

# Site Improvement Plan

## Yewbarrow Woods

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)**

**UK0030306 Yewbarrow Woods SAC**

## Site description

Yewbarrow Woods comprises of broadleaved mixed woodland, primarily Oak *Quercus petraea* and Birch *Betula pubescens* interspersed with Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Alder *Alnus glutinosa* along watercourses. The woods are particularly notable for extensive stands of Yew *Taxus baccata*.

Yew is more commonly associated with limestone woodland but on the acidic soils of Yewbarrow which are situated within the Silurian slates, the species is unusually abundant with some of the largest stands of Yew in South Cumbria.

On the upper slopes there is a transition from woodland to Juniper *Juniperus communis* and heath where some of the most extensive stands of Juniper adjacent to woodland in South Cumbria are found.

## 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 Invasive species	Threat	H5130 Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland, H91J0 Yew-dominated woodland	Removal of non-native mature and regenerating Beech	Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park Authority, Natural England
2 Deer	Threat	H5130 Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland, H91J0 Yew-dominated woodland	Deer control on a landscape scale	Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park Authority
3 Inappropriate vegetation management	Threat	H5130 Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Bracken control, by mechanical control and cattle grazing	Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park Authority, Natural England, Landowner(s)
4 Disease	Threat	H5130 Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland, H91J0 Yew-dominated woodland	Monitor the extent of disease. Investigate appropriate actions required, including active management and diversifying the species mix	Forestry Commission, Natural England
5 Inappropriate grazing	Threat	H5130 Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland, H91J0 Yew-dominated woodland	Ensure stockproof boundaries are in place where required	Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park Authority, Natural England, Landowner(s)

## 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 Invasive species

Beech is actively regenerating at Yewbarrow Woods and without control it will over time outcompete the designated interest features.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>1A</b>	Removal of non-native mature and regenerating Beech by felling of regeneration, mature beech and ring barking.	£11,000	2014-17	Regulation: Felling Licence	Not yet determined	Lake District National Park Authority	Forestry Commission, Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>1B</b>	Removal of non-native mature and regenerating Beech through implementation of a woodland management plan, and longer term control of its ongoing regeneration.	£70,000	2014-17	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Lake District National Park Authority	Forestry Commission, Natural England

### 2 Deer

Browsing by deer is adversely affecting the natural regeneration of the woodland and shrub layers. Deer control is an integral part of the Rusland Valley landscape-scale deer management project.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>2A</b>	Control deer on the site and in the surrounding landscape. Target Yew, Juniper and Sessile Oak Woodland and manage the deer population to a level compatible with Favourable Conservation Status of these features.	£90,000	2014-20	Partnership agreement: Other	Natural England, Grant in aid	Lake District National Park Authority	Forestry Commission

### 3 Inappropriate vegetation management

Mature stands of Juniper are not regenerating due to bracken cover.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	Control bracken by mechanical means, and by introducing cattle grazing.	Not yet determined	2016-21	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park Authority, Landowner(s)
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3B	Undertake a programme of Juniper planting.	£40,000	2018	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park Authority

### 4 Disease

*Phytophthora austrocedrae* occurs within Juniper stands extensively in Lake District and there is a high risk of the site's Juniper population being killed. There is a disease threat from Ash *Chalara fraxinea*, and Alder *Phytophthora alni*. Disease has not been recorded in mature trees within the valley yet, but it is present elsewhere in Cumbria.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4A	Monitor the extent of <i>Phytophthora austrocedrae</i> disease in juniper, and other diseases in woodland. Investigate appropriate actions required, including active management and diversifying the species mix so woodlands are more robust.	Not yet determined	2015	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Defra	Natural England	Forestry Commission

## 5 Inappropriate grazing

Sustainable grazing levels are required on the heathland and Juniper to ensure there is no adverse impact on these features. Stockproof boundaries are required to allow natural regeneration of the woodland and ground flora.

<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>5A</b>	Improve the boundary between the woodland and grazed allotments to ensure it is stockproof where required.	Not yet determined	2016	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Lake District National Park Authority, Landowner(s)

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

#### Yewbarrow Woods SAC

H5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands

H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

H91J0# *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles

### Site location and links

#### Yewbarrow Woods SAC

Area (ha) **112.89**      Grid reference **SD347872**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      Cumbria

Site Conservation Objectives      [European Site Conservation Objectives for Yewbarrow Woods 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.*

### **Yewbarrow Woods SAC**

<i>River basin</i>	<a href="#">North West RBMP</a>
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Kent/Leven
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Yewbarrow Woods SAC	Yewbarrow Woods SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Yewbarrow Woods SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Yewbarrow Woods SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Yewbarrow Woods SAC	n/a



<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	16/12/2014	

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

