

# Site Improvement Plan

## Nene Washes

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)**

**UK0030222     Nene Washes SAC**

**UK9008031     Nene Washes SPA**

## Site description

The Nene Washes SPA represents one of the country's few remaining areas of washland habitat which is essential to the survival nationally and internationally of populations of wildfowl and waders. The site is additionally notable for the diversity of plant and associated animal life within its network of dykes. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding waders, as well as Spotted Crake, whilst in winter the site holds large numbers of waders and wildfowl. Throughout, the area supports a diverse assemblage of waterbirds including Black tailed-godwit, Lapwing, Pochard, Teal, Gadwall, Wigeon, Shoveler, Pintail, Ruff, and Bewick's Swan.

The Nene Washes SAC supports populations of spined loach *Cobitis taenia*. Moreton's Leam, a large drainage channel running along the eastern flank of the Nene Washes, contains the highest recorded density of spined loach in the UK.

## 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 Hydrological changes	Threat	A037(NB) Bewick's Swan, A050(NB) Wigeon, A051(B) Gadwall, A051(NB) Gadwall, A052(NB) Eurasian teal, A054(NB) Pintail, A055(B) Garganey, A056(B) Shoveler, A056(NB) Shoveler, A119(B) Spotted Crake, A151(B) Ruff, A151(NB) Ruff, A156a(B) Black-tailed Godwit, Waterbird assemblage	Monitoring of birds and water levels and flexible responses to yearly variations through liaison between key partners	Environment Agency, Natural England, RSPB, Middle Level Commissioners IDB, North Level District Internal Drainage Board
2 Water Pollution	Threat	S1149 Spined loach	Undertake a review of water quality in Mortons Leam and ditches	Environment Agency, 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 Hydrological changes

Flooding on the Nene Washes can lead to difficulties in managing the wet grassland habitats, and may result in low numbers of target bird species successfully breeding. It may also impact the numbers of wintering birds at 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>1A</b>	Ongoing monitoring and adaptive management in solving year to year water issues. This will involve the review of past works to improve water level management and assess if they are successful or if further work is needed. The partnership of organisations and individuals involved at the site should keep in regular liaison, monitor bird numbers and water levels, and seek to adjust management accordingly within the framework of pre-existing plans.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	n/a	Natural England	Environment Agency, RSPB, Middle Level Commissioners IDB, North Level District Internal Drainage Board

## 2 Water Pollution

Spined Loach requires good water quality of low nutrient status. The favourable conservation table target for the Nene Washes is 0.1 mg L<sup>-1</sup> annual mean figures for phosphorus concentration. Higher phosphorus levels will lead to detrimental impacts to the ecology of the river as the type of macrophytes and habitat structure used by this species is changes

<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>	Review the water quality in Mortons Leam and the ditches within the site as a whole, using appropriate pre-existing data from EA monitoring, and commission of new data where appropriate. The levels of Diffuse Water Pollution, with particular emphasis on phosphates needs to be investigated, prior to consideration of further actions such as production and implementation of a DWP plan to reduce inputs.	£2500	2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

<b>Nene Washes SAC</b>	S1149 <i>Cobitis taenia</i> : Spined loach
<b>Nene Washes SPA</b>	A156a(B) <i>Limosa limosa limosa</i> : Black-tailed godwit
	A050(NB) <i>Anas penelope</i> : Eurasian wigeon
	A051(B) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall
	A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall
	A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> : Bewick swan
	A052(NB) <i>Anas crecca</i> : Eurasian teal
	A054(NB) <i>Anas acuta</i> : Northern pintail
	A055(B) <i>Anas querquedula</i> : Garganey
	A056(B) <i>Anas clypeata</i> : Northern shoveler
	A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i> : Northern shoveler

### Site location and links

#### **Nene Washes SAC**

Area (ha)	<b>88.19</b>	Grid reference	<b>TL302990</b>	<a href="#">Map link</a>
Local Authorities	Cambridgeshire; City of Peterborough			
Site Conservation Objectives	<a href="#">European Site Conservation Objectives for Nene Washes SAC</a>			
European Marine Site conservation advice	<a href="#">n/a</a>			
Regulation 33/35 Package	<a href="#">n/a</a>			
Marine Management Organisation site plan	<a href="#">n/a</a>			

## **Nene Washes SPA**

*Area (ha)* **1517.49**      *Grid reference* **TL304996**

[Map link](#)

*Local Authorities*

Cambridgeshire; City of Peterborough

*Site Conservation Objectives*

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Nene Washes 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.

### Nene Washes SAC

River basin	Anglian	<a href="#">Anglian RBMP</a>
WFD Management catchment	Nene	
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB105032050382	

### Nene Washes SPA

River basin	Anglian	<a href="#">Anglian RBMP</a>
WFD Management catchment	Nene	
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB105032050340, GB105032050381, GB105032050382, GB205032050385, GB205033000050	

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Nene Washes SAC	Nene Washes (Whittlesey) SSSI
Nene Washes SPA	Nene Washes (Whittlesey) SSSI

  

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Nene Washes SAC	n/a
Nene Washes SPA	n/a

  

Ramsar	
Nene Washes SAC	Nene Washes
Nene Washes SPA	Nene Washes

  

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



<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	06/10/2014	

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

