

Site Improvement Plan

Overstrand Cliffs

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)

UK0030232 Overstrand Cliffs SAC

Site description

Overstrand cliffs are one of the best examples of unprotected vegetated soft cliffs on the North Sea coast in the most easterly part of the UK. The cliffs are up to 70m high and are composed of Pleistocene sands and clays with freshwater seepages in places and are subject to moderately frequent cliff-falls and landslips.

Much of the length is unprotected by sea defences and is therefore natural in character. The vegetation exhibits cycles of succession with ruderal communities developing on the newly-exposed sands and mud followed by partially-stabilised grasslands and scrub. Seepage areas support wet fen communities and in places perched reedbeds occur. The diverse range of habitats supports an outstanding range of invertebrates.

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	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Agree approach to ensure Shoreline Management Plan policy of no active intervention is followed.	Natural England, North Norfolk District Council

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 policy for this stretch of coast in the agreed Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is 'no active intervention'. Agreement is needed to ensure that local coast protection and development management policies reflect the unstable nature of the cliff, the protection of the SAC, and the SMP policy of no active intervention, and that consideration is given to whether a Coastal Change Management Area would be appropriate.

<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>
1A	Agree approach to ensure that the Shoreline Management Plan policy of no active intervention is followed, and consider the suitability of a Coastal Change Management Area.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Advice	Not yet determined	Natural England	North Norfolk District Council
1B	Agree approach and scope of potential emergency works with North Norfolk District Council	None	2014-20	Advice	No funding required	Natural England	North Norfolk District Council

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Overstrand Cliffs SAC

H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

Site location and links

Overstrand Cliffs SAC

Area (ha) **30.02** Grid reference **TG235414** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Norfolk

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Overstrand Cliffs 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.

Overstrand Cliffs SAC

River basin	Anglian RBMP
WFD Management catchment	North Norfolk
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)		
Overstrand Cliffs SAC	Overstrand Cliffs SSSI	

National Nature Reserve (NNR)		
Overstrand Cliffs SAC	n/a	

Ramsar		
Overstrand Cliffs SAC	n/a	

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)		
Overstrand Cliffs SAC	n/a	

Other relevant documents and links		
Overstrand Cliffs SAC	Shoreline Management Plan: SMP 6 Kelling Hard to Lowestoft Ness	Shoreline Management Plan covering Kelling to Lowestoft Ness

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	18/12/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

