

Site Improvement Plan

East Hampshire Hangers

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)

UK0012723 East Hampshire Hangers SAC

Site description

The East Hampshire Hangers is designated primarily for its examples of beech forests and its mixed woodland associated with base-rich slopes in addition to chalk grassland of importance to orchids, yew forests and its population of Early gentian.

The beech forests are extremely rich in terms of vascular plants and include areas with old pollards on former wood-pasture as well as high forest. The sloped mixed woodland is unusual in southern England and notably contains areas of small-leaved lime. The moss flora is richer than on the chalk examples and includes several species that are rare in the lowlands. The Wealden Edge Hangers component of the site contains stands of yew *Taxus baccata* woodland.

The chalk grassland at Noar Hill hosts an important population of Early gentian and an outstanding assemblage of orchids, including one of the largest UK populations of Musk orchid.

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 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Threat	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, H91J0 Yew-dominated woodland, S1654 Early gentian	Further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts on the site	Natural England
2 Invasive species	Pressure	H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Remove non-native ivy	Forestry Commission, Natural England
3 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure	H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Investigate, and develop a woodland management plan	Forestry Commission, 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 Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently generally considered to be in favourable condition on the site (those few that are unfavourable are unfavourable for specific reasons unrelated to nitrogen). This requires further investigation.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts on the site based on application of guidance from Chief Scientist Group Nitrogen Task and Finish Group.	Not yet determined	2014-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

2 Invasive species

A non-native hybrid ivy is smothering out the ground flora and spreading in one of the hangers.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Removal of non-native ivy.	£2,000	2015-16	Conservation Enhancement Scheme (CES)	Natural England, Grant in aid	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>
2B	Removal of non-native ivy and the improvement of its long term management.	£2,200	2015-21	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission

3 Forestry and woodland management

A small portion of the SAC is in unfavourable condition due to lack of understorey. Attempts at providing regeneration have been poorly implemented and in addition parts of this area are thick with ruderal vegetation.

<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	Further investigate the issues concerning lack of understorey, undesirable vegetation, and the effectiveness of tree planting.	No funding required	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	No funding required	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

<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>
3B	Devise a woodland management plan.	No funding required	2015-21	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission

<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>
3C	Implement improvements to woodland management detailed in the plan.	£9,883	2015-21	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

East Hampshire Hangers SAC	H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)
	H9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests
	H9180# <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
	H91J0# <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles
	S1654 <i>Gentianella anglica</i> : Early gentian

Site location and links

East Hampshire Hangers SAC

Area (ha) 569.68	Grid reference SU739268	Map link
Local Authorities	Hampshire	
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for East Hampshire Hangars 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.

East Hampshire Hangers SAC

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

[Thames](#)

WFD Management catchment

Arun & Western Streams, Wey

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB106039017710, GB107041012840

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
East Hampshire Hangers SAC	Upper Greensand Hangers: Wyck to Wheatley SSSI Upper Greensand Hangers: Empshott to Hawkley SSSI Wick Wood & Worldham Hangers SSSI Wealden Edge Hangers SSSI Selborne Common SSSI Noar Hill SSSI Coombe Wood & The Lythe SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
East Hampshire Hangers SAC	Ashford Hangers NNR
Ramsar	
East Hampshire Hangers SAC	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
East Hampshire Hangers SAC	n/a

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

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

