

Site Improvement Plan

South Dartmoor Woods

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)

UK0012749 South Dartmoor Woods SAC

Site description

South Dartmoor Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is the most southerly SAC in England and consists of fine examples of old sessile oak woods, some of the best remaining in South Devon.

The SAC forms a complex mosaic of woodland, grassland and heathland, with rare lichen species and nationally rare species of pearl border fritillary and high brown fritillary.

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	H4030 European dry heaths, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Further investigate the impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	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 considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation. As a consequence from the old sessile oak woods habitat there is a risk of a decrease in mycorrhiza, a loss of epiphytic lichens and bryophytes, and changes in ground vegetation. With respect to heath habitat there is a risk of a transition from heather to grass dominance, a decline in lichens, changes in plant biochemistry and increased sensitivity to abiotic stress.

<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>
1A	Further investigate potential atmospheric nitrogen impacts based on the application of guidance from the Chief Scientist's Group Nitrogen Task and Finish Group.	Not yet determined	2014-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

South Dartmoor Woods SAC	H4030 European dry heaths
	H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles

Site location and links

South Dartmoor Woods SAC

Area (ha)	2157.15	Grid reference	SX710701	Map link
Local Authorities			Devon	
Site Conservation Objectives				European Site Conservation Objectives for South Dartmoor Woods 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.

South Dartmoor Woods SAC

River basin

[South West RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

South Devon, Tamar

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB108046005250, GB108046008300, GB108046008310, GB108046008320, GB108046008350, GB108046008390, GB108046008410, GB108046008540, GB108047003650, GB108047003660, GB108047007870

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
South Dartmoor Woods SAC	Bovey Valley Woodlands SSSI Teign Valley Woods SSSI South Dartmoor SSSI Shaugh Prior Woods SSSI Yarner Wood & Trendlebere Down SSSI Holne Woodlands SSSI Sampford Spiney SSSI Hembury Woods SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
South Dartmoor Woods SAC	East Dartmoor Woods & Heaths NNR
Ramsar	
South Dartmoor Woods SAC	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
South Dartmoor Woods SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	04/11/14	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

