

Site Improvement Plan

Eversden and Wimpole Woods

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)

UK0030331 Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

Site description

Eversden Wood is an ancient woodland of ash-maple type which is now very localised in extent, both locally and in lowland England as a whole. The site is one of the largest remaining areas of such woods on the chalky boulder clay in Cambridge and contains a rich assemblage of woodland plants including some uncommon species. The site holds colonies of Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*, the sole European designated feature of the site. The bats are associated with the trees in Wimpole woods, these trees are used as a summer maternity roost where female bats gather to give birth to their young. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site.

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 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown	Pressure/ Threat	S1308 Barbastelle bat	Survey additional areas for Barbastelle bats	Natural England
2 Offsite habitat availability/ management	Pressure/ Threat	S1308 Barbastelle bat	Research to identify areas and habitats used by the bats off the SAC, and secure suitable management in order to maintain, enhance and increase the supporting habitat	Natural England, Volunteers, Cambridge Bat Group
3 Forestry and woodland management	Threat	S1308 Barbastelle bat	Manage the woodland appropriately	Forestry Commission, Natural England
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	S1308 Barbastelle bat	Investigate effects of atmospheric nitrogen on the site	Natural England (CSF)

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 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown

Two transects within the site are monitored each year as part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). However there is some evidence that there could be other Barbastelle roosts or important foraging sites close to but not within the site. If this is the case then potentially important sites for the bats in the area are not protected.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Survey for Barbastelle bats (roosts/important foraging sites) in likely places close to the SAC. Consider increasing the SAC to include newly identified important areas.	£20,000	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

2 Offsite habitat availability/ management

The bats have a limited area in which to roost and forage within the site and it is unclear which habitats they use in the wider countryside. In order to maintain a sustainable population, additional suitable habitat should be identified and to maintain/improve its value, suitable long-term management secured.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Investigate the use the bats make of the surrounding countryside currently so that providing additional habitat can be targeted appropriately.	Included in costs for Action 1A	2015	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Volunteers, Cambridge Bat Group

<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	Develop and implement a plan to provide and appropriately manage roosting and foraging habitat in the wider countryside.	Not yet determined	2020	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Landowner(s), Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), West Cambridgeshire Hundreds
<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	Provide advice to local landowners on how to manage important bat habitat in the surrounding countryside.	Staff time	2020	Advice: Education & awareness raising	Staff time	Natural England	Local bat group(s)

3 Forestry and woodland management

The woodland upon which the bats depend must be maintained in the medium to longer term by ensuring that tall trees, especially oak, grow up to replace those currently in place.

<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	Ensure that the woodland within the SAC is appropriately managed in the medium and long term to benefit Barbastelle bats.	£15,000	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Forestry Commission	Natural England

4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site-relevant critical loads.

<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

Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	S1308 <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> : Barbastelle bat
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Site location and links

Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

Area (ha) 66.48	Grid reference TL340526	Map link
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Local Authorities	Cambridgeshire
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Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC
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European Marine Site conservation advice	n/a
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Regulation 33/35 Package	n/a
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Marine Management Organisation site plan	n/a
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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.

Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

River basin

[Anglian RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Cam and Ely Ouse (including South Level)

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	12/05/2015	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

