

Site Improvement Plan

Briddlesford Copses

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)

UK0030328 Briddlesford Copses SAC

Site description

Briddlesford Copses is a complex of structurally diverse ancient semi-natural woodlands notified for its resident breeding Bechsteins's bat *Myotis bechsteini* population. Woodland as high forest and coppice with standards represents 90% of the site, with the balance comprising mixed woodland (5%) and Wootton Creek estuary and saltmarsh (5%) habitat.

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 Offsite habitat availability/ management	Pressure/ Threat	S1323 Bechstein`s bat	Investigate the bats' feeding and movement patterns	Forest Services, Isle Of Wight AONB, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Local bat group(s)
2 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure/ Threat	S1323 Bechstein`s bat	Investigate the bats' feeding and movement patterns across woodland habitats	Forest Services, Isle Of Wight AONB, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Local bat group(s)
3 Change in land management	Pressure/ Threat	S1323 Bechstein`s bat	Conduct a survey of the bats' foraging behaviour	Forest Services, Isle Of Wight AONB, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Local bat group(s)
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	S1323 Bechstein`s bat	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Natural England

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 Offsite habitat availability/ management

Bechstein's bat is known to forage widely across undesignated pasture and hedgerow habitat surrounding the SAC and there is considerable uncertainty over the potential impact on essential invertebrate populations. The value and likely optimal condition of these habitats needs to be much better understood. Local solar array developments, campsites and other development adjacent to the designated site may impact on bat foraging opportunity.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Undertake bat surveys to better understand spatial and temporal feeding and movement patterns across the site and its surrounding area.	£5,000	2015-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	People's Trust for Endangered Species	Forest Services, Isle Of Wight AONB, Local bat group(s)
1B	Undertake surveys of the invertebrate resource deriving from, or occupying the non-woodland habitats.	Not yet determined	2015-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	People's Trust for Endangered Species	Forest Services, Isle Of Wight AONB, Local bat group(s)
1C	Analyse the findings of both surveys to ascertain relative importance of non-woodland habitats and their condition, and assess likely impact of different types of development and land use change directly and indirectly on bat feeding. Implement recommendations.	Not yet determined	2016-19	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	People's Trust for Endangered Species	Forest Services, Isle Of Wight AONB, Local bat group(s)

2 Forestry and woodland management

There are significant areas of both designated and undesignated coniferised ancient semi-natural woodland around the site (Bridlesford and Firestone Copses), and it is not known how important this type of woodland cover is for Bechstein's Bat.

<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>
2A	Undertake bat surveys to better understand spatial and temporal feeding and movement patterns across conifer woodland habitat.	see costs for action 1A	2015-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species	Forest Services	Isle Of Wight AONB, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Local bat group(s)
<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	Analyse findings of the survey to understand relative importance of conifer woodland habitat and implement necessary measures identified.	Not yet determined	2015-18	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species	Forest Services	Isle Of Wight AONB, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Local bat group(s)

3 Change in land management

The tidal sluice structure which regulates saltwater exchange at Wootton is not allowing sufficient ingress to maintain salt marsh (4ha) and tidal river (1ha) habitat in required SSSI condition. As a result, succession to moderately brackish marsh vegetation is occurring. It is not known if this is likely to be adversely affecting Bechstein's feeding opportunity. A repeat survey of the bats' foraging behaviour is required to provide baseline data.

<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	Repeat survey to understand if succession to freshwater habitat is likely to be detrimental to bats.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	People's Trust for Endangered Species	Forest Services, Isle Of Wight AONB, Local bat group(s)

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects on the sensitive features but this has not been established, and requires further investigation.

<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	2015-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Bridlesford Copses SAC S1323 *Myotis bechsteinii*: Bechstein`s bat

Site location and links

Bridlesford Copses SAC

Area (ha) **167.22** Grid reference **SZ548907** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Isle of Wight

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Bridlesford Copses 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.

Bridlesford Copses SAC

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Isle of Wight

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB107101006100

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Briddlesford Copses SAC	Briddlesford Copses SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Briddlesford Copses SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Briddlesford Copses SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Briddlesford Copses SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	14/05/2015	

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