



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

Site Improvement Plans

What's a Site Improvement Plan?

Each Natura 2000 site (marine and terrestrial) in England will have a Site Improvement Plan (SIP) which outlines the priority actions required to improve the condition of the site. The Plan will:

- Provide a high level description of the issues affecting the condition of the site.
- Identify the priority actions required to address the issues and the funding sources available.

This will be the first time that this information will have been drawn together for all of England's Natura 2000 sites

What will they be used for?

SIPs will help Natural England, and others responsible for managing Natura sites, to better understand the issues affecting Natura 2000 sites and how to address them. By developing SIPs, together we will:

- Have an overview of the actions required to improve the condition across a whole Natura site.
- Take an overview of the actions required across all English Natura sites to inform a strategy for their future management.
- Develop funding bids to tackle issues affecting multiple sites.
- Influence future European Union funding for Natura 2000 sites.

By implementing the SIPs, collectively we will be able to improve the condition of these important sites.

What's IPENS?

The Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS), supported by European Union LIFE+, is a new strategic approach to managing England's Natura 2000 sites. It will enable Natural England, the Environment Agency, and other key partners to plan what, how, where and when they will target their efforts on Natura 2000 sites and the areas surrounding them.



Further information:

- [IPENS Project Website](#)
- [IPENS SIP webpage](#)
- [Project Information Note](#)



What's in the Plan?

The SIP is a single, short reference document that covers the whole site - complementing any existing plan(s) for the site. It is not a detailed habitat management plan, or a fully agreed and funded programme of specific measures ready for on the ground delivery.

The Plan will:

- Outline the priority issues affecting the condition of the site.
- Identify the actions required to address them and who is responsible for taking them forward.
- Highlight potential funding sources to action them.

The SIPs will be published on Natural England's website.



When are the Plans being produced?

Work to develop the SIPs started in November 2013 and will continue through 2014. Given the large number of Plans that are being developed they will not all start and finish at the same time.

Your local Natural England site contact will be able to indicate when work on your site's SIP is due to start and when we anticipate that we will be seeking your views.

How will I be involved?

Collectively agreeing, and committing to deliver, the actions in the Plan is critical to helping to improve the condition of our Natura 2000 sites.

As part of developing the Plans we will therefore be involving organisations we envisage might have a role in helping to deliver the actions in the Plan, to:

- Develop a shared understanding of the issues affecting the site.
- Identify and agree the priority actions, and potential funding sources, required to address them.
- Secure commitment to deliver the actions.

Your local Natural England site contact will be able to provide more detail about how you can get involved with your site's SIP.



Further information

- For more information about the project, including the latest project updates, please see the IPENS website: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000>.
- For specific enquiries about your site's SIP please contact your local Natural England contact.