

Site Improvement Plan

Duncton to Bignor Escarpment

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)

UK0030138 Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC

Site description

Duncton to Bignor Escarpment consists of 214 ha of scarp slope woodland notified for its beech forests located within the South Downs National Park. The beech forest occurs both on steep scarp slopes and on more gently sloping hillsides in a mosaic with ash woodland, scrub and grassland. The diverse nature of the site helps support rare plants and a rich snail fauna. It is considered to be one of the best examples of beech forest in the country.

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.

Issue	Measure
No current issues affecting the Natura 2000 feature(s) have been identified on this site	No Measures required

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC	H9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests
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Site location and links

Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC

Area (ha) 214.47	Grid reference SU965137	Map link
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Local Authorities	West Sussex
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Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC
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European Marine Site conservation advice	n/a
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Regulation 33/35 Package	n/a
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Marine Management Organisation site plan	n/a
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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.

Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Arun & Western Streams

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Dunton to Bignor Escarpment SAC	Dunton to Bignor Escarpment SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Dunton to Bignor Escarpment SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Dunton to Bignor Escarpment SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Dunton to Bignor Escarpment SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	06/11/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

