

Site Improvement Plan

New Forest

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)

UK9011031 New Forest SPA

UK0012557 The New Forest SAC

Site description

The New Forest is a large and complex ecosystem and one of the largest remaining relatively wild areas in the South of England attracting enormous numbers of visitors each year.

The New Forest SAC and SPA supports an extensive and complex mosaic of habitats including wet and dry heaths and associated bogs and mires, wet and dry grasslands, ancient pasture woodlands, frequent permanent and temporary ponds and a network of streams and rivers.

These habitats support an exceptional variety of flora and fauna including internationally important populations of breeding and over-wintering birds and other notable species such as southern damselfly, stag beetle and great crested newt.

The New Forest is one of the most important sites for wildlife in the UK and recognised as being of exceptional importance for nature conservation throughout the European Union. Over 90% of the SAC comprises the unenclosed land of the Crown Lands and adjacent commons, the remainder is managed by private owners and occupiers. Of fundamental importance to sustaining the exceptional quality on the open forest is the persistence of commoning, the commoners stock roam freely maintaining the structural diversity and richness of the habitats complemented by annual heathland cutting and burning programmes.

There are many pressures and threats to the condition of the New Forest SAC and SPA the main ones being:

- A significant long term reduction in grazing pressure through loss of commoning. This would lead to a dramatic change in the flora and fauna of the New Forest and the impoverishment of the special features for which it was designated.
- Impacts of recreation including disturbance to qualifying Natura 2000 species and compaction, abrasion and other modifications to vegetation, soils and watercourses.
- Historic drainage of wetlands which leads to a loss of extent of wetland habitats such as wet heath, mire, riverine and bog woodland.
- Sylviculture plantations with recognisable remnants of SAC Annex 1 habitats such as heathland, mire, lawn, riverine and bog woodland.
- Loss of traditional management practices which can lead to a loss of extent and diversity of open habitats.

This plan does not cover issues where mechanisms are already in place or ongoing management activities which are required for maintenance. The main stakeholders within the New Forest are committed to its protection and as a result there are some key mechanisms already in place:

- Recreational Management Strategy - The Strategy seeks to guide and influence recreation and spatial planning policy and implementation across the whole of the National Park and adjoining areas. The implementation of the Strategy will be overseen by the RMS Steering Group of key statutory bodies this currently consists of the Forestry Commission, the National Park Authority, the Verderers and Natural England.
- Higher Level Environmental Stewardship - an agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers and other land managers and involves more complex types of management and agreements that are tailored to local circumstances. This currently includes major projects such as restoring wetlands and grasslands, tackling conifer regeneration and restoring plantations, supporting commoning and undertaking surveys of SPA bird populations and other species.
- The Forest Design Plan for the New Forest Inclosures was produced by the Forestry Commission in 2007 and sets out the management proposals for a period of twenty years for the Crown Land inclosure woodlands, this is due for review in 2015.
- Commoners Dwelling Scheme - provides a way for commoners to enter into a legal agreement which allows them to apply for planning permission so they can build a home outside the New Forest villages and continue their tradition of commoning in the forest. (*continued*)

- Local Development Plans - both the New Forest National Park and District Council have policies and/or supplementary planning guidance which secures financial contributions (and direct delivery of open space in the case of larger developments in NFDC) to fund the delivery of new open space provision, access management initiatives and other management measures in order to ensure the impacts of new residential developments are avoided or mitigated.

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 Drainage	Pressure/Threat	H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H91D0 Bog woodland, H91E0 Alder woodland on floodplains, S1044 Southern damselfly	Restore the hydrology	Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council, National Trust, Natural England
2 Inappropriate scrub control	Pressure	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark, A302(B) Dartford Warbler, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, S1044 Southern damselfly	Remove and control excess tree and scrub cover	Hampshire County Council, National Trust, Natural England, New Forest Land Advice Service
3 Fish stocking	Pressure/Threat	H3110 Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sandy plains, H3130 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Develop and implement a lake restoration plan for Hatchet Pond	Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Natural England
4 Deer	Pressure	H9120 Beech forests on acid soils, H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils, H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland, H91D0 Bog woodland, H91E0 Alder woodland on floodplains	Manage the deer population	Forestry Commission, The Deer Initiative

5 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	A072(B) European honey-buzzard, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A099(B) Eurasian hobby, A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark, A302(B) Dartford Warbler, A314(B) Wood warbler, H3110 Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sandy plains, H3130 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H9120 Beech forests on acid soils, H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils, H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland, H91D0 Bog woodland, S1044 Southern damselfly, S1083 Stag beetle	Control and reduce impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Not yet determined
6 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure	A072(B) European honey-buzzard, A082(NB) Hen Harrier, A099(B) Eurasian hobby, A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark, A302(B) Dartford Warbler, A314(B) Wood warbler, H3110 Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sandy plains, H3130 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H9120 Beech forests on acid soils, H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils, H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland, H91D0 Bog woodland, H91E0 Alder woodland on floodplains, S1044 Southern damselfly, S1083 Stag beetle, S1166 Great crested newt	Manage recreation to minimise disturbance to SPA birds and SAC habitats	Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council, National Trust, Natural England, The New Forest National Park Authority, Parish Council(s), Camping in the Forest
7 Change in land management	Pressure/ Threat	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark, A302(B) Dartford Warbler, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens	Restore heathland	Forestry Commission, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England, Verderers of the New Forest

8 Changes in species distributions	Threat	S1044 Southern damselfly	Establish population status of the southern damselfly	Environment Agency, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Natural England
9 Water Pollution	Pressure/ Threat	H3110 Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sandy plains, H3130 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H9120 Beech forests on acid soils, H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils, H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland, H91D0 Bog woodland, H91E0 Alder woodland on floodplains	Investigate the cumulative impact of domestic treatment unit discharge	Environment Agency, Water companies
10 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure	H9120 Beech forests on acid soils, H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils, H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland, H91D0 Bog woodland, H91E0 Alder woodland on floodplains	Restore positive woodland management	Natural England, New Forest Land Advice Service
11 Inappropriate ditch management	Pressure	H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, S1044 Southern damselfly	Reduce the impact of drainage	Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council, Highways Agency, Natural England
12 Invasive species	Pressure	H3110 Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sandy plains, H3130 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H9120 Beech forests on acid soils, H9130 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils, H9190 Dry oak-dominated woodland, H91D0 Bog woodland, H91E0 Alder woodland on floodplains	Monitor, control and if possible, eradicate, non native invasive species	Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council, National Trust, Natural England, The New Forest National Park Authority

13 Vehicles	Pressure	H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows	Reduce and control damage by vehicles	Forestry Commission, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Natural England, The New Forest National Park Authority
14 Inappropriate cutting/mowing	Pressure	A224(B) European nightjar, A246(B) Woodlark, A302(B) Dartford Warbler, H4010 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface, H7150 Depressions on peat substrates, H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens	Remove and control excess tree and scrub cover, and reintroduce appropriate management	Natural England, New Forest Land Advice Service
15 Direct impact from 3rd party	Pressure/ Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows	Protect habitats from 3rd party damage	Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council, Natural England, The New Forest National Park Authority

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 Drainage

A legacy of 150 years of drainage of mires, wet heathlands, wet grasslands and streams to improve grazing has led to a loss of peat, reduction of habitat condition, bracken and scrub encroachment. A programme of restoration has been going on for the past 10 years and around 3500ha of mire and streams have been identified as still requiring restoration. Geomorphological surveys have been undertaken for the majority of the catchments within the Crown Lands with restoration funding in place for the next 8 years, the scope of the works is likely to exceed this timescale. The impact of drainage on the molinia meadows and wet heaths will require investigation to balance the ecological needs against grazing needs and negotiation with stakeholders together with funding.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Survey, develop and implement a comprehensive, costed restoration plan for wetlands impacted by artificial drainage on open forest outside of the Crown Lands.	£1,000,000	2015-20	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Habitat restoration	Not yet determined	National Trust	Hampshire County Council, Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1B	Undertake a full survey of the mires of the Crown Lands to inform the current funded restoration programme. This survey should reference the Weymouth and Cooch Report (2000) <i>A survey of the Physical and Ecological Status of the Valley Mires in the New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</i> , and include a review of existing studies, surveys of the wetland vegetation and hydrological function, an assessment of the damage to the natural hydrology and recommendations for restoration.	£100,000	2015-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	Natural England

<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>
1C	Develop a study to investigate the impact of historic drainage of the New Forest lawns. The study should establish whether the existing ditches are impacting on the quality of the lawns either positively or negatively, both for their ecological and grazing value and make recommendations for future management.	£80,000	2015-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Forestry Commission

2 Inappropriate scrub control

Lack of management and grazing, and inappropriate drainage has led to the loss of open habitats through encroachment of scrub and secondary woodland. Restoration becomes more costly and difficult to achieve the more established the scrub and secondary woodland becomes and can lead to permanent loss of habitat.

<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>
2A	Undertake a comprehensive survey to map and assess extent of molinia meadows habitat (New Forest Lawn) lost to scrub encroachment on open forest to inform a restoration plan. A project is already underway through the New Forest HLS focussing on wet lawns on the Crown lands, and this should be extended to cover all of the open forest.	£50,000	2016-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	National Trust	Hampshire County Council, Natural England

<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	Develop and implement a plan for the phased removal of scrub identified by the survey (Action 2A). This should include a plan for follow up management to maintain cleared areas as open habitat.	£300,000	2017-20	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Habitat restoration	Not yet determined	National Trust	Hampshire County Council, Natural England

<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>
2C	Assess the extent of habitat loss outside of the open forest, and provide advice to land owners and occupiers.	£30,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	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>
2D	Plan and implement the phased removal of scrub identified by the assessment (Action 2B). Follow up management to maintain cleared areas as open habitat should be included as part of the plan	£100,000	2016-26	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	New Forest Land Advice Service

3 Fish stocking

Hatchet Pond, whilst not actively stocked, is managed as a coarse fishery including carp and bream. The common practice of ground baiting, which is popular with carp fisherman, can introduce nutrients and there may also be deliberate extra feeding to encourage growth of specimen sized fish. In addition, benthivorous fish contribute nutrient through their feeding habits. This has contributed to high turbidity and algal biomass putting the submerged flora at risk. See issues 6 (public disturbance) and 12 (invasive species) which have also contributed to the declining condition of Hatchet Pond.

<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	Develop and implement a costed, detailed lake restoration/management plan for Hatchet Pond. Stakeholder consultation will form part of agreeing the final restoration plan. An outline management plan should be drawn up based on data review, data collection and analysis which would inform the final restoration plan. This plan will also cover the issues of recreational impact (Issue 6), and invasive non-native species highlighted in (Issue 12).	£300,000	2014-21	Lake Restoration Project	Water Framework Directive (WFD), Conservation Enhancement Scheme (CES)	Natural England	Environment Agency, Forestry Commission

4 Deer

High levels of browsing prevent regeneration and cause a decline in the shrub and field layer of woodlands. The Forestry Commission and other land owners are actively managing the deer population and cooperating in existing strategies but levels are still perceived to be high. Effective management of deer will rely on the support of owners and occupiers both within the site and on its boundaries.

<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>
4A	Develop a study to investigate the impact of deer browsing on natural regeneration of pasture and enclosed woodlands. This study should provide robust evidence to inform cull targets and a strategic approach to deer management.	£20,000	2016-19	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	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>
4B	Develop a strategic New Forest-wide collaborative plan based on the evidence obtained involving all landowners to address deer management issues . This should include areas outside of the SAC.	£40,000	2019-20	Partnership agreement: Other	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	The Deer Initiative

5 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Air pollution impacts on vegetation diversity. Aerial deposits of nitrogen may exceed the threshold limits above which the quality and character of vegetation begins to be altered and adversely impacted. This could potentially lead to a loss or change of habitat type which in turn will impact on species reliant on that habitat.

<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>
5A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined	2015-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

6 Public Access/Disturbance

The New Forest attracts high numbers of visitors annually and there is an assumption that disturbance affects the breeding success of SPA birds and SAC habitats through erosion, compaction and damage to vegetation and water bodies. The pressures are not fully understood but a recent study concluded that nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler densities are notably low compared with other large heathland areas such as the Dorset Heaths and Thames Basin Heaths. Investigation into understanding the impact of recreation is required and recreation should be managed to minimise the impact and protect the Natura 2000 features. Hatchet pond attracts high numbers of visitors, walkers along the shoreline have eroded the the banks and introduced sediment into the water, this together with feeding of birds and fishing activities has polluted the water and put the habitat at risk. Prior to 1972 it was possible to drive, camp or caravan anywhere on the unenclosed forest and a rapid increase in tourism led to considerable damage of habitats and resulted in the creation of 10 specified campsites and 134 car parks. Many of these campsites are located in sensitive areas and have impoverished vegetation due to trampling and infrastructure. Sites in or adjacent to pasture woodland in particular are likely to progressively decline due to the impact on tree regeneration, levels of dead wood, lichens 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>
6A	Develop a study to increase understanding of the impact of recreation on SPA birds and the habitats which support the birds.	£100,000	2016-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Forestry Commission, National Trust

<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>
6B	Develop a study to increase understanding of the impact of recreation on SAC habitats vulnerable to abrasion and compaction particularly close to car parks and popular recreational areas.	£60,000	2017-19	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Forestry Commission, National Trust
6C	Develop and implement actions for managing recreation to minimise the impact on Natura 2000 features incorporating the findings and recommendations of the study in action 6A. and 6B. The plans should incorporate an element of monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the measures once implemented.	£1,000,000	2018-20	Partnership agreement	Not yet determined	The New Forest National Park Authority	Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council, National Trust, Parish Council(s)
6D	For Hatchet Pond (see Issue 3, Fish stocking). The plan will also include measures to manage recreational disturbance.	see action 3A	2014-21	Lake Restoration Project	Water Framework Directive (WFD), Conservation Enhancement Scheme (CES)	Natural England	Environment Agency, 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>
6E	Undertake a review of existing studies into the impacts of camping activities and management practices on the habitats within and surrounding the campsites.	£50,000	2015-16	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Other	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Camping in the Forest
<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>
6F	Develop and implement a plan based on the findings of action 6E to minimise the impact of recreational camping activities.	£400,000	2016-19	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Habitat restoration	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	Camping in the Forest

7 Change in land management

Restoration of conifer plantation to heathland and grassland habitats is taking place throughout the New Forest on private land, on the adjacent commons and on the Crown Lands where the Verderers Inclosures are being returned to open forest. Following initial felling there is often extensive regeneration of conifer which requires management. Lack of funds for follow-up management could lead to a failure of the restoration.

<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>
7A	Secure funding for the removal of secondary conifer growth following restoration clearfell when current HLS schemes expire.	£1,200,000	2018-30	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Verderers of the New Forest

8 Changes in species distributions

The New Forest is one of four major sites for the Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* with populations estimated to be in the hundreds or thousands of individuals. No surveys have been undertaken to assess populations at known sites within the New Forest or to identify new populations and as such there is no evidence as to whether the population is increasing, decreasing or stable. Many of the stream and mire habitats preferred by the species have been altered in the past in an attempt at drainage. Without knowledge of the population trends it is difficult to assess whether the drainage is impacting on the population and to inform potential restoration work.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
8A	Undertake a baseline population survey of known sites and potential sites (based on the understood ecological requirements of the species). This should be followed by regular monitoring of at least 5 yearly intervals to establish the population status of Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> within the SAC.	£200,000	2015-30	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Environment Agency, Natural England

9 Water Pollution

Many villages have properties that are not on mains sewerage and have domestic treatment units which discharge into ditches and streams that are either within or flow into the SAC. The ditches and streams have seasonal flow and this in combination with a number of properties all discharging into the same channel could lead to an increase in nutrient levels impacting on the habitats they flow through, reducing species richness and diversity.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
9A	Undertake Ecological monitoring and investigation into the impact of domestic sewage treatment unit discharge on habitats and species. Identify and implement mitigation measures if required.	£50,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Environment Agency	Water companies

10 Forestry and woodland management

Lack of management of woodlands in private ownership has led to loss of characteristic ground flora and shrubs and threat from non natives such as scots pine, turkey oak and rhododendron. Artificial drainage can impact on wetter habitats leading to loss of sphagnum and bryophytes.

<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>
10A	Reintroduce positive woodland management in privately owned woodlands within and adjacent to the SAC. Provide advice as appropriate.	£300,000	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	New Forest Land Advice Service

11 Inappropriate ditch management

Ditches alongside tracks, roads, private property and for forestry practices can impact on wet habitats which causes a loss or conversion of habitat. Drainage into streams and bogs can carry silt adding nutrients and negatively impacting on species relying on the low nutrient status of the habitats.

<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>
11A	Investigate the ecological impact of drainage along fenced roads. Implement recommendations to address impacts.	£40,000	2018-19	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Hampshire County Council, Highways Agency
11B	Investigate and monitor the ecological impact of drainage along tracks. Implement recommendations to address impacts.	£20,000	2018-19	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	Natural England

12 Invasive species

A wide range of non native invasive species such as Crassula helmslii, parrots feather, pitcher plant, rhododendron, turkey oak and himalayan balsam can be found within the Natura 2000 habitats of the New Forest. Many non native species invade and out compete native species. Crassula helmslii in particular spreads quickly and can form dense mats of vegetation particularly in ungrazed areas. A three year trial of various methods of control within the New Forest has failed to find an effective method of elimination. A project team is in place hosted by the local Wildlife Trust however funding in the future will be considerably less than in previous years and insufficient to continue with the current level of management activity. Turkey Oak is an aggressive coloniser on sandy, acid soils such as the New Forest and in some locations large numbers have displaced dry heathland and grassland and need to be removed. This perceived loss of tree cover will require funding, careful planning and public consultation/education.

<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>
12A	Funding is required to continue monitoring and management through the New Forest Non Native Invasive Species Project. Appropriate control methods need to be identified and implemented via WFD related and other mechanisms.	£130,000	2015-20	Invasive Control Plan: Other	Not yet determined	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Natural England, The New Forest National Park Authority
12B	Develop and implement a costed plan including stakeholder and public consultation for large-scale removal of invasive turkey oak on the Western Commons.	£80,000	2015-18	Invasive Control Plan: Invasive Species Control Programme	Not yet determined	National Trust	Hampshire County Council, Natural England
12C	For Hatchet Pond see action 3, fish stocking. The plan will also include measures to manage invasive species	see action 3A	2014-21	Lake Restoration Project	Water Framework Directive (WFD), Conservation Enhancement Scheme (CES)	Natural England	Environment Agency, Forestry Commission

13 Vehicles

Much of the SAC is unfenced with open access and numerous roads crisscrossing the site. Although the area is well served by car parks, parking on the verges is common, this is a particular problem in villages with parking on verges outside properties, village greens and Manorial wastes. This leads to a loss of vegetation, compaction of the soil and pollution. There are a variety of solutions available but funding will be required.

<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>
13A	For the Crown Lands, review existing evidence and recommendations to manage inappropriate parking and analyse results of previous projects and initiatives. Based on the outcome of this review, create and implement a plan to address damage and disturbance to Natura 2000 features.	£30,000	2017- 18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	Natural England
13B	Investigate extent and impacts of inappropriate parking outside of the Crown Lands paying particular attention to species with requirements for disturbance. Recommendations for mitigation and education to be identified.	£50,000	2016-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	The New Forest National Park Authority	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Natural England
13C	Plan and implement activities recommended in action 13B, work with local land owners and councils to educate and raise public awareness of the issues of inappropriate parking.	£30,000	2018 onwards	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	The New Forest National Park Authority	n/a

14 Inappropriate cutting/mowing

Loss of traditional hay cutting, grazing and scrub management in privately owned meadows and heathlands leading to a loss or conversion of habitat.

<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>
14A	Assess the extent of molinia meadow and heathland habitat loss outside of the open forest, and provide management advice as appropriate	£60,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	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>
14B	Reintroduce appropriate management of privately owned meadows and heathlands, to restore and maintain habitat	£130,000	2016-26	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	New Forest Land Advice Service

15 Direct impact from 3rd party

Private property owners modify verges which are SAC habitats outside of their ownership. Issues include: creating new drives; re-turfing; planting hedges; encroachment by moving boundaries, and storage of material and equipment.

<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>
15A	Plan and implement activities to educate and raise public awareness of the protected status of the verges and the implications of causing damage.	£30,000	2015 onwards	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Not yet determined	The New Forest National Park Authority	Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council

<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>
15B	Investigate opportunities within the planning process to provide a greater level of protection to the verges when properties are improved or developed.	No funding required	2015	Advice: Negotiation	No funding required	The New Forest National Park Authority	Natural England

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

New Forest SPA

A072(B) *Pernis apivorus*: European honey-buzzard

A082(NB) *Circus cyaneus*: Hen harrier

A099(B) *Falco subbuteo*: Eurasian hobby

A224(B) *Caprimulgus europaeus*: European nightjar

A246(B) *Lullula arborea*: Woodlark

A302(B) *Sylvia undata*: Dartford warbler

A314(B) *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*: Wood warbler

The New Forest SAC

H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs

H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*

H3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)

H3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*

H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

H4030 European dry heaths

H6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

H7230 Alkaline fens

H9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*)

H9130 *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests

H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains

H91D0# Bog woodland

H91E0# Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

S1044 *Coenagrion mercuriale*: Southern damselfly

S1083 *Lucanus cervus*: Stag beetle

S1166 *Triturus cristatus*: Great crested newt

Site location and links

New Forest SPA

Area (ha) **28002.81** Grid reference **SU242030** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Hampshire; Wiltshire; The New Forest National Park Authority

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for New Forest SPA](#)

European Marine Site conservation advice

[n/a](#)

Regulation 33/35 Package

[n/a](#)

Marine Management Organisation site plan

[n/a](#)

The New Forest SAC

Area (ha) **29262.36** Grid reference **SU225075** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities

Hampshire; Wiltshire; The New Forest National Park Authority

Site Conservation Objectives

[European Site Conservation Objectives for The New Forest 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.

New Forest SPA

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

[South West RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Hampshire Avon, New Forest, Test & Itchen

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB107042011190, GB107042011220, GB107042011230, GB107042011300, GB107042011330, GB107042011360, GB107042016340, GB107042016380, GB107042016710, GB107042016720, GB107042016730, GB107042016750, GB107042016791, GB108043011010, GB108043015720, GB108043015740, GB108043015750, GB108043015770, GB30745652, GB30845729

The New Forest SAC

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

[South West RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Hampshire Avon, New Forest, Test & Itchen

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB107042011190, GB107042011220, GB107042011230, GB107042011300, GB107042011330, GB107042011360, GB107042016340, GB107042016380, GB107042016440, GB107042016710, GB107042016720, GB107042016730, GB107042016750, GB107042016791, GB107042016810, GB108043011010, GB108043015720, GB108043015740, GB108043015750, GB108043015770, GB30745652, GB30845729

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
New Forest SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymington River SSSI River Avon System SSSI The New Forest SSSI Norley Copse & Meadow SSSI
The New Forest SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymington River SSSI River Avon System SSSI Loosehanger Copse & Meadows SSSI Langley Wood & Homan's Copse SSSI Roydon Woods SSSI Landford Bog SSSI Whiteparish Common SSSI The New Forest SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
New Forest SPA	Kingston Great Common NNR
The New Forest SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingston Great Common NNR Langley Wood NNR
Ramsar	
New Forest SPA	New Forest
The New Forest SAC	New Forest
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
New Forest SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Forest SAC River Avon SAC
The New Forest SAC	New Forest SPA

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	24/11/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

