

Site Improvement Plan

Harbottle Moors

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)

UK0030333 Harbottle Moors SAC

Site description

At a little under 400m altitude, Harbottle Moors is a relatively low-lying example of upland European dry heath, dominated by heather with dwarf shrubs and bracken interspersed. Blanket bog exists on higher ground supporting a number of specialist plants such as sundew and the nationally rare Bog-orchid.

There are two lakes which host a diverse range of water birds whilst the open moorland supports Merlin, Peregrine falcon and Ring ouzel. This is a diverse landscape with scree slopes, mixed broad-leaved woodland, outcrops of gritstones and exposed boulders including the prominent ancient landmark known as the Drakestone.

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 Wildfire/ arson	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths	Review existing fire management plans	Natural England, Northumberland National Park Authority, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), Northumberland Fire Group
2 Invasive species	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths	Annual monitoring of invasives, especially along adjacent watercourses	Forestry Commission, Natural England, Northumberland National Park Authority, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)
3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H4030 European dry heaths	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	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 Wildfire/ arson

There is a potential risk of wildfire spreading from adjacent land, either as a result of military activity or from heather burning on neighbouring farms.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Review and update fire management plans.	No funding required	2015	Major Landowner Group land ownership activities : Other	No funding required	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)	Natural England, Northumberland National Park Authority, Northumberland Fire Group

2 Invasive species

Japanese knotweed has been reported on the adjacent River Coquet, and there are also isolated Sitka seedlings and Himalyan balsam, but these are not yet problematic for the SAC interest feature.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Regular site survey to establish scale and locations of invasives to inform a Management Plan and identify the funding requirements for long-term management.	£2,000	2015 onwards	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Not yet determined	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Northumberland National Park Authority, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical loads. Whilst there are no perceived effects on the SAC feature there is a risk of: transition from heather to grass dominance; decline in lichens; changes in plant biochemistry, and/or increased sensitivity to abiotic stress.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	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

Harbottle Moors SAC	H4030 European dry heaths
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Site location and links

Harbottle Moors SAC

Area (ha) 936.3	Grid reference NT907041	Map link
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Local Authorities	Northumberland
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Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Harbottle Moors 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.

Harbottle Moors SAC

River basin

[Northumbria RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Northumberland Rivers

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB103022076650, GB30327556

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Harbottle Moors SAC	Harbottle Moors SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Harbottle Moors SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Harbottle Moors SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Harbottle Moors SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	15/12/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

