

Site Improvement Plan

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs

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)

UK0030330 Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC

Site description

The cliffs support a full zonation of maritime cliff communities found on chalk substrates, reflecting different levels of exposure to wind and salt spray. The most exposed, lowest parts of the cliff face support rock-crevice communities with rock samphire *Crithmum maritimum*, rock sea-lavender *Limonium binervosum* and thrift *Armeria maritima*, with the rare hoary stock *Matthiola incana* in places. On more sheltered slopes there is a community restricted to south-facing chalk cliffs characterised by wild cabbage *Brassica oleracea*.

The vegetation of the cliff tops consists mainly of chalk grassland interspersed with areas of scrub. Much of the grassland is dominated by tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* or upright-brome *Bromopsis erecta*, though there are numerous areas of species-rich open grassland with a range of typical chalk-turf grass and herb species. These include sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina*, salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, wild thyme *Thymus praecox* and horseshoe vetch *Hippocrepis comosa*.

A number of nationally rare plants occur, including early spider orchid *Ophrys sphegodes* and oxtongue broomrape *Orobanche artemisiae-campestris*, which in the UK is confined to unstable coastal chalk cliffs of southern England, and has a stronghold on this 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 Inappropriate scrub control	Pressure	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Control scrub through funding or supporting existing local partnership	National Trust, Natural England
2 Undergrazing	Pressure	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Sustain grazing management through funding or supporting existing the local partnership	National Trust, 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	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 Inappropriate scrub control

Small areas of the site in private ownership are insufficiently managed. Scrub management needs to be undertaken to retain chalk grassland habitat.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Control relatively small areas of scrub. Given the small size of the land ownership involved managing this through existing local partnership is most appropriate way to address this issue.	£3,000	2014-20	Existing Local Project	Not yet determined	Natural England	National Trust

2 Undergrazing

Small areas of the site in private ownership are insufficiently grazed. Grazing needs to be undertaken to retain chalk grassland habitat.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Ensure relatively small areas are grazed. Given the small size of the land ownership involved managing this through the existing local partnership is most appropriate way to address this issue.	£1,000	2014-20	Existing Local Project	Not yet determined	Natural England	National Trust

3 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. There is a risk of increases in tall grasses, a decline in species diversity, increased mineralization, N leaching; surface acidification.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
3A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC

H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

H6210# Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)

Site location and links

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC

Area (ha) **183.85** Grid reference **TR372448** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Kent

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs 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.

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC

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

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC	Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SSSI
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National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC	n/a
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Ramsar

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC	n/a
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Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs SAC	n/a
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<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	19/12/14	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

