

Site Improvement Plan

Ellers Wood & Sand Dale

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)

UK0030039 Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC

Site description

Eller's Wood and Sand Dale SAC lies within the Dalby Forest area of the North York Moors National Park. The site comprises a series of calcareous springs with tufa formation and associated alkaline fen along the lower slopes of Sand Dale, together with Eller's Wood. Thornton Beck bisects the two units and forms the eastern boundary of the wood. The alkaline fen supports a population of the rare Geyer's whorl snail *Vertigo geyeri*.

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 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure/ Threat	H7220 Hard-water springs depositing lime, S1013 Geyer's whorl snail	Implement a Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined
2 Inappropriate designation boundary	Threat	H7220 Hard-water springs depositing lime	Investigate revision and extensions to designated areas.	Forestry Commission, 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 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Petrifying springs currently unfavourable recovering and near upper critical loads for nitrogen (range 15 -25 kg N/ha/yr). The current level of nitrogen deposition is recorded as 24.36 kg N/ha/yr. *Vertigo geyeri* is in favourable condition but under threat. Further investigation is required and the assessed condition of SAC features could alter as a result.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	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

2 Inappropriate designation boundary

The site appears to lack sufficient relevant communities to support SAC community designation as Petrifying Springs, but does appear to merit Alkaline Fen SAC designation. Alkaline Fen also extends outside the existing SSSI boundary of the site.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Review the inclusion of the habitat, and consider alternative designation and extension of the boundary.	Not yet determined	2015-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Forestry Commission

Site details

The tables in this section contain site-relevant contextual information and links

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC	H7220# Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)
	S1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> : Geyer`s whorl snail

Site location and links

Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC

Area (ha) 4.09	Grid reference SE858849	Map link
Local Authorities	North Yorkshire	
Site Conservation Objectives	European Site Conservation Objectives for Ellers Wood & Sand Dale 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.

Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC

River basin

[Humber RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Derwent (Humber)

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

GB104027067950

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC	Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC	n/a

Ramsar	
Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Ellers Wood & Sand Dale SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	18/12/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

