

# Site Improvement Plan

## Borrowdale Woodland Complex

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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

**This Site Improvement Plan covers the following Natura 2000 site(s)**

**UK0012745    Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC**

## Site description

Borrowdale Woodland Complex consists of a series of upland oak woodlands in the Borrowdale and Buttermere valleys of the North West Lake District. It is one of the largest oak woodland complexes in England. The woodlands are particularly rich in Atlantic and Oceanic bryophytes with many species present rare in England and restricted to this site.

## 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 Deer	Pressure/Threat	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Increased deer management through professional coordination and partnership agreements	Forestry Commission, National Trust, Natural England, The Deer Initiative, Local deer group
2 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Continued non-native conifer removal and diversify the range of management (both active management and minimum intervention) through NELMS	Forestry Commission, National Trust, Natural England
3 Inappropriate grazing	Pressure	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Continued grazing control through HLS/NELMS, increased monitoring of agreements, enforcement and education	Natural England
4 Disease	Threat	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Research, development and monitoring of actions to take if there is a disease outbreak	Forestry Commission, National Trust, Natural England
5 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure/Threat	H8220 Plants in crevices on acid rocks, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland, H91D0 Bog woodland	Control, reduce and ameliorate impacts through a site nitrogen plan	Not yet determined
6 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	H8220 Plants in crevices on acid rocks, H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Education to prevent future damage, and enforcement action if future crags are developed	Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust, Natural England, The British Mountaineering Council

## 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 Deer

Deer numbers, in particular red deer, have increased dramatically in Cumbria, including Borrowdale. Continued improvement in deer management is required over many years to achieve a sustainable deer population to allow for natural tree regeneration.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Increased deer management at a landscape scale.	£10,000	2014-20	Major Landowner Group land ownership activities : Undertake Specific Management Works	New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)	National Trust	Forestry Commission, Natural England, The Deer Initiative, Local deer group

### 2 Forestry and woodland management

Many conifers have already been removed from the SAC, however there are still small, more inaccessible, areas remaining.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Continued removal of non-native conifer species	£5,000	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Area/capital payment for woodland restoration	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>
<b>2B</b>	Consider increasing areas of active management to promote natural regeneration and species diversity	£100,000	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Area/capital payment for woodland restoration	Forestry Commission	National Trust, Natural England

### 3 Inappropriate grazing

Some areas still have too much sheep grazing, preventing natural regeneration.

<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>
<b>3A</b>	Additional monitoring and control of grazing levels in the woods	£5,000	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Capital payments	Natural England	n/a

<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>
<b>3B</b>	Additional monitoring and control of grazing levels in the woods	£50,000	2014-20	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Natural England	National Trust

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3C	Enforcement action where agreements are not adhered to	Not yet determined	2014-20	Enforcement	Staff time	Natural England	n/a
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3D	Education for the farming community about sheep grazing in woodlands	£5,000	2014-20	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Staff time	Natural England	National Trust

#### 4 Disease

Disease is a threat to the woodland, particularly sudden oak death, other *Phytophthora* diseases and Ash die-back *Chalara fraxinea*. Disease has not been recorded in mature trees within the valley yet, but it is present elsewhere in the county.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
4A	Investigate appropriate actions required, including active management and diversifying the species mix so woodlands are more robust, if there are outbreaks of disease in the Borrowdale Valley.	£50,000	2014-30	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Direct payment research/survey	Forestry Commission	National Trust, Natural England

#### 5 Air Pollution: impact 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. Nitrogen deposition can result in a decrease in mycorrhiza, loss of epiphytic lichens and bryophytes, changes in ground vegetation. This requires further investigation. Lichens are a key indicator of pollution levels and at present they are not sexually reproductive in Borrowdale.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
5A	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

## 6 Public Access/Disturbance

Climbing and ghyll scrambling activities are popular within the SAC, with one crag being one of the most popular in the Lake District. Present activities are well managed but there is a risk that new crags and ghylls could be "developed" resulting in clearance of vegetation from them.

<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>
<b>6A</b>	Enforcement action if future activities cause damage	Not yet determined	2014-30	Enforcement	Staff time	Natural England	Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust, The British Mountaineering Council
<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>
<b>6B</b>	Education of climbers, ghyll scramblers and outdoor education centres to prevent further damage to crags	£2,000	2014-30	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Staff time	Natural England	Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust, The British Mountaineering Council

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

<b>Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC</b>	H8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
	H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles
	H91D0# Bog woodland

### Site location and links

#### **Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC**

Area (ha)	<b>667.83</b>	Grid reference	<b>NY235129</b>	<a href="#">Map link</a>
Local Authorities				Cumbria
Site Conservation Objectives				<a href="#">European Site Conservation Objectives for Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC</a>
European Marine Site conservation advice				<a href="#">n/a</a>
Regulation 33/35 Package				<a href="#">n/a</a>
Marine Management Organisation site plan				<a href="#">n/a</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.*

### **Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC**

River basin

[North West RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Derwent (NW)

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB112075070410, GB31228965



## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
<b>Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC</b>	Seatoller Wood, Sourmilk Gill & Seathwaite Graphite Mine SSSI Stonethwaite Woods SSSI Scales Wood SSSI Lodore-Troutdale Woods SSSI Johnny Wood SSSI Great Wood SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
<b>Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC</b>	n/a
Ramsar	
<b>Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC</b>	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
<b>Borrowdale Woodland Complex SAC</b>	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	25/11/2014	

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000)

