



© Natural England/Peter Roworth

Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites Planning for the Future

England's Natura 2000 Sites

England has a diverse range of habitats resulting in a wonderfully rich and varied wildlife. It hosts some of Europe's most threatened species and habitats which are protected as part of a Europe-wide network of nature conservation areas (known as the Natura 2000 network).

The **Natura 2000 network** includes:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - important for their rare and vulnerable bird species.
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) - which protect a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats.

In England there are 337 Natura 2000 sites, covering 2,077,276 hectares. Many of these sites are in favourable condition, but a number continue to face pressures such as pollution, over and under grazing, and impacts from invasive, non-native species.

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

Whilst each site is unique there are common, and often complex, pressures (such as diffuse water pollution) which affect many sites. Ensuring that these, and other issues, are effectively addressed requires a strategic approach.

The Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS), supported by EU LIFE+ funding, 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.

What IPENS involves

IPENS will review all Natura 2000 sites (marine and terrestrial) in England to:

- Understand the key issues that are affecting the condition of these sites.
- Consider how they should be addressed.
- Identify how much it will cost and where the money could come from.

By June 2015 we will have:

- An Improvement Plan for each Natura 2000 site.
- An Overall Programme Plan outlining the future management of Natura 2000 sites in England.
- An easily accessible directory of mechanisms (i.e. actions and measures) and funding options to deliver favourable condition on Natura 2000 sites.

How IPENS will help

This will be the first time that this information will have been drawn together for all of England's Natura 2000 sites. It will provide us with:

- An improved understanding of issues affecting Natura 2000 sites and how to address them.
- A clear, costed plan of action for improving their condition.
- Recommendations to address current gaps in Natura 2000 funding and evidence.

Working together

A wide range of organisations and individuals own, manage or have an interest in England's Natura 2000 Sites. This includes government agencies, voluntary bodies, private companies and individuals. Collectively there is a wealth of knowledge, experience and interest in Natura 2000. Working together to decide what action needs to be taken will be critical to the success of the IPENS programme.

Throughout the programme we will be running a series of events and workshops to hear your views.

Contact

For further details on the programme visit: www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites
Natural England
Suite D, Unex House
Bourges Boulevard
Peterborough, PE1 1NG

Tel: Samantha Somers (Programme Manager), 0300 0601189
Email: IPENSLIFEProject@naturalengland.org.uk

This work is supported by LIFE, a financial instrument of the European Community.

