

Site Improvement Plan

Ullswater Oakwoods

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)

UK0030295 Ullswater Oakwoods SAC

Site description

Around Ullswater Lake there is a cluster of ancient oak woods. These woodlands have an outstanding bryophyte assemblage and a diverse fauna of dead-wood invertebrates. The woodlands have a canopy dominated by sessile oak with sparse hazel, holly and downy birch.

On the richer soils of the lower slopes the woodlands have a canopy with more ash and a dense hazel shrub layer. On the wettest parts of the site alder is dominant. The woodlands are found at Low Wood above Brotherswater, Glencoyne Wood north of Glenridding and Hallinhag Wood to the west of Howtown.

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 grazing	Pressure	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Implement appropriate grazing regimes through agri-environment agreements	National Trust, Natural England
2 Deer	Threat	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Secure appropriate and effective regional scale deer management	Forest Services, National Trust, Natural England
3 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	Review the status of non-native trees and implement management	Forest Services, National Trust, Natural England
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H91A0 Western acidic oak woodland	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 Inappropriate grazing

Existing grazing levels within the woodlands are too high to allow sufficient regeneration to occur. This applies both to livestock (sheep) and to deer.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Review of agricultural land management in woodlands.	Staff time	2015	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	No funding required	Natural England	n/a
1B	Amend land management practices through upgrade of HLS or NELMS.	£3,000	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a
1C	Review of land management as part of land capability assessment.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Land / Tenancy Acquisition: Tenancy Negotiation/ Buy Out	Not yet determined	National Trust	n/a

2 Deer

Red deer numbers are high in the eastern Lake District and management of the herd is not fully effective. Deer browsing impacts on all of the European habitats, especially the woodland. Local control can reduce the impact but the broader issue is an unsustainably large herd. Roe deer also impact on the woodland but as this species is territorial, local control measures are more effective.

<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	Advise owners of land within the SAC and adjacent landowners about appropriate deer populations, required cull levels and the impacts of deer on the SAC.	No funding required	2016-20	Advice	No funding required	Natural England	n/a
2B	Develop and agree a deer management plan with major landowners.	£12,000	2016-20	Partnership agreement	Not yet determined	National Trust	Natural England
2C	Work with local deer management groups and the Deer Initiative to secure appropriate and effective regional scale deer management in this part of Cumbria.	Not yet determined	2016-20	Partnership agreement	Not yet determined	Natural England	Forest Services, North Lakes Deer Management Group

3 Forestry and woodland management

The non-native components of the Ullswater oakwoods are locally significant. This is beech, sycamore and conifers. Beech is the most significant as the dense shade impacts on the characteristic ground flora of this habitat. In addition the dense closed canopy can inhibit regeneration and a more variable structure would benefit the wood. Woodland management is required to address these two problems.

<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	Review of non-native species within each compartment and site action plans drawn up.	Not yet determined	2015-16	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	National Trust

<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>
3B	Implementation of site management required to address non-native species.	Not yet determined	2016-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	National Trust

<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>
3C	Implementation of site management required to address non-native species.	Not yet determined	2016-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Forest Services	National Trust

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical loads and the full impacts of this are unknown but include competitive exclusion of characteristic bryophyte flora.

<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

Ullswater Oakwoods SAC	H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles
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Site location and links

Ullswater Oakwoods SAC

Area (ha) **123.41** Grid reference **NY400128** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Cumbria

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Ullswater Oakwoods 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.

Ullswater Oakwoods SAC

River basin

[Solway Tweed RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Eden and Esk

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB30228955

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Ullswater Oakwoods SAC	River Eden & Tributaries SSSI Low Wood SSSI Hallinhag Wood SSSI Glencoyne Wood SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Ullswater Oakwoods SAC	n/a
Ramsar	
Ullswater Oakwoods SAC	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Ullswater Oakwoods SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	04/12/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

