

Site Improvement Plan

Ford Moss

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)

UK0030151 Ford Moss SAC

Site description

Ford Moss is one of the few rain-fed mires in the drier east of the Border Upland. Typical bog communities are present though they have been degraded to some extent by historic drainage and burning. Woodland around the margins of the site contains stands of mature oak and Scot's pine, willow/birch carr and stands of bog myrtle. Pine woodlands have been long present on the site and feature many indicators of W18 woodland including chickweed wintergreen.

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 Hydrological changes	Threat	H7110 Active raised bogs	Further investigate the hydrology and potential measures	University(ies), Not yet determined
2 Forestry and woodland management	Threat	H7110 Active raised bogs	Management of woodland cover to maintain target vegetation communities.	Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Not yet determined
3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H7110 Active raised bogs	Establish a Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined

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 Hydrological changes

Because of the historic artificial drainage system and potential hydrological changes due to abandoned mine working in the area, hydrological restoration may only be partially successful. In addition, the location of the bog in the drier, eastern part of the country leaves it vulnerable to climatic shifts in precipitation which will lead to vegetational change. Stable water levels near to ground level have been achieved through the blocking of existing drainage channels which has been successful at raising the water table across the surface of the bog. Nonetheless, there is still a seasonal drop in the water table during a typical summer which may create conditions that allow the establishment of tree and shrub communities.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Further develop an understanding of the hydrological functioning and requirements necessary to meet favourable condition including a periodic review of the rate of re-colonisation by bog vegetation. Identify potential additional measures.	£20,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)	Not yet determined	Newcastle University

2 Forestry and woodland management

The numbers and density of tree and scrub regeneration on the bog may have an impact on the hydrology and nutrient cycling which may be detrimental to the designated features of the bog.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Manage conifer and birch regeneration within a threshold that is supported by evidence to have limited impact on bog hydrology. Ensure there is adequate funding committed to this work annually.	£20,000	2020-25	Habitat creation / restoration strategy: Habitat restoration	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Local partnership

3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Estimated atmospheric nitrogen deposition exceeds the critical loads for ecosystem protection. Atmospheric nitrogen could have a massive impact on the vegetation communities on the bog which could impact its status as an "active" raised bog. The feature is considered to be in unfavourable recovering condition.

<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	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Ford Moss SAC

H7110# Active raised bogs

Site location and links

Ford Moss SAC

Area (ha) **61.14** Grid reference **NT970377** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Northumberland

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Ford Moss 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.

Ford Moss SAC

River basin

[Solway Tweed RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Till

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Ford Moss SAC	Ford Moss SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Ford Moss SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Ford Moss SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Ford Moss SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	03/11/14	

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