

Site Improvement Plan

Polruan to Polperro

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)

UK0030241 Polruan to Polperro SAC

Site description

This SAC site extends for approximately 10km along the south Cornwall coast between Polruan in the west and Polperro in the east

A range of habitat types are present, forming a mosaic of dense scrub, maritime grassland, heath and seacliff vegetation. Shingle beaches and unimproved pastures add to the site's diversity. Together these habitats support a wide range of characteristic and uncommon plants and other wildlife. In places the lower cliffs and backshore are influenced by freshwater seepages, flushes and springs which support a significant population of shore dock.

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 Impediment to management	Pressure	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Investigate access issues (for management) and negotiate with the adjacent landowner	National Trust, Natural England, Landowner(s)
2 Inappropriate scrub control	Pressure	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Remove and control of excess scrub cover	National Trust, Natural England, Landowner(s)
3 Undergrazing	Pressure/Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Reintroduction of grazing with hardy breeds of cattle	National Trust, Natural England, Landowner(s)
4 Water Pollution	Threat	S1441 Shore dock	Reduce the impact of diffuse and point source pollution	Natural England, South West Water Ltd, University(ies)
5 Invasive species	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Monitor and control populations of non-native plant species	National Trust, Natural England, Landowner(s)
6 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths	Re-survey the European dry heath habitat, and recalculate extent	Natural England
7 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Threat	H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs	Control and reduce impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	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 Impediment to management

The management options available to the owners of Great Lizen cliff are limited as they only have access along the coastal path from the east.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Negotiation of access to Great Lizen Cliff for the purpose of implementing management	Not yet determined	2015-17	Advice: Negotiation	Not yet determined	Natural England	National Trust, Landowner(s)

2 Inappropriate scrub control

Rapid vegetative succession in several areas of the site is leading to areas of European habitat becoming dominated by secondary scrub

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Implementation of scrub control	£50,000	2017-19	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Natural England	Natural England	National Trust, Landowner(s)

3 Undergrazing

The hard cliff habitat interest features are being maintained by the influence of the weather and generally deemed to be in favourable condition where they occur. However there is a risk that bracken, bramble, ivy and scrub will eventually start to invade communities at their edges without intervention from grazing or cutting.

<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>
3A	Increase the extent of cattle grazing	Not yet determined	2017-19	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Natural England	Natural England	National Trust, Landowner(s)

4 Water Pollution

Suitable water quality is an important factor required to support the population of shoredock. Runoff is occurring from surrounding agricultural land via ditch overflows at the top of the cliffs into freshwater seepages, flushes and springs which support a population of shore dock.

<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>
4A	Undertake a study of diffuse pollution/water quality, to identify pollution pathways affecting the water quality of shore dock sites.	£25,000	2016-19	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	University(ies)
4B	Implement the findings of the study to address pollution sources using agri-environment schemes.	Not yet determined	2017-19	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a

5 Invasive species

A number of historic allotments occur within the site which have left a legacy of alien shrubs, particularly hedge species. Management should aim to remove these species

<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>
5A	Removal of non-native species from historic allotment areas	Not yet determined	2017-19	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Natural England	Natural England	National Trust, Landowner(s)

6 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown

The extent of European dry heath is thought to have been incorrectly surveyed/measured. Although there is a large population of western gorse in some locations, there are no other heathland associates making it difficult to properly assess for this interest feature.

<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	Re-measurement of the dry heath area.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	n/a

7 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.

<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>
7A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Polruan to Polperro SAC

H4030 European dry heaths

H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

S1441 *Rumex rupestris*: Shore dock

Site location and links

Polruan to Polperro SAC

Area (ha) **213.39** Grid reference **SX161512** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Cornwall

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Polruan to Polperro 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.

Polruan to Polperro SAC

<i>River basin</i>	South West	South West RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a	

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Polruan to Polperro SAC	Polruan to Polperro SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Polruan to Polperro SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Polruan to Polperro SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Polruan to Polperro SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	07/10/2014	

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