

# Site Improvement Plan

## Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs

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)**

**UK0012834 Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC**

## Site description

This site hosts the priority habitat type "orchid rich sites". The site contains an outstanding assemblage of orchids including the nationally rare Early Spider orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* and Musk orchid *Herminium monorchis*, together with the nationally scarce Burnt orchid *Orchis ustulata*.

## 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 Overgrazing	Pressure	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Set up and implement rabbit control programme	Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England
2 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Produce and implement an access strategy	Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England
3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	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 Overgrazing

The southern and central parts of the site have suffered from heavy rabbit grazing in recent years which has resulted in a reduction in the number of flowering orchids. Climate change could exacerbate this situation with increased spring/early summer drought adversely affecting the grassland, much of which occurs on the steep scarp slopes with shallow soils.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Set up and implement a rabbit control programme to maintain rabbit grazing pressures within reasonable limits across southern and central parts of the site.	£10,000	2015-20	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Natural England, Wildlife Trust	Kent Wildlife Trust	Natural England

### 2 Public Access/Disturbance

Public use of the site, primarily dog walking, has increased in the last 10 - 15 years causing trampling to the grassland and potential nutrient increases in the soil, leading to changes in the species composition.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Produce an access strategy for the site to develop a strategic approach to visitor access and reduce the impact on the chalk grassland.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Advice: Access Strategy	Wildlife Trust	Kent Wildlife Trust	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>	Implement actions identified in the access strategy (eg. fencing to create access zones).	Not yet determined	2016-18	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Kent Wildlife Trust	Natural England

### 3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads.

<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>	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	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

**Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC** H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)

### Site location and links

#### Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC

Area (ha) **61.7**      Grid reference **TR277454**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      Kent

Site Conservation Objectives      [European Site Conservation Objectives for Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs 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.*

### Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC

<i>River basin</i>	<a href="#">South East RBMP</a>
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Stour
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC	Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC	Lydden Temple Ewell NNR

Ramsar	
Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs SAC	n/a

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1.0	06/03/2015	

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

