

Site Improvement Plan

Mottisfont Bats

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)

UK0030334 Mottisfont Bats SAC

Site description

The Mottisfont woodland, which is near Romsey in Hampshire, supports an important population of the rare Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*. Mottisfont contains a mix of woodland types including hazel *Corylus avellana* coppice with standards, broadleaved plantation and coniferous plantation which the bats use for breeding, roosting, commuting and feeding.

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 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown	Pressure/ Threat	S1308 Barbastelle bat	Full survey of the SAC and surroundings to ascertain usage by Barbastelle bats, to influence management practices	Natural England, Bat Conservation Trust
2 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure/ Threat	S1308 Barbastelle bat	Review existing forestry management to assess impacts on bats, and amend/revoke where necessary	Forestry Commission, Natural England
3 Offsite habitat availability/ management	Pressure/ Threat	S1308 Barbastelle bat	Survey of land surrounding SAC to establish whether bat usage would qualify the land for SAC extension	Forestry Commission, Natural England, Bat Conservation Trust

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 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown

Barbastelle bats use a number of sites for roosts through the breeding season. The last full survey which involved radio-tracking to identify the distribution of bats around the site was carried out in 2002. The current annual Bat Conservation Trust survey contract provides basic presence information on an annual basis in two thirds (4 of 6 compartments) of the designated site through bat detector surveys. Annual knowledge and detailed knowledge of the presence and distribution of the bats over the remaining one third of the site are both needed.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Extend current survey to the whole SAC to determine bat usage and habitat preferences. Focus surveys primarily on roosting but also commuting and feeding at different times of the year.	£15,000	2016-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Evidence project	Natural England	Bat Conservation Trust
1B	Design and commission a survey of land surrounding the SAC to determine bat usage and habitat preferences. Focus surveys primarily on roosting but also commuting and feeding at different times of the year.	£30,000	2016-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Evidence project	Natural England	Bat Conservation Trust

2 Forestry and woodland management

There are existing felling licences and England Woodland Grant Scheme agreements which do not take account of the designation and are not managing the habitat with the Barbastelle bat population in the woodland in mind.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Investigate existing forestry management to ascertain the level of impacts, if any, on bats.	Staff time	2016-17	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Staff time, Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission	Natural England

<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>
2B	If investigation shows forestry management is impacting on bats, amend existing felling licences to address impacts.	Not yet determined	2017-18	Regulation: Felling Licence	Not yet determined	Forestry Commission	Natural England
<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>
2C	Put policies/procedures in place to ensure new felling licences and Countryside Stewardship woodland activities take the SAC bats into account.	Staff time	2016-17	Advice	Staff time, Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission	Natural England

3 Offsite habitat availability/ management

The SAC does not include areas which we think are important for the bats, therefore those areas do not have effective management secured.

<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	Survey of surrounding land outside of the SAC for bat usage (see action 1A)	£15,000	2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Bat Conservation Trust

<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>
3B	Appropriately manage habitats which are found to be important for bats outside of the SAC.	£30,000	2017-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Natural England	Forestry Commission
<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>
3C	Provide advice and raise awareness on habitats which are found to be important for bats outside of the SAC.	Staff time	2017-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Staff time	Natural England	n/a

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Mottisfont Bats SAC S1308 *Barbastella barbastellus*: Barbastelle bat

Site location and links

Mottisfont Bats SAC

Area (ha) **196.88** Grid reference **SU322297** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Hampshire

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Mottisfont Bats 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.

Mottisfont Bats SAC

<i>River basin</i>	South East RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Test & Itchen
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Mottisfont Bats SAC	Mottisfont Bats SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Mottisfont Bats SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Mottisfont Bats SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Mottisfont Bats SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	18/02/2015	

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