

Site Improvement Plan

The Wash and North Norfolk 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)

- UK9008022 Gibraltar Point SPA**
- UK9009031 N Norfolk Coast SPA**
- UK0019838 North Norfolk Coast SAC**
- UK0017075 The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC**
- UK9008021 The Wash SPA**

Site description

The Wash is the largest marine embayment in Britain, with the second largest expanse of intertidal sediment flats in the country. These include extensive fine sands and drying banks of coarser sand which support a community characterised by large numbers of polychaetes, bivalves, and crustaceans. Subtidal sandbanks vary in composition and include coarse sand through to mixed sediment at the mouth of the embayment. Unusual subtidal communities include large areas of dense brittlestar beds and the small but extensive colonies of the reef-building ross worm *Sabellaria spinulosa* which supports a diverse associated fauna.

The North Norfolk coast provides the only typical British example of a barrier beach system. Extensive areas of salt marsh with characteristic creek patterns have developed behind sand and shingle spits and bars. The open coast is characterised by large areas of clean mobile sand subject to functioning coastal and marine processes. Communities vary from typical estuarine examples characterised by the bivalve peppery furrow shell *Scrobicularia plana*, to lugworm *Arenicola marina* dominated muddier sand in the lee of islands and spits, to a sparse infauna in more exposed open coast areas.

The Wash and North Norfolk coast EMS is important for breeding and moulting of one of Europe's largest populations of common seal *Phoca vitulina*. The intertidal mudflats and salt marshes represent one of Britain's most important winter feeding areas for waders and wildfowl outside of the breeding season.

Gibraltar Point (587ha) is of national importance for its sand dunes, other coastal habitats and associated fauna - notably invertebrates and passage and breeding birds. Other habitats present include; grassland, coastal lagoons, shingle, intertidal mud / sand and open water.

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 Inappropriate water levels	Pressure	A021(B) Bittern, A081(B) Marsh harrier, A132(B) Avocet, A162(NB) Common redshank	Ensure the correct management of water levels in freshwater habitats	Environment Agency, Natural England

2 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A021(B) Bittern, A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A040(NB) Pink-footed goose, A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A054(NB) Pintail, A065(NB) Common scoter, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A081(B) Marsh harrier, A084(B) Montagu's harrier, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A132(B) Avocet, A141(NB) Grey plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed godwit, A160(NB) Curlew, A162(NB) Common redshank, A169(NB) Turnstone, A191(B) Sandwich tern, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1110 Subtidal sandbanks, H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, H1160 Shallow inlets and bays, H1310 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand, H1330 Atlantic salt meadows, H1420 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2190 Humid dune slacks, S1365 Common seal, Waterbird assemblage	Investigate and identify measures to counteract effects of disturbance	Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Norfolk Coast AONB, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), European Marine Site group
3 Siltation	Threat	H1110 Subtidal sandbanks, H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, H1150 Coastal lagoons, H1310 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand, H1420 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, H2130 Dune grassland, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Monitoring to assess siltation and beach nourishment	Environment Agency, Natural England
4 Fisheries: Recreational marine and estuarine	Threat	A021(B) Bittern, A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A040(NB) Pink-footed goose, A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A054(NB) Pintail, A065(NB) Common scoter, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A081(B) Marsh harrier, A084(B) Montagu's harrier, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A132(B) Avocet, A141(NB) Grey plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed godwit, A160(NB) Curlew, A162(NB) Common redshank, A169(NB) Turnstone, A191(B) Sandwich tern, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1110 Subtidal sandbanks, H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Waterbird assemblage	Implement the recreational sea angling strategy	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England, Norfolk County Council, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), European Marine Site group

5 Invasive species	Threat	H1110 Subtidal sandbanks, H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, H1160 Shallow inlets and bays, H1170 Reefs, H1310 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand, H1330 Atlantic salt meadows, H1420 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub	Introduction pathways investigation by SEFINS project to address scale of issue and determine mechanisms for management.	Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England, Norfolk County Council, European Marine Site group
6 Inappropriate coastal management	Threat	A021(B) Bittern, A081(B) Marsh harrier, A193(B) Common tern, H1150 Coastal lagoons, H1310 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand, H2110 Shifting dunes, H2130 Dune grassland, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Respond to increased risk of tidal flooding on freshwater habitats	Environment Agency, Natural England
7 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Threat	A021(B) Bittern, A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A040(NB) Pink-footed goose, A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A054(NB) Pintail, A065(NB) Common scoter, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A081(B) Marsh harrier, A084(B) Montagu's harrier, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A132(B) Avocet, A141(NB) Grey plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed godwit, A160(NB) Curlew, A162(NB) Common redshank, A169(NB) Turnstone, A191(B) Sandwich tern, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, Waterbird assemblage	Put in place necessary management measures	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England
8 Predation	Threat	A021(B) Bittern, A132(B) Avocet, A176(B) Mediterranean gull, A191(B) Sandwich tern, A192(B) Roseate tern, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern	Ensure adequate protection of nesting birds from predators	Natural England

9 Coastal squeeze	Threat	A040(NB) Pink-footed goose, A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A054(NB) Pintail, A065(NB) Common scoter, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A141(NB) Grey plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed godwit, A160(NB) Curlew, A162(NB) Common redshank, A169(NB) Turnstone, A195(B) Little tern, H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, H1150 Coastal lagoons, H1310 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand, H1330 Atlantic salt meadows, H1420 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, H2110 Shifting dunes, H2130 Dune grassland, H2190 Humid dune slacks, Waterbird assemblage	Ensure mitigation and compensation for loss of habitats if appropriate	Environment Agency, Natural England
10 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Threat	H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, H1160 Shallow inlets and bays, H1170 Reefs	Continued implementation of bye-law that has been in place from May 2014	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England
11 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine	Threat	A021(B) Bittern, A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A040(NB) Pink-footed goose, A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A054(NB) Pintail, A065(NB) Common scoter, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A081(B) Marsh harrier, A084(B) Montagu's harrier, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A132(B) Avocet, A141(NB) Grey plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed godwit, A160(NB) Curlew, A162(NB) Common redshank, A169(NB) Turnstone, A191(B) Sandwich tern, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, Waterbird assemblage	Introduction of management measures by Eastern IFCA	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA), Natural England

12 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A021(B) Bittern, A037(NB) Bewick's swan, A040(NB) Pink-footed goose, A046a(NB) Dark-bellied Brent goose, A048(NB) Common shelduck, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(NB) Gadwall, A054(NB) Pintail, A065(NB) Common scoter, A067(NB) Goldeneye, A081(B) Marsh harrier, A084(B) Montagu's harrier, A130(NB) Eurasian oystercatcher, A132(B) Avocet, A141(NB) Grey plover, A143(NB) Red knot, A144(NB) Sanderling, A149(NB) Dunlin, A156(NB) Black-tailed godwit, A157(NB) Bar-tailed godwit, A160(NB) Curlew, A162(NB) Common redshank, A169(NB) Turnstone, A191(B) Sandwich tern, A193(B) Common tern, A195(B) Little tern, Waterbird assemblage	Coordinate information exchange regarding sensitive areas	Natural England, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), European Marine Site group
13 Change in land management	Pressure	H1140 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats, H1310 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand, H1420 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub	Address the issue across the site using evidence from RSPB research, and implement management where appropriate	Natural England, RSPB
14 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H1150 Coastal lagoons, H1220 Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves, H1310 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand, H1330 Atlantic salt meadows, H1420 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2130 Dune grassland, H2190 Humid dune slacks, S1395 Petalwort	Establish a Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Natural England
15 Changes in species distributions	Pressure	A195(B) Little tern	Consider options for habitat creation	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England, RSPB

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 Inappropriate water levels

Structures which control water along the North Norfolk Coast have fallen into disrepair. The issue is preventing appropriate water level controls for breeding birds.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Review the water level management on the freshwater marshes of the sites to make the site adaptable to future climate change. This includes: new water penning infrastructure where required, identifying where and how freshwater enters and leaves the marshes and identifying new sites for potential freshwater habitat creation.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Water Level Management Plan	Not yet determined	Environment Agency	Natural England

2 Public Access/Disturbance

The Wash, Gibraltar Point and North Norfolk coast is a very popular area for recreational activity and visitor numbers are likely to grow, for example as a result of the English Coastal Path and housing development. The range of recreational activities may have adverse impacts on the sites (Boating; motor boating; water skiing; jet skis; commercial and non-commercial wildlife tours; commercial shipping; kites (including surfers, boarders and buggy boarders); moorings; access to moorings; motorised vehicles; bikes, hovercraft; bird/wildlife watching; (dog) walking; Samphire collection, shellfish collection, bait digging, reed cutting, beachcombing, sea lavender gathering; beach barbecues; littering; wildfowling). Conflicts with the management of fragile habitats and species which can be easily disturbed by recreational activity will need to be carefully managed. To overcome these challenges further collaboration between stakeholders and local people may be needed with the aim of more holistic management of the area.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Investigate the causes, magnitude and impact of recreational and other disturbance along the Wash, Gibraltar Point and North Norfolk Coast, including likely changes in recreational pressure and their drivers and implement recommended measures.	£100,000	2015-2020	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Coast AONB, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, European Marine Site group

<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	Review the zoning of fragile sites for visitors in line with the Norfolk Coast AONB Visitor Management Plan to ensure sensitive habitats are protected, and incorporated into co-ordinated promotional material.	not yet determined	2019	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	Norfolk Coast AONB	Natural England, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB
2C	Establish a long term recreational management strategy for the North Norfolk Coast which protects the sensitive features in the context of increasing visitor numbers	not yet determined	2016	Advice: Access Strategy	Not yet determined	Norfolk Coast AONB	Natural England, Norfolk County Council
2D	Implement (a range of) measures to reduce/minimise recreational disturbance following the development of the recreational management strategy. This will also relate to the passing of the coastal path to 'national trails' management	not yet determined	2020	Advice: Access Strategy	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Natural England, Norfolk Coast AONB, Norfolk County Council
2E	Establish a code of conduct and zoning areas to promote responsible and sustainable bait digging and samphire collection	£5,000	2014 onwards	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Natural England, Norfolk Coast AONB, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), European Marine Site group

3 Siltation

Sediment accretion is occurring in the Wash, and in such a dynamic system may be natural. However, activities associated with the Lincshore beach nourishment program may contribute to changes in sediment movement in the site. It is difficult to separate natural from anthropogenic change. The Environment Agency Lincshore scheme is part of the Saltfleetby-Gibraltar Point Coastal Strategy (part of the Flamborough Head to Gibraltar Point Shoreline Management Plan).

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	Investigate the causes of siltation.	Not yet determined	2014-18	Shoreline Management Plan and Strategies	Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Natural England

4 Fisheries: Recreational marine and estuarine

Recreational sea fishing and shoreline angling is a large scale activity with potential to impact on fish stocks as a resource for designated birds, but the size of the activity locally and its impact is not known. With the release of the national sea angling report, the Eastern IFCA are looking to follow this up to ensure all fisheries in their district are sustainable.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4A	Implement the EIFCA Recreational Sea Angling Strategy (v.2.0) through stakeholder engagement.	Not yet determined	2015-2020	Advice	Not yet determined	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England, Norfolk County Council, Marine Management Organisation (MMO), European Marine Site group

5 Invasive species

There is a risk of introduction and spread of non-native/invasive species (e.g. American Razor Clam *Ensis directus*; Slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata*; Pacific Oyster *Crassostrea gigas*; oyster parasite *Bonamia*) from future fisheries and mussel lay stocking. There is also a risk of translocation of invasive species through ballast water transfer and discharge.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5A	Determine pathways for invasive introductions via stocks with SEFINS project.	Not yet determined	2014-18	Advice	Not yet determined	Norfolk County Council	Lincolnshire County Council, 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>
5B	Create an Action plan to address the pathways.	Not yet determined	2014	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	INTERREG 2seas SEFINS project	Norfolk County Council	Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England, European Marine Site group
<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>
5C	Implement the action plan	Not yet determined	2014-16	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	INTERREG 2seas SEFINS project	Norfolk County Council	Lincolnshire County Council, Natural England, European Marine Site group

6 Inappropriate coastal management

Following the recent tidal event of December 2013 there may now be conflicts between flood risk management and the protection and provision of SPA/SAC habitats.

<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>
6A	Investigate the options for adaptive site management in light of ecological changes likely to occur due to increased frequency and duration of saline inundation.	£40,000	2014-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

7 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

A consent was granted to a private fishery tenant in 1984 for collection of shellfish, killing of starfish and application of lime to the sea bed. No restriction on harvesting methodology or level were applied to the consent. Therefore, there is a risk to site features due to uncertainty of current management.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
7A	Implementation of management measures to ensure sustainability.	Not yet determined	2016 onwards	Regulation: Licences (Non-Natural England / Environment Agency) - Revoke/ Amend	Defra, Natural England	Natural England	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)

8 Predation

Lack of predator control, where appropriate, is having an impact on the ability of sites to support breeding bird populations.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
8A	Ensure adequate predator control is undertaken both on and adjacent to breeding bird locations.	£5,000	2014-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

9 Coastal squeeze

Coastal squeeze at this site may lead to a gradual loss of intertidal and coastal habitats due to sea level rise and the erection and maintenance of coastal defences. The Wash Shoreline Management Plan and the North Norfolk Coast Shoreline Management Plan are subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment. Some areas of compensatory habitat still need to be designated.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
9A	Continued implementation of The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Shoreline Management Plans.	Not yet determined	2014 onwards	Advice	Environment Agency	Environment 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>
9B	Designation of areas of compensatory habitat.	Not yet determined	2014 onwards	Designation strategy (SSSI)	Natural England	Natural England	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB

10 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Fishing activities categorised as 'Red' for these as part of Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries management in EMSs, and appropriate management measures are being implemented by EIFCA/MMO. A by-law has been in place since May 2014. Hydraulic dredges, dredges and benthic trawls are categorised as 'Red' for the sub-feature subtidal boulder and cobble communities and Sabellaria spinulosa reef as part of Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries management in EMSs. Hydraulic dredges, dredges, benthic trawls and shore-based activities are categorised as 'Red' for the Zostera attribute of the muddy sand subfeature as part of Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries management in EMSs. Requisite mechanisms are being, or will be implemented by Eastern IFCA. Adaptive management measures will be used to protect features from 'red' categorised activities. Once management measures are established to protect the features, ongoing work will be required by the Regulator and Natural England to ensure compliance and to inform the adaptive management process.

<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>
10A	Ensure compliance with bye-law and provide an appropriate level of reporting to ensure sites are well managed and to supply information which will enable Natural England to provide advice on the condition of features and potential condition threats.	Not yet determined	2014 onwards	Regulation: Other - obtain appropriate permissions	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England

11 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine

Commercial fishing activities categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in EMSs require assessment and (where appropriate) management. This assessment will be undertaken by Eastern IFCA. For activities categorised as 'green', these assessments should take account of any in-combination effects of amber activities, and/or appropriate plans or projects, in the site. Where these assessments indicate management is required, appropriate measures will be introduced by the Regulator by 2016. If management measures are established to protect the feature(s), ongoing work will be required by the Regulator to ensure compliance with management measures and an appropriate level of reporting to ensure sites are well managed and to provide information to Natural England to enable the provision of advice on the condition of features and potential condition threats.

<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>
11A	Implement required management measures and ensure relevance of management measures over time.	Not yet determined	2014-16	Regulation: Other - obtain appropriate permissions	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA)	Natural England

12 Public Access/Disturbance

Low altitude, non-military flying aircraft (microlites, paragliders, hang gliders) have a negative impact on many features. High risk locations are identified through the EMS management scheme, using advisory groups and the Incident Reporting Process. The EMS scheme has mechanisms to reduce damage from recreational activity. Incidents are reported through IRP, but still a chance of future incidents occurring by members of the public unaware of the potential impacts.

<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>
12A	Maintain an incident sharing network.	Staff time	2014-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Natural England	Natural England	Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), European Marine Site group
12B	Use Enforcement mechanisms to address incidents.	Staff time	2014 onwards	Enforcement	Natural England	Natural England	n/a

<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>
12C	Engage with the Civil Aviation Authority to address the issue at national scale.	Staff time	2014-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Natural England	Natural England	Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

13 Change in land management

Grazing management. Areas of saltmarsh may be over and under-grazed throughout the site. Ascertaining what the appropriate grazing regime is and tackling where inappropriate grazing occurs 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>
13A	Determine whether current grazing regime is appropriate.	Staff time	2014-20	Advice	Natural England, Staff time	Natural England	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, 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>
13B	Create an action plan and grazing forum to ensure the continued implementation of an appropriate grazing regime	Staff time	2014-17	Advice	Natural England, Staff time	Natural England	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, 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>
13C	Deliver the action Plan using Advice and Enforcement mechanisms as appropriate	Staff time	2014-17	Advice	Natural England, Staff time	Natural England	n/a

14 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds the critical loads for some sensitive habitats. Scrub encroachment in (unfavourable recovering) dune habitats may be exacerbated by atmospheric nitrogen.

<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>
14A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

15 Changes in species distributions

The breeding population of Little terns at Gibraltar Point is reliant on continued intervention to prevent loss of nests through inundation and predation. There is also loss of nesting habitats due to natural coastal processes and succession of the shingle ridge, which is disappearing from Gibraltar Point where Little terns are nesting.

<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>
15A	Continue management intervention on Little Tern nests to maintain the population	not yet determined	2015-2020	Non-Natural England funded site management plan		Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	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>
15B	Consider the option for habitat creation outside the SPA	not yet determined	2020	Investigation / Research / Monitoring		Natural England	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Gibraltar Point SPA

A157(NB) *Limosa lapponica*: Bar-tailed godwit

A144(NB) *Calidris alba*: Sanderling

A141(NB) *Pluvialis squatarola*: Grey plover

A195(B) *Sterna albifrons*: Little tern

N Norfolk Coast SPA

A143(NB) *Calidris canutus*: Red knot

A191(B) *Sterna sandvicensis*: Sandwich tern

A193(B) *Sterna hirundo*: Common tern

A195(B) *Sterna albifrons*: Little tern

A021(B) *Botaurus stellaris*: Great bittern

A040(NB) *Anser brachyrhynchus*: Pink-footed goose

A046a(NB) *Branta bernicla bernicla*: Dark-bellied brent goose

A050(NB) *Anas penelope*: Eurasian wigeon

A081(B) *Circus aeruginosus*: Eurasian marsh harrier

A084(B) *Circus pygargus*: Montagu's harrier

A132(B) *Recurvirostra avosetta*: Pied avocet

North Norfolk Coast SAC

S1355 *Lutra lutra*: Otter

H1150# Coastal lagoons

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

- H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- H1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)
- H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes
- H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")
- H2130# Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")
- H2190 Humid dune slacks
- S1395 *Petalophyllum ralfsii*: Petalwort
- H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- H1150# Coastal lagoons
- H1160 Large shallow inlets and bays
- H1170 Reefs
- H1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- H1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)

The Wash SPA

- S1355 *Lutra lutra*: Otter
- S1365 *Phoca vitulina*: Common seal
- A156(NB) *Limosa limosa islandica*: Black-tailed godwit
- A143(NB) *Calidris canutus*: Red knot
- A157(NB) *Limosa lapponica*: Bar-tailed godwit
- A144(NB) *Calidris alba*: Sanderling
- A160(NB) *Numenius arquata*: Eurasian curlew
- A149(NB) *Calidris alpina alpina*: Dunlin

A162(NB) *Tringa totanus*: Common redshank

A141(NB) *Pluvialis squatarola*: Grey plover

A169(NB) *Arenaria interpres*: Ruddy turnstone

A193(B) *Sterna hirundo*: Common tern

A195(B) *Sterna albifrons*: Little tern

Waterbird assemblage

A037(NB) *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*: Bewick swan

A040(NB) *Anser brachyrhynchus*: Pink-footed goose

A046a(NB) *Branta bernicla bernicla*: Dark-bellied brent goose

A048(NB) *Tadorna tadorna*: Common shelduck

A050(NB) *Anas penelope*: Eurasian wigeon

A051(NB) *Anas strepera*: Gadwall

A054(NB) *Anas acuta*: Northern pintail

A065(NB) *Melanitta nigra*: Black (common) scoter

A067(NB) *Bucephala clangula*: Common goldeneye

A130(NB) *Haematopus ostralegus*: Eurasian oystercatcher

Site location and links

Gibraltar Point SPA

Area (ha) **414.09**

Grid reference **TF565585**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Lincolnshire

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Gibraltar Point SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

N Norfolk Coast SPA

Area (ha) **7886.79** Grid reference **TF745446**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Norfolk

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for North Norfolk Coast SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

North Norfolk Coast SAC

Area (ha) **3207.37** Grid reference **TF752445**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Norfolk

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for North Norfolk Coast SAC](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

Area (ha) **107761.28** Grid reference **TF558403**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Lincolnshire; Norfolk

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[Regulation 33/35 package link](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

The Wash SPA

Area (ha) **62211.66** Grid reference **TF537403**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Lincolnshire; Norfolk

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for The Wash SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[The Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS](#)

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.

Gibraltar Point SPA

River basin	Anglian RBMP
WFD Management catchment	Welland, Witham, Nene, North Norfolk, North West Norfolk
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	n/a

N Norfolk Coast SPA

River basin	Anglian RBMP
WFD Management catchment	North Norfolk
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB105034055750, GB105034055840

North Norfolk Coast SAC

River basin	Anglian RBMP
WFD Management catchment	North Norfolk
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB105034055750, GB105034055840

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

River basin	Anglian RBMP
WFD Management catchment	Nene, North Norfolk, North West Norfolk, Welland, Witham
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB105033053470, GB105033053480, GB105034055750, GB205030056405, GB205031055495, GB205031055505, GB205031055508, GB205031055545

The Wash SPA

River basin	Anglian RBMP
WFD Management catchment	North West Norfolk
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB105033053470, GB105033053480, GB205030056405, GB205031055495, GB205031055505, GB205031055508, GB205031055545

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Gibraltar Point SPA	Gibraltar Point SSSI
N Norfolk Coast SPA	North Norfolk Coast SSSI
North Norfolk Coast SAC	North Norfolk Coast SSSI
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC	Gibraltar Point SSSI Hunstanton Cliffs SSSI The Wash SSSI North Norfolk Coast SSSI
The Wash SPA	Hunstanton Cliffs SSSI The Wash SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Gibraltar Point SPA	Gibraltar Point NNR
N Norfolk Coast SPA	Blakeney NNR Holkham NNR Holme Dunes NNR Scolt Head Island NNR
North Norfolk Coast SAC	Blakeney NNR Holkham NNR Holme Dunes NNR Scolt Head Island NNR
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC	Blakeney NNR Gibraltar Point NNR Holkham NNR Holme Dunes NNR Scolt Head Island NNR The Wash NNR

The Wash SPA

The Wash NNR

Ramsar

Gibraltar Point SPA

Gibraltar Point

N Norfolk Coast SPA

North Norfolk Coast

North Norfolk Coast SAC

North Norfolk Coast

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

Gibraltar Point

North Norfolk Coast

The Wash

The Wash SPA

The Wash

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Gibraltar Point SPA

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes & Gibraltar Point SAC

N Norfolk Coast SPA

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

North Norfolk Coast SAC

North Norfolk Coast SAC

N Norfolk Coast SPA

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

The Wash SPA

N Norfolk Coast SPA

Gibraltar Point SPA

The Wash SPA

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
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