

Site Improvement Plan

Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment

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)

UK0012835 Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC

Site description

This site hosts the priority habitat type "orchid rich sites". The site contains an important assemblage of rare and scarce species, including Early Spider-orchid *Ophrys sphegodes*, Late Spider-orchid *Ophrys fuciflora* and Burnt orchid *Orchis ustulata*.

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 Undergrazing	Pressure	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Work with White Cliffs Countryside Partnership to secure sufficient grazing levels.	Natural England, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership
2 Inappropriate scrub control	Threat	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Undertake scrub management at Creteway Down.	Natural England
3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined

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 Undergrazing

Scrub/woodland encroachment and a dominance of Tor grass are occurring at Dolls House Hill and Hunger Down due to insufficient grazing at Dolls House Hill, and lack of any management at Hunger Down. This is reducing the extent and quality of the grassland feature.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Ensure Dolls House Hill is sufficiently grazed by securing a water supply. Investigate what funding can be used by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	White Cliffs Countryside Partnership	Natural England
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1B	Install fencing and a water supply, and carry out initial scrub/woodland removal to enable grazing at Hunger Down.	£35,000	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Natural England	

2 Inappropriate scrub control

Extensive scrub development on Creteway Down is reducing the extent of the grassland feature. Existing incentives (Higher Level Stewardship funding) are currently insufficient to fund work to restore scrub areas to grassland.

<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 scrub management on the steep slopes at Creteway Down. Countryside Stewardship, which offers actual costs for difficult sites, would be the most suitable funding option.	£50,000	2015-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Natural England	

3 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>
3A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	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

Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)

Site location and links

Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC

Area (ha) **181.94** Grid reference **TR183388** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Kent

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment 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.

Folkestone to Etchingill Escarpment SAC

<i>River basin</i>	South East RBMP
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Rother
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	08/01/2015	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

