



Natura 2000 – wider context

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Areas I will cover



- International / European Policy Context
- England Biodiversity Strategy
- SSSIs and Natura 2000
- Improving the condition of England's Natura 2000 sites

Convention on Biodiversity “Aichi targets” (2010)

‘halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services..‘

EU Biodiversity Strategy (2011)

Halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restore them insofar as is feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss

Target 1 - Fully implement the Birds and Habitats Directives

European Objectives



- **Habitats Directive** – favourable conservation status for EU priority habitats and species.
- **Birds Directive** – sustainable wild bird populations.
- **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** - ‘good environmental status’ in the marine environment by 2020.
- **Water Framework Directive** – ‘good ecological status’ of water bodies.

Biodiversity 2020

Halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Biodiversity 2020 Outcomes



Better wildlife habitats -
90% of priority habitats in favourable or recovering condition by 2020

More, bigger and less fragmented areas for wildlife - Increase in extent of priority habitats by at least 200,000ha by 2020

No net loss of priority habitat by 2020

Restoring degraded ecosystems contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation - 15% of degraded ecosystems restored by 2020



Better wildlife habitats -
50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, 95% in favourable or recovering condition by 2020

Effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services-17% of land and inland water by 2020

Overall improvement in the status of our wildlife prevented further extinctions of known threatened species.

Biodiversity 2020 Outcome 1



1A. Better wildlife habitats with 90% of priority habitats in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition **and at least 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition**



SSSIs and Natura 2000 – how are they linked?



- All Natura 2000 sites on land are underpinned by SSSI
- 82% of total N2K area in England underpinned by SSSI
- Marine subtidal sites rarely underpinned by SSSI

Improving the condition of England's protected sites



- Work to deliver favourable condition on SSSIs has benefitted Natura 2000 sites
- Many are in favourable condition

BUT

- Many complex, long standing and, potentially, expensive issues still need tackling

Achieving favourable condition on Natura 2000 sites



- Strategic, focussed approach required to achieve favourable condition on all Natura 2000 sites
- Help ensure we deliver EU and national protected site objectives
- Inform the UK's Prioritised Action Framework



Questions