

Site Improvement Plan

Emer Bog

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)

UK0030147 Emer Bog SAC

Site description

The site comprises an extensive valley bog which has been described as unparalleled in lowland England as an example of a young oligotrophic / mesotrophic basin mire, together with associated damp acidic grassland, heathland and developing woodland over Bracklesham Beds in the Hampshire Basin.

The bog grades downstream into mature alder carr and upstream into heathland. To the south and west of Emer Bog, the site includes remnants of former common land, now acidic grassland.

The invertebrate fauna of the bog and heath is of considerable interest and very large numbers of moths have been recorded.

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 Public Access/Disturbance	Threat	H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface	Study of site management in context of urban growth and recreational pressure	Not yet determined
2 Hydrological changes	Pressure/Threat	H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface	Hydrological investigation and monitoring	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Natural England
3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H7140 Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, 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 Public Access/Disturbance

The adoption of the site for informal recreation compounds the difficulties in managing the site, particularly through grazing.

<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>
1A	Undertake a study to determine, quantify and identify options for maintaining the long-term viability of site management for the SAC, in the context of continuing urban growth. This should include assessment of recreational use and impacts (including impacts on current management practices); investigation and assessment of surrounding land uses and their impacts; and measures required to maintain a viable grazing unit (reflecting the current vulnerability of the grazing regime for an isolated site of low productivity, to ensure SAC management continues.	£50,000	2014-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Natural England

2 Hydrological changes

There has been a reduction in the area of *Sphagnum*-rich vegetation and it is thought that this is due to substantial nutrient enrichment encouraging the growth of *Typha*. Although the cause of this is uncertain, a more detailed understanding of site hydrology is likely to help clarify reasons.

<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 hydrological investigation and monitoring to develop an understanding of the nutrient enrichment highlighted in the Wetland Framework Account for Emer Bog which is thought to be leading to a reduction in Sphagnum-rich vegetation. In addition investigate opportunities to establish naturalised hydrological functioning as far as possible.	£10,000	2014-15	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. With respect to transition mire excess nitrogen may negatively alter the vegetation community by detrimentally affecting bryophytes and increasing the abundance of sedges and vascular plants.

<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	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

Emer Bog SAC H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs

Site location and links

Emer Bog SAC

Area (ha)	37.5	Grid reference	SU394214	Map link
Local Authorities				Hampshire
Site Conservation Objectives				European Site Conservation Objectives for Emer Bog 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.

Emer Bog SAC

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Test & Itchen

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Emer Bog SAC	Baddesley Common SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Emer Bog SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Emer Bog SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Emer Bog SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	16/01/15	

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