



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

## Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of the IPENS newsletter. In this issue we focus on the work that is underway to develop the Natura 2000 Site and Theme Plans.

## Tackling the 'challenging' issues

IPENS is working with experts from different organisations to address some of the difficult issues which affect multiple Natura 2000 sites. A series of [Theme Plans](#) is being developed. These will outline strategic management approaches and make recommendations about new mechanisms required to make a significant improvement to the way these issues are dealt with across the Natura 2000 network.

Plans are being developed for:

- Invasive non-native species and deer
- Grazing
- Habitat Fragmentation
- Species management
- Hydrological functioning
- Diffuse water pollution
- Coastal recreation and disturbance
- River restoration
- Aerial nitrogen deposition
- Coastal squeeze
- Lake restoration

A series of stakeholder workshops over the autumn has helped to kick start the development of these Plans. See the [theme plan workshop webpage](#) for more information - notes from each workshop will be published here shortly.

The Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS), supported by EU LIFE+, is a new strategic approach to managing England's Natura 2000 sites. It 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.



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# Work on Site Improvement Plans now underway

Work to prepare a Site Improvement Plan (SIP) for each Natura 2000 site (marine and terrestrial) in England is underway and will continue through 2014. These high level plans will outline: the priority issues for the site; the actions required to address these; potential funding sources; and the organisations which will be responsible for delivering them.

SIPs will be developed in collaboration with the organisation(s) managing the sites and which might have a role in delivering the actions required to improve their condition. As these are high level plans, we will not be running a formal stakeholder consultation process. Natura England's local site contact(s) will work with relevant organisation(s) locally to agree the priorities and actions for the sites.

More information and an [example of a SIP](#) for a fictitious site are available on the [SIP webpage](#).



## Developing the evidence

IPENS is running a range of projects to address gaps in our knowledge about the issues affecting Natura 2000 sites and the solutions to address them. They cover topics such as:

- Investigating issues affecting Natura features.
- Investigating potential management measures to address issues.
- Monitoring and mapping Natura features to provide baseline data and inform management measures required.

Results from these projects will feed into Theme Plans and Site Improvement Plans.

## SIPs and RBMP2

IPENS is working to integrate SIPs into the second round of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP2). Where possible, water related Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives will be harmonised, enabling SIPs to be used as the 'programme of measures' for Natura 2000 sites within the RBMPs .

Each RBMP and the SIPs within that River Basin District will be linked electronically.

Further information about the [Water Framework Directive](#) and [River Basin Management Planning](#) is available on the Environment Agency website.



## Your feedback welcome

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve this newsletter or our web pages please [contact us](#).

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

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