

Stanpit Marsh Ornithological Plan

Extract/ Executive Summary

You will have seen in the local press that work has started on a 10 year management plan for Christchurch Harbour. CHOG's contribution to this plan was completed in September by four stalwart members David Taylor, Stephen North, Peter Fenning and Brian Smith, and entitled Stanpit Marsh Ornithological Management Plan. This will eventually be incorporated into the general management plan for Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve, which is being prepared by Christchurch Borough Council and is due for publication later this year.

The purpose of CHOG's Plan is to provide a platform to encourage and protect migrant wintering birds, and to increase the number of breeding species. The Plan is in five parts:

1. Information about CHOG
2. A description of the various ornithological habitats that comprise Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve.
3. A summary of the legal and planning considerations including the Town Plan, local bye-laws and the importance of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2002 which contains for the first time the responsibilities for managing a SSSI
4. A summary of the more important bird species that frequent the Reserve.
5. Most importantly this part contains CHOG's objectives and proposals for achieving the overarching purpose of the Plan. They can be summarised:
 - Better resourced and a more integrated approach to management
 - Positive management of the key habitats including: management of Priors Marsh for the first time for at least 25 years; provision of floating tern islands in Parky Meade Rail; improvement of the habitat on Spellers Point; construction of a scrape in Central Marsh
 - Management of the Marsh edges
 - Reduction of disturbance through effective wardening and raising awareness of the public
 - Continual review of the effectiveness of management and reporting on the fulfilment of the Plan