

Site Improvement Plan

Mottey Meadows

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)

UK0030051 Mottey Meadows SAC

Site description

This site is an outstanding floristically-diverse mesotrophic grassland where traditional late hay cutting and aftermath grazing has been perpetuated, largely unaffected by modern agricultural practices.

The site is important because of its large size, variety of grassland community types and presence of rare species. Furthermore it contains an extensive example of an alluvial flood meadow.

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 Water Pollution	Pressure	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Investigate and establish a low/no nutrient input buffer zone	Natural England, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
2 Hydrological changes	Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Improve understanding of the eco-hydrology of the site's features	Environment Agency, Natural England, Landowner(s)
3 Water abstraction	Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Assess cumulative impact of licenced and exempted abstractions	Environment Agency, Natural England
4 Change in land management	Threat	H6510 Lowland hay meadows	Contingency plans put in place in the event that graziers withdraw from the site	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 Water Pollution

The hay meadow community type is reliant on a clean water supply. However both the local groundwater and the local watercourse which floods occasionally are enriched with excess nutrients. The source of the nutrient enrichment is thought to stem from the adjacent dairy farms, maize crops, run off, and leachates. Excess nutrients enable more vigorous plant species to take over reducing the biodiversity value of the MG4 grassland.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Develop a Diffuse Water Pollution Plan for the catchment and implement actions. This should include the prevention of nutrient rich water from the Motty Meadow brook innudating the SAC meadows.	£3,000	2014-15	Diffuse Water Pollution Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1B	On sloping land to the west and east, subject to further investigation, establish low/ no nutrient input managment buffer zone by promoting the uptake of suitable HLS/ NELMS schemes. Seek conversion of land from arable to low input grass.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

<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>
1C	On sloping land to the west and east establish, subject to further investigation, low/ no nutrient input managment buffer zone by reviewing the designated site boundaries.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Designation strategy (SSSI)	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a
1D	Secure long-term conservation management of suitable areas of sloping land to the west and east inorder to secure appropriate low/ no nutrient input managment buffer zones. Consider additions to the NNR as opportunities arise.	£844,991	2014-25	Land / Tenancy Acquisition: Land Acquisition	Not yet determined	Natural England	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

2 Hydrological changes

MG4 and MG8 grassland have precise hydrological requirements, climate change could cause flooding and drought, both would have a detrimental impact on the features.

<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>
2A	To develop a clear conceptual model of the eco-hydrology that allows the maintenace of the hydrological status quo. The site is different from many MG4 sites as it is ground water dependent.	£25,000	2014-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency, Landowner(s)

3 Water abstraction

The Whiston Brook catchment appears to be affected by over abstraction; trickle irrigation has been highlighted as one of the main reasons for this with much of the catchment being used to grow soft fruit. Trickle Irrigation is currently exempt from licensing at the present time. Abstractions less than 20 cubic metres per day are exempt although. The MG8 and MG4 grassland types are sensitive to water level 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>
3A	Investigate the cumulative impact of licenced and unlicenced abstractions (particularly trickle irrigation). If deemed harmful reduce to a sustainable level.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Regulation: Abstraction Licence	Not yet determined	Environment Agency	Natural England

4 Change in land management

Annual hay cut and aftermath grazing are essential management requirements for the MG4 and MG8 grassland

<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	Operate a grazing and hay cutting contingency plan to ensure land is managed annually in line with the habitat management guidelines, eg if the graziers were not available, utilise contractors to manage the grazing and hay cutting.	£2,000	2014-61	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Mottey Meadows SAC

H6510 Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)

Site location and links

Mottey Meadows SAC

Area (ha) **43.87**

Grid reference **SJ840134**

[Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Staffordshire

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for Mottey Meadows 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.

Mottey Meadows SAC

River basin

[Humber RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Staffordshire Trent Valley

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB104028046761

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Mottey Meadows SAC	Mottey Meadows SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Mottey Meadows SAC	Mottey Meadows NNR

Ramsar	
Mottey Meadows SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Mottey Meadows SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	13/11/14	

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