



Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS)

Planning for the future

Welcome to the first IPENS newsletter. In this issue we focus on the progress we have made to identify and prioritise the issues affecting England's Natura 2000 sites. We also provide an early insight into the development of Natura 2000 Site and Theme Plans.

IPENS Project launch

The IPENS launch workshop provided a key opportunity to share and test the project's initial conclusions about the key issues affecting the condition of England's Natura 2000 sites and the priority issues the project should focus on. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Feedback from the event is helping to inform the next stages of the project, and included:

- Confirmation that the approach to identifying and prioritising issues was appropriate, and endorsement of the conclusions.
- Suggestions of new 'issues' (eg climate change) the project should consider.
- The need for IPENS to focus its efforts on a smaller number of themes (groups of related issues) where it could add the most value to existing work.

See our [launch workshop webpage](#) for more information about the event, including a copy of the [event report](#).

The Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS), supported by EU LIFE+, is a new strategic approach to managing England's Natura 2000 sites. It will enable Natural England, the Environment Agency, and other key partners to plan what, how, where and when they will target their efforts on Natura 2000 sites and the areas surrounding them.



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IPENS' Project Priorities – Report Preview

The report outlines the approach used to scope and prioritise issues to be addressed within the project. It includes details of each stage of the process, the evidence used, how stakeholder feedback has informed our prioritisation and what all this means in terms of next steps for the project. The final report will be published on our website in the near future. In the interim, a [preview version](#) is available.

Six broad themes will be a priority for the project:

▪ Water and pollution	▪ Invasives and disease
▪ Habitat management	▪ Recreation and disturbance
▪ Species management	▪ Physical change



Site and Theme Plans

By the end of the project we will have:

- A Site Improvement Plan for each Natura 2000 site.
- Theme Plans to address issues (such as diffuse water pollution) that affect multiple Natura 2000 sites.

Work is well underway to establish the process and format for these Plans. See the [Site Improvement Plan](#) and [Theme Plan](#) web pages for further information.

Exploring the issues

Over the next couple of months a series of technical workshops with internal and external stakeholders will be:

- scrutinising the issues in more detail; and
- thinking creatively about how we can strategically address them.

The workshops will focus on the six broad priority themes and will cover topics ranging from diffuse water pollution to invasive species and coastal squeeze. Feedback from these events will be published on our [workshop webpages](#).



Your feedback welcome

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve this newsletter or our web pages please [contact us](#).

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