

Site Improvement Plan

Shortheath Common

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)

UK0030275 Shortheath Common SAC

Site description

Shortheath Common SAC is common land situated in East Hampshire and consists of a wide range of wet and dry heathland habitats and bog woodland. The focal point of the site is a substantial valley mire with a rich ground flora of species such as sedges, sundew, cotton grass, and marsh cinquefoil. Bog mosses form a floating raft over much of the mire. The mire is notable for its high cover of cranberry. The site has a diverse dragonfly assemblage.

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 Inappropriate scrub control	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface	Work towards enabling grazing on the common.	Hampshire County Council, Natural England
2 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths	Education / awareness-raising to prevent damaging forms of public recreational use	Hampshire County Council, Natural England
3 Direct impact from 3rd party	Pressure/Threat	H4030 European dry heaths	Education around the impacts of encroachment and enforcement action where necessary.	Hampshire County Council, Natural England
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H4030 European dry heaths, H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface, H91D0 Bog woodland	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts. Implement site nitrogen action plan	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 Inappropriate scrub control

There is a build up of scrub and leaf litter, alongside areas where grasses are dominant or too tall. Active management is required to reduce this and there are several options available. Approval from Planning Inspectorate (PINS) is being sought to allow installation of fencing and other infrastructure, to enable grazing on the common.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Subject to the outcome of the Section 38 application for fencing as a prerequisite for grazing, the existing HLS agreement would need amending to fund additional capital items.	£150,000	2014-15	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Local Authority, Natural England	Hampshire County Council	Natural England

2 Public Access/Disturbance

This site is common land and open access, and is regularly used for recreation. Shortheath Common is dissected by a road and there are parking facilities that enable visitors to access the common. Integrated Site Assessment carried out in 2013 identified areas of acid grassland and dry heath where vegetation was being lost due to recreational disturbance.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Education and awareness raising is required to prevent damaging forms of public recreational use. Increased signage and wardening may be an option.	Not yet determined	2014-15	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Local Authority, Natural England	Hampshire County Council	Natural England
2B	Enforcement action should be undertaken in any situations where damage can be demonstrated.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Enforcement	Natural England, Staff time	Natural England	Hampshire County 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>
2C	Enforcement of existing byelaws where relevant to the SAC.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Enforcement: Byelaws	Local Authority, Staff time	Hampshire County Council	Natural England

3 Direct impact from 3rd party

Encroachment by householders onto the SAC dry heath mosaic is frequent on this site. Whilst each encroachment is relatively small, cumulatively the area is significant. Attempts by the landowners or Natural England to tackle these have not worked.

<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	Many local landowners are unaware of where the boundary of the common and SAC lies. There is a need to educate householders about the impacts of their encroachment activities	None	2014-15	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Staff time	Hampshire County Council	Natural England
3B	Enforcement action is ongoing and should continue to be used where encroachment onto the SAC occurs.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Enforcement	Natural England, Staff time	Natural England	Hampshire County Council

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. It is unknown if air quality is affecting the SAC habitats. There is a need to determine the level of Nitrogen emissions (if any) from suspected local sources as this could be adding to the critical load.

<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>
4A	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

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Shortheath Common SAC	H4030 European dry heaths
	H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
	H91D0# Bog woodland

Site location and links

Shortheath Common SAC

<i>Area (ha)</i> 58.94	<i>Grid reference</i> SU774367	Map link
<i>Local Authorities</i>	Hampshire	
<i>Site Conservation Objectives</i>	European Site Conservation Objectives for Shortheath Common SAC	
<i>European Marine Site conservation advice</i>	n/a	
<i>Regulation 33/35 Package</i>	n/a	
<i>Marine Management Organisation site plan</i>	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.

Shortheath Common SAC

River basin

[Thames RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Wey

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB106039017710

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Shortheath Common SAC	Shortheath Common SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Shortheath Common SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Shortheath Common SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Shortheath Common SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	12/12/2014	

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