

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

The relationship between Site Improvement Plans for Natura 2000 sites and River Basin Management Plans

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 first set of plans were published in December 2009 by the Environment Agency; the competent authority for the WFD in England. These river basin management plans (RBMPs) included a summary (in 'annex D') of the measures needed for water dependent Natura 2000 sites to meet their conservation objectives.

Since the current RBMPs were published, new information has emerged on risks or impacts to Natura 2000 sites and some new measures have been identified which are being included in the update to the plans.

A fundamental and new approach to capturing the priority and new measures for water dependent Natura 2000 sites is through the publication of Site Improvement Plans (SIPs). The SIPs are being produced as part of the separate EU LIFE+ funded [Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites \(IPENS\)](#), carried out in partnership with the Environment Agency.

The SIPs include the priorities and new measures needed to achieve water-dependent Natura 2000 objectives under the WFD, and provide important information to inform the RBMP consultation. The SIPs contain actions for **all** habitats on these sites, the measures for the non-water dependent habitats do not, however, form part of the RBMP and its consultation.

The SIPs, along with information on existing measures to maintain or restore site features (held in Natural England's designated site database), need to be considered together to understand the full range of issues and measures relevant to a Natura 2000 site.

The SIPs are published on [Natural England's Publications catalogue](#), organised by River Basin District.

Revised objectives for Natura 2000 rivers and lakes

For Natura 2000 rivers and lakes, there is additional information provided on targets for flow and some water quality parameters, in order to meet the conservation objectives for these Natura 2000 sites. **The relevant targets are identified in documents published with the relevant SIPs on the Natural England publications catalogue.**

These targets have been revised for a number of Natura 2000 rivers and lakes, following a review by the conservation agencies of Common Standards Monitoring Guidance. For rivers, this



is done through local discussions between Natural England and Environment Agency staff. For lake sites, the only parameter where alignment of standards was reviewed was phosphorus and so this work was undertaken jointly at a national level.

These documents include the locally proposed target values, and also set out an ‘interim progress goal’, that will need to be achieved by 2021. Where sufficient information is available the document also identifies a timescale for achievement of the longer-term target. For any sites where it has not been possible to agree specific targets, usually because further technical work is required, these will be indicated in the documents by an asterisk.

For further information please see [Part 2 of the updated River Basin Plan consultation](#).

Relationship between uRBMP consultation docs and associated information on Natura 2000 sites & SSSIs - & where they are hosted (16/09/14 v 1.5)

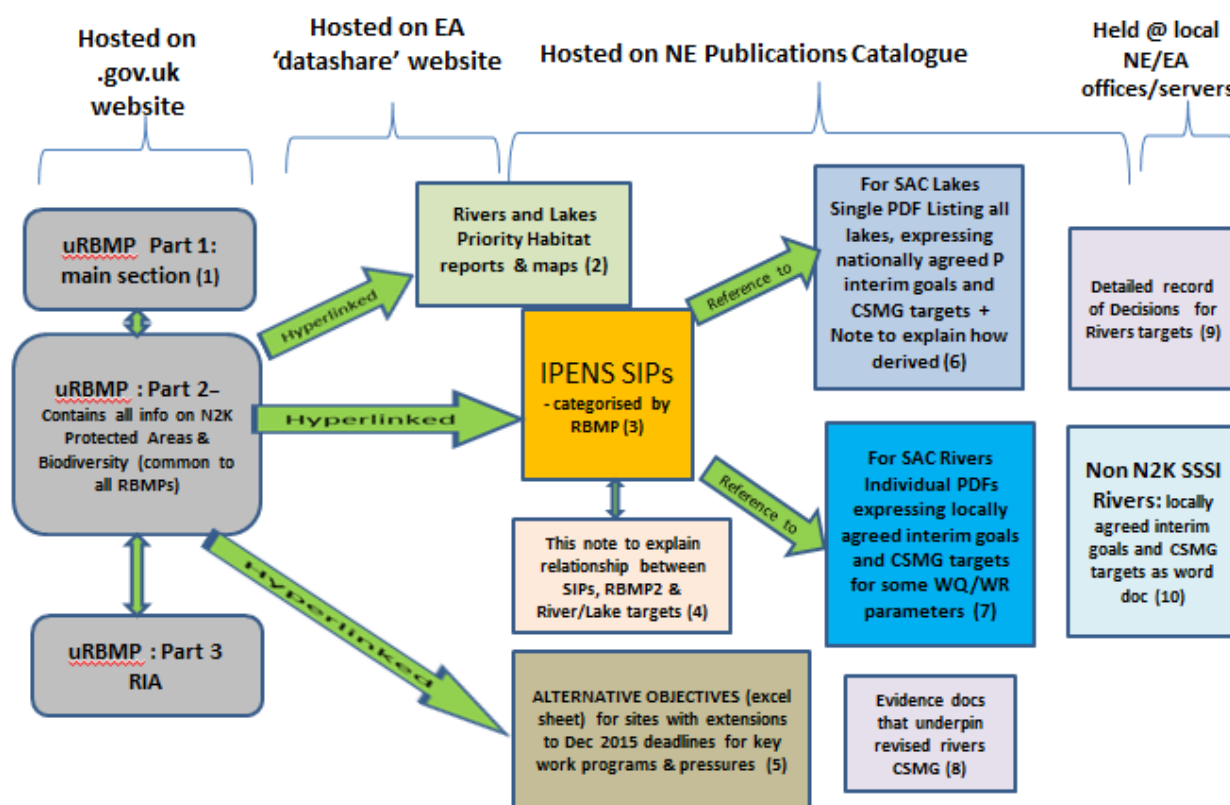


Diagram reference notes & hyperlinks:

(1) These are the [main Draft river basin Plan consultation documents](#).

(2) Maps and supporting reports to help stakeholders understand opportunities for restoration of priority river and lake habitats (outside designated sites). For the updated RBMP consultation they are held on the [Environment Agencies datashare website](#). They will also be held on Natural England’s publication catalogue for reference in the future (see <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/429415>). More



detailed maps are also hosted on an independent website – see part 2 of River basin plan document (1) for more detail.

(3) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6287197783195648>

(4) This note, held alongside the IPENS information.

(5) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6312941326434304?category=10001> and see part 2 of River basin plan document (ref 1) for more detail.

(6) These documents linked from the [relevant Natura 2000 SIPs](#).

(7) These documents linked from the [relevant Natura 2000 SIPs](#).

(8) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/432368>

(9) In majority of cases these documents held locally by Natural England / Environment Agency offices.

(10) For a few Sites of Special Scientific Interest closely associated with Special Areas of Conservation, these documents are on the Natural England publications catalogue.

