Commission, Natural England
6 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Investigate the impact of aerial nitrogen deposition	Natural England
7 Game management: pheasant rearing	Threat	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Avoid damage from pheasant pens	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 Undergrazing

Grazing by livestock and the control of scrub and/or bracken areas is sustained by the support provided by agri-environment management schemes. This allows an open and varied vegetation structure to be maintained on the coastal slopes which benefits the vegetated seas cliff and dry heath habitats. Such management replicates long-established 'traditional' farming practices but is uneconomical in modern-day agricultural terms, and thus reliant upon support from state aid schemes. Without such management the habitat of many areas would degrade and become dominated by course vegetation and scrub. Land managers are not sufficiently attracted by the payment rates for managing marginal land or clearing scrub on steep slopes, and on occasions insufficient budget has been available to allow additional capital works to be added to exisitng agreements where capital works have expired. Undergrazing is an issue at West Titchberry where without appropriate grazing management the sea cliff habitat will decline becoming dominated by course vegetation and scrub.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
1A	Fund and implement conservation management capital works required as part of existing HLS agreements.	£100,000	2014-24	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
1B	In specified areas, reintroduce grazing animals to control rank/ woody vegetation to restore an open habitat structure.	£15,000	2016-21	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a

2 Deer

Natural regeneration of trees is significantly supressed by deer browsing; this also limits the options for woodland management. The long-term effect on woodland habitats will be a lack of recruitment of the next generation of trees and the loss of under-storey structure leading to the degradation of the habitat.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
2A	Control deer numbers sufficiently to allow natural regeneration in woodland areas.	£100,000	2014-20	Partnership agreement: Other	Natural England, Forestry Commission	Natural England	Forestry Commission

3 Invasive species

Infestations of invasive non-native plant species threaten to degrade habitat areas by out-competing native flora through competition for shade, light and moisture. East of Hartland infestations of *Rhododendron ponticum* are widespread in the woodlands. Elsewhere relatively minor and localised infestations occur of Montbretia (on vegetated sea cliffs) and Himalayan balsam (in old sessile oak wood).

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
3A	Effective control of rhododendron, etc to reduce/eradicate to allow the ground flora and understorey to recover	£100,000	2014-20	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Forestry Commission

4 Forestry and woodland management

In localities where sessile oak stands are subject to localised colonisation by beech there is a general lack of management. Medium/long-term effects will be to degrade woodland habitat by altering the woodland composition with sessile oak increasingly shaded out by beech. Beech is not considered to be native in this part of the British Isles, though it is considered 'naturalised'.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
4A	Effectively control beech regeneration in sessile oak stands to maintain woodland composition.	£7,500	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Forestry Commission

5 Disease

Ash die-back *Chalara fraxinea* could significantly alter woodland composition/structure in areas where ash make a significant contribution to the canopy.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
5A	Monitor ash die-back disease to establish extent of problem	£10,000	2014-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Defra, Natural England	Forestry Commission	Natural England

6 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
6A	Further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts on the site, based on the application of guidance from Chief Scientist Group Nitrogen Task and Finish Group	Not yet determined	2014-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

7 Game management: pheasant rearing

In woodland east of Hartland, inappropriately located pheasant breeding/release pens are a concern. There is a risk these may be having a localised effect on woodland ground flora and under-storey through localised ground disturbance.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
7A	Investigate the impact of insensitively located pheasant pens and where appropriate arrange their relocation via negotiation and if necessary regulation	Not yet determined	2014-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	n/a

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC	H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles
	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
	H4030 European dry heaths

Site location and links

Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC

Area (ha) **2429.84** *Grid reference* **SS225234**	Map link
Local Authorities	Cornwall; Devon
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast 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 (RMBP) 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.

Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC

River basin	South West South West RBMP
WFD Management catchment	North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey, North Devon
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB108049007190, GB108049013760, GB108049013800, GB108050013970, GB108050014010, GB108050014050

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC	Marsland to Clovelly Coast SSSI
	Hobby to Peppercombe SSSI
	Boscastle to Widemouth SSSI
	Bude Coast SSSI
	Tintagel Cliffs SSSI
	Steeple Point to Marsland Mouth SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast SAC	n/a

Version	*Date*	*Comment*
1.0	06/10/2014	