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

Planning for the Future

Site Improvement Plan

Bracket's Coppice

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)

UK0030095 Bracket's Coppice SAC

Site description

Bracket's Coppice lies close to Corscombe in the vales of West Dorset. The site comprises oak and ash woodland, wooded stream valleys, and a mosaic of herb rich grassland and fen-meadow contained within small fields bounded by tall native hedges. The site is designated for Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* and Purple moor-grass *Molinia* meadow. One of the first maternity colonies of Bechstein's bat was discovered using bat-boxes in this small woodland.

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 Undergrazing	Threat	H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows	Install infrastructure to allow livestock handling.	Dorset Wildlife Trust, Natural England
2 Deer	Pressure	H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	Monitor and maintain deer populations at a suitable level.	Natural England, The Deer Initiative, Plantlife
3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, S1323 Bechstein`s bat	Control and reduce impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	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 Undergrazing

The southern parcel of the SAC does not have suitable land management secured. Levels of grazing are currently insufficient due to a lack of infrastructure which restricts the ability to get cattle on and off the site with ease.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
1A	To enable sufficient grazing on the site, infrastructure should be installed to allow livestock handling.	£5,000	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Natural England

2 Deer

Deer browsing is causing damage to the understorey by preventing regeneration, potentially affecting future bat habitat.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
2A	Manage and control deer numbers by extending the existing deer control programme undertaken by the Deer Initiative. Funding is currently only available until March 2015.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Existing Local Project	Natural England	Natural England	The Deer Initiative, Plantlife

3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads.

Action	*Action description*	*Cost estimate*	*Timescale*	*Mechanism*	*Funding option*	*Delivery lead body*	*Delivery partner(s)*
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

Bracket's Coppice SAC	S1323 *Myotis bechsteinii*: Bechstein`s bat
	H6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

Site location and links

Bracket's Coppice SAC

Area (ha) **53.66** *Grid reference* **ST516071**	Map link
Local Authorities	Dorset
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Bracket's Coppice 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 (RMBP) 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.

Bracket's Coppice SAC

River basin	South West RBMP
WFD Management catchment	South & West Somerset
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB108052015530

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Bracket's Coppice SAC	Bracket's Coppice & Ryewater Farm SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Bracket's Coppice SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Bracket's Coppice SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Bracket's Coppice SAC	n/a

Version	*Date*	*Comment*
1	04/03/2015	