

## Site Improvement Plan

# Great Yarmouth Winterton Horsey

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)**

**UK9009271      Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA**

**UK0013043      Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC**

## Site description

Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA (which includes part of Winterton-Horsey Dunes SSSI) contains one of the UK's most important breeding colonies of little tern.

Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC is a large acidic dune system with associated areas of grazing marsh, dune slacks, dune heath, dune grassland and downy birch dominated woodland with oaks. Actively accreting 'ness' features, support a full successional sequence of vegetation through foredune, mobile dune, semi fixed dune and dry acid dune grassland/ dune heath.

## 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 coastal management	Pressure	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Address the issue in the next Eccles to Winterton coastal strategy	Environment Agency, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council
2 Coastal squeeze	Threat	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Renew the coastal strategy	Environment Agency, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council, The Broads Authority
3 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	A195(B) Little tern, H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2150 Coastal dune heathland	Develop a long term recreational management strategy	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Natural England, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, RSPB
4 Hydrological changes	Threat	H2190 Humid dune slacks	Identify and implement actions following the current investigation	Natural England
5 Inappropriate scrub control	Threat	H2150 Coastal dune heathland	Continue to control scrub and invasives	Natural England
6 Inappropriate pest control	Threat	A195(B) Little tern	Predator management	Natural England, RSPB

7	Invasive species	Pressure/ Threat	H2150 Coastal dune heathland	Control Russian vine	Norfolk County Council, Other
8	Undergrazing	Threat	H2150 Coastal dune heathland	Improve grazing level through existing agri-environment agreements	Natural England
9	Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H2110 Shifting dunes, H2120 Shifting dunes with marram, H2150 Coastal dune heathland, H2190 Humid dune slacks	Establish a Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined

## 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 coastal management

The presence of the sea wall north of Beach Road, Winterton compromises the coastal processes and the dynamism within the dune features. This is a difficult issue to address due to the current defence policy and potential impacts on the Broads (Upper Thurne Broads & Marshes SSSI), and is driven by the Shoreline Management Plan.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>1A</b>	Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC: The next Eccles to Winterton coastal strategy will need to identify the direction of travel within the context of the long-term issues associated with the sea-wall. This will be underpinned by studies and involve external consultation.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Shoreline Management Plan and Strategies	Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council
<b>1B</b>	Consider and implement a suite of short-term adaptive measures on the road to a long term solution.	Not yet determined	2015- 20	Shoreline Management Plan and Strategies	Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council

## 2 Coastal squeeze

Coastal squeeze is particularly an issue in the southern part of Winterton-Horsey, where rising sea levels, increased erosion and changes to coastal sediment transportation are likely to lead to increased impacts on SAC features. It is also an issue to the north, associated with the viability of the sea defences.

<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>	Address the long-term (100 years) issues associated with coastal squeeze impacts on designated features in the next Eccles to Winterton coastal strategy. The outputs from the Cromer to Winterton study will also need to feed into the review.	Not yet determined	2020	Shoreline Management Plan and Strategies	Environment Agency	Environment Agency	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council
<b>2B</b>	Establish a new strategy for the southern end of Winterton (south of Beach Road) in the context of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) that considers protection of SAC features in response to climate change effects.	Not yet determined	2020	Shoreline Management Plan and Strategies	Local Authority	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	The Broads Authority
<b>2C</b>	Control development in the coastal zone to optimise future potential to roll back/ adapt in response to coastal squeeze.	Not yet determined	2015-2030	Implementation Of Appropriate Coastal Management	Local Authority	Great Yarmouth Borough Council	North Norfolk District Council, The Broads Authority

### 3 Public Access/Disturbance

The site is at carrying capacity in terms of recreational disturbance. Breeding Little terns, as well as the lichen dune grassland and dune heath are particularly sensitive to disturbance. There is a need to better understand the levels, patterns, impacts and solutions of recreational disturbance on 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>3A</b>	Investigate the levels, patterns, impacts and solutions of recreational disturbance on the sites, in the context of identifying solutions to the designation of the coastal path.	£30,000	2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Local authority Coastal Access funding	Natural England	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, RSPB
<b>3B</b>	Implement a range of management measures to reduce/ minimise recreational disturbance associated with the coastal access route.	£250,000	2016	Major Landowner Group land ownership activities : Undertake Specific Management Works	Local authority Coastal Access funding	Natural England	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, RSPB
<b>3C</b>	Establish a long term recreational management strategy for this stretch of the coast	Not yet determined	2020	Advice: Access Strategy	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Natural England, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, 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>3D</b>	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	Major Landowner Group land ownership activities : Undertake Specific Management Works	Local Authority	Not yet determined	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Natural England, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, RSPB
<b>3E</b>	Identify measures to address issues associated with recreational disturbance of the little tern SPA population for both current and potential Little tern colonies.	Not yet determined	2020	Major Landowner Group land ownership activities : Undertake Specific Management Works	Not yet determined	RSPB	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Natural England
<b>3F</b>	Reduce recreational disturbance by implementing/enforcing appropriate mitigation associated with new developments in East Norfolk/ Suffolk, and Greater Norwich.	Not yet determined	2016	Implementation Of Appropriate Coastal Management	S106 Agreement	Not yet determined	Great Yarmouth Borough Council, North Norfolk District Council

#### 4 Hydrological changes

Changes in the hydro-chemistry of the dune slacks has been observed over a number of years that is potentially impacting the dune slacks. An investigation is planned for 2014 which will identify necessary measures.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4A	Winterton and Horsey Dunes SAC: Action may be required following the hydrological study planned for 2014 to address declining water quality in the dune slacks.	Not yet determined	2015-18	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Natural England	Natural England	n/a

#### 5 Inappropriate scrub control

Eradication of Rhododendron, and control of native scrub encroachment within the dune grassland/ heath is an issue that requires ongoing management. Ongoing scrub control is at risk due to declining NNR budgets. Scrub encroachment, and the control of invasives on the non-NNR part of Winterton currently has no funding mechanism.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5A	Continue scrub control on Winterton Dunes NNR where required	£25000	2015-20	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Natural England (NNR running costs)	Natural England	n/a

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5B	Control scrub and invasives on Winterton- Horsey Dunes SAC outside Winterton Dunes NNR	£50000	2015-2020	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a



## 6 Inappropriate pest control

Predator levels (particularly fox) are a key determining factor in Little tern (and other ground nesting birds) success rates.

<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>6A</b>	Produce and implement a predator management strategy to optimise Little tern breeding success.	Not yet determined	2020	Non-Natural England funded site management plan	RSPB	RSPB	Natural England

## 7 Invasive species

There is a need to undertake control of Russian vine in the Great Valley at Winterton.

<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>7A</b>	Establish and implement a plan to control Russian vine	£50000	2020	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Non-native species project	Not yet determined	Norfolk County Council

## 8 Undergrazing

Undergrazing is an issue at the northern end of Winterton, both in terms of the quality of the fixed dune grassland/ heath and optimising conditions for natterjack toads.

<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>8A</b>	Increase grazing at the northern end of the site to enhance coastal dune heathland.	No cost	2016	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	No funding required	Natural England	n/a

## 9 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Modelled nitrogen deposition exceeds the critical loads of sensitive 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>
<b>9A</b>	Control, reduce and ameliorate the impacts of atmospheric nitrogen	Not yet determined	2020	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	n/a

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

<b>Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA</b>	A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern
<b>Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC</b>	H2150# Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> )
	H2190 Humid dune slacks
	H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes
	H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")

### Site location and links

#### Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA

Area (ha) **149.19**      Grid reference **TG488216**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      Norfolk

Site Conservation Objectives      [Great Yarmouth and North Denes SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice      [Great Yarmouth and North Denes SPA](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package      [Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan      [n/a](#)

#### Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC

Area (ha) **425.94**      Grid reference **TG491204**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      Norfolk

Site Conservation Objectives      [European Site Conservation Objectives for Winterton - Horsey Dunes 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 (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.*

### **Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA**

<i>River basin</i>	<a href="#">Anglian RBMP</a>
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Broadland Rivers
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

### **Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC**

<i>River basin</i>	<a href="#">Anglian RBMP</a>
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Broadland Rivers
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA	Great Yarmouth North Denes SSSI Winterton-Horsey Dunes SSSI
Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC	Winterton-Horsey Dunes SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA	n/a
Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC	Winterton Dunes NNR
Ramsar	
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA	n/a
Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA	Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC
Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC	Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2.0	08/03/2018	Broads Authority name corrected

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

