

Site Improvement Plan

Peak District Dales

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)

UK0019859 Peak District Dales SAC

Site description

The Peak District Dales SAC comprises thirteen separate dales, supporting ten interest features regarded as rare or threatened in a European context. The greatest in extent are the ash woodlands and the calcareous grasslands, and the relationship and balance between these features is reflected in the diversity of species and habitats found across the dales. Lead rakes and screes support important and specialised grassland communities, and crevices within rock outcrops support rare fern communities. Where the calcareous grassland is overlain by more acidic soils, acid grassland and heath has developed and springs and flushes support important and localised alkaline fen communities. Rivers dissect several of the dales and these support species of European importance such as bullhead.

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	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree	Secure appropriate levels of scrub control	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority
2 Fertiliser use	Pressure	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Reduce nutrient input to the SAC from agricultural sources	Environment Agency, Natural England
3 Water Pollution	Pressure	S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Reduce phosphate inputs from Sewage Treatment Works	Environment Agency, Natural England, Severn Trent Water Ltd

4 Inappropriate weirs dams and other structures	Pressure	S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Develop and implement the River Restoration Strategy	Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Landowner(s), Wild Trout Trust, Trent Rivers Trust, Angling Trust(s), Fisheries
5 Overgrazing	Pressure	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Secure reduction in grazing levels	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority
6 Undergrazing	Pressure	H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Secure appropriate grazing levels	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority
7 Inappropriate water levels	Pressure	S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Implementation of hydrological restoration solutions	Environment Agency, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority, Landowner(s), Fisheries
8 Disease	Pressure	S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish	Crayfish investigation / research / monitoring	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Trent Rivers Trust, Fisheries, Local angling club(s)

9	Invasive species	Pressure	S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Signal crayfish investigation / research / monitoring	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Trent Rivers Trust, Fisheries, Local angling club(s)
10	Disease	Threat	H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Develop a Chalara project, based on existing monitoring and research work (local project)	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority
11	Climate change	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Review likely climate change impacts and identify adaptation actions	Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority
12	Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined
13	Vehicles	Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Use enforcement to control inappropriate or illegal vehicle use	Derbyshire County Council, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority

14 Forestry and woodland management	Pressure/ Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Develop woodland management strategy in light of threat/impact of Chalara. Ensure grazing does not limit natural regeneration through maintenance of stockproof fencing	Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority
15 Direct impact from 3rd party	Pressure/ Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes, S1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish, S1096 Brook lamprey, S1163 Bullhead	Use enforcement to address flytipping	Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, National Trust, Natural England
16 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown	Threat	H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks	Survey unmapped interest features	Natural England
17 Public Access/Disturbance	Pressure/ Threat	H4030 European dry heaths, H6130 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals, H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H7230 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens, H8120 Base-rich scree, H8210 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks, H9180 Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Raise public awareness of site interest and potential to damage this interest through inappropriate recreational use	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority

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

The issue of scrub encroachment is related to inappropriate stock on the dales and undergrazing/uneven grazing pressure. Dales are marginal to the farm holding and the sheep and cattle (often dairy) are unable to move across steep and scrubby slopes to graze it evenly or adequately. This can result in areas of inadequate grazing of scrub regrowth and saplings. Ideal grazing to maintain grassland interest and restrict scrub encroachment is thus not always achievable and maintaining the balance between woodland, scrub and grassland (and other habitats) relies on direct management (scrub clearance). Currently HLS does not achieve this satisfactorily as payments are high for annual management but prohibitively low for scrub clearance as a capital works.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Clear scrub to maintain open grassland areas. Initial clearance effort and indefinite on-going scrub clearance will be required.	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)	Natural England	Forestry Commission, Peak District National Park Authority
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1B	Organise and deliver scrub clearance through contracts to ensure work is delivered on the ground. This involves development of a project which lies outside of HLS or NELMS.	£750,000	2015-20	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority

<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>
1C	Where scrub clearance is necessary, negotiation and, if necessary, use of SSSI regulation is required using S28 J/K of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (management schemes).	Staff time	2014-20	Regulation: SSSI Regulation	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a

2 Fertiliser use

The main threat from fertilizer use is from application to land adjacent to the SAC and subsequent runoff into the site, resulting in nutrient enrichment. Other inputs such as application of paper pulp as a soil improver are used. Although overseen by the Environment Agency, as exempt activities there is little control for the SAC when applied to adjacent land. It can potentially impact all features but especially grassland and river species.

<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	Reduce nutrient input to the SAC from fertiliser application on adjacent land and run-off from farm yards. Use soil analysis to inform Nutrient Management Plans.	see action 3C	2014-15	England Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Staff time, Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Natural England	Environment Agency

<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	Environment Agency - use duties and enforcement powers where appropriate to address inappropriate fertiliser use, including targeted inspection of exempt land spreading deployments and farm visits to ensure compliance with Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil Regulations 2010.	Staff time	2014-20	Enforcement	Not yet determined	Environment Agency	Natural England

<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	Negotiate agri-environment agreements on land adjacent to SAC and not currently in HLS agreement to secure reduction in nutrient use.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Natural England	n/a

3 Water Pollution

Phosphate levels in the River Wye exceed the target set during the Review of Consents process as well as a more stringent revised CSM target, despite a restriction on Buxton sewage treatment works designed to resolve the issue (STW is operating well within the tighter limits). Agreement has been reached with EA over revised long term targets and interim goals which can be realistically achieved in the short to medium term, as well as actions to ensure compliance within agreed timescales. Although modelling suggests 70% of the phosphate comes from Buxton STW, as there are few surface water inputs it is difficult to assess the contribution from farm / diffuse sources via the limestone aquifer. CSF is working with farms with known problems. Similar issues may be duplicated on the River Dove, but are less clear cut.

<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	Review and implement the Diffuse Water Pollution Plan actions.	Not yet determined	2014	Diffuse Water Pollution Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

<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>
3B	River Wye - reduction of phosphate in effluent from Buxton Sewage Treatment Works. Trials to be carried out by Severn Trent Water to confirm whether or not this is achievable.	Not yet determined	2014-27	Water Industry Asset Management Plan (AMP): Implement Investigation	AMP process, Water company	Severn Trent Water Ltd	Environment Agency, Natural England

<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>
3C	Rivers Wye, Lathkill, Dove and Manifold - reduction in phosphates from diffuse sources.	£480,000	2014-15	England Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Staff time, Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Natural England	Environment Agency

<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>
3D	River Dove, Lathkill and Manifold-discussion with EA needed to confirm actions.	Staff time	2014 onwards	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Natural England	Environment Agency

4 Inappropriate weirs dams and other structures

The impact of artificial structures is particularly relevant to the River Dove and to a lesser extent the Lathkill. Artificial structures such as weirs impede the natural flow regime and ability of the river to "self-cleanse", resulting in reduced natural habitat variability, potential silt accumulations, slow flows and reductions in suitable areas for fish spawning and reduced species diversity (invertebrates, fish, macrophytes etc). Increased siltation results in increased potential for retention of pollutants, impacts on gravel beds, reduction in spawning grounds for fish and impacts upon invertebrate diversity.

<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	River Dove: develop River Restoration Strategy to address issue of fishing weirs preventing natural hydrological processes acting, and limiting natural habitat development.	£20,000	2014	River Restoration Plan: Restoration Project	Water Framework Directive (WFD), Grant in aid	Natural England	Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Wild Trout Trust, Trent Rivers Trust, Local angling club(s)

<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>
4B	River Dove: Implement River Restoration Strategy.	£1,000,000	2015-30	River Restoration Plan: Restoration Project	Environment Agency, LIFE, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Other partnership	Natural England	Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Wild Trout Trust, Trent Rivers Trust, Local angling club(s)
<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>
4C	River Lathkill - undertake geomorphological assessment, sediment analysis and notified features surveys as precursor to River Restoration Strategy, to include investigation of implications of flow reinstatement and weir removal on the Lathkill, in preparation for hydrological restoration (see action 7A), to restore natural flow variability and ecological habitat diversity thereby allowing bullhead, brook lamprey and white-clawed crayfish to recolonise sections of the Lathkill currently unavailable to them through lack of connectivity and water supply.	£20,000	2014-27	River Restoration Plan: Restoration Project	Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)	Natural England	Environment Agency, Peak District National Park Authority, Landowner(s), Fisheries

<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>
4D	River Lathkill - develop River Restoration Strategy, in preparation for hydrological restoration (see action 7A), to restore natural flow variability and ecological habitat diversity thereby allowing bullhead, brook lamprey and white-clawed crayfish to recolonise sections of the Lathkill currently unavailable to them through lack of connectivity and water supply.	£20,000	2014-21	River Restoration Plan: Restoration Project	Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)	Natural England	Environment Agency, Peak District National Park Authority, Landowner(s), Fisheries

5 Overgrazing

Overgrazing directly impacts SAC vegetation and also has indirect impacts via nutrient enrichment. Where it occurs it tends to be a serious issue and impacted habitats are difficult to restore due to the legacy of high nutrient input from increased stocking and supplementary feeding over a long period of time. An associated issue is weed control within these areas. Nutrient input and inappropriate grazing can also be due to stock feeding on land adjacent to, but grazed with, the dales (linked to inappropriate stock , see action 6C). Overgrazing is not exclusively caused by stock grazing with rabbit grazing also an issue on some sites. Stock grazing may also affect woodlands though this is covered under 'Forestry and woodland management', and here relates only to scrub-grassland edge habitat.

<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>
5A	Where overgrazing is taking place, negotiation and, if necessary use of SSSI enforcement is required using S28P of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (grazing without consent). Overgrazing regulations are ineffective as land is not 'agriculturally overgrazed'.	Staff time	2014-20	Regulation: SSSI Regulation	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority

6 Undergrazing

Although associated with the issue of inappropriate scrub control, undergrazing is not confined to it. Many dales that are not undergrazed still have a scrub control issue, and some dales which do not have a scrub issue are undergrazed. This issue is strongly linked to inappropriate stock.

<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>
6A	Negotiate agri-environment agreements on land not currently in HLS agreement to secure appropriate grazing levels	Not yet determined	2014-20	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)	Natural England	National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority
<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>
6B	Where grazing is required, negotiation and, if necessary use of SSSI regulation is required using S28K/J of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (management schemes).	Staff time	2014-20	Regulation: SSSI Regulation	Not yet determined	Natural England	n/a
<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>
6C	Expand project to purchase and lease traditional breed stock to agreement holders (also relevant to overgrazing issue).	£80,000	2014-20	Mechanism not identified / develop mechanism	Not yet determined	Local partnership	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority

7 Inappropriate water levels

There is a lack of flow on the Lathkill due to historic mining activities and artificial soughs diverting water flow out of Lathkill catchment. The River Lathkill is dry for several months each year, resulting in the need for fish rescue and impacts upon SAC species.

<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>
7A	River Lathkill - implementation of any solutions recommended by a project currently looking at options for returning natural water levels to the river - will require planning and other consents if it comes to fruition	£2,000,000	2014-27	Existing Local Project	Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)	Peak District National Park Authority	Environment Agency, Natural England, Landowner(s), Fisheries

8 Disease

Crayfish plague has all but wiped out the known native population of white clawed crayfish. It is possible that there may be isolated pockets unaffected by plague which could act as the starting points for any natural recolonisation, however attempts at reintroductions have so far failed.

<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>
8A	Development of a national strategic approach or plan/policy to address loss of native White-clawed crayfish on SAC sites.	Staff time	2015-21	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

<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>
8B	Undertake a survey of the Dove catchment (IPENS evidence project 058 'Targeted survey for native crayfish in upper Dove waters') to confirm size and extent of any extant populations of White-clawed crayfish within the SAC and its headwaters. Results to inform any strategy for possible future reintroductions (see next action).	£1,000	2014	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	IPENS evidence budget	Natural England	Environment Agency, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Trent Rivers Trust, Fisheries, Local angling club(s)

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8C	Development of a site-specific risk register for SAC rivers with known/historic native White-clawed crayfish populations, to include a review of the likely causes of the loss of populations for each river and assessing the potential for recovery. This should also include an evaluation of measures or projects being carried out by voluntary groups on non-designated water bodies, the scope for future reintroductions within the SAC from any existing local populations, and the longer term implications for the recovery or maintenance of Favourable Condition for the SAC.	£25,000	2015-21	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

9 Invasive species

As far as it is known, native crayfish have been all but lost from the site due to plague carried by Signal crayfish. Signal crayfish are not in the vicinity of the Dove catchment, so there is some hope for refugia sites, although reports of white clawed crayfish are still subject to confirmation through site survey to be done during 2014. Signal crayfish are present in the River Wye downstream of Buxton and the population of white clawed crayfish has been lost from the Lathkill despite attempts at reintroduction. Signal crayfish also have the potential to threaten brook lamprey and bullhead via predation of eggs and fry.

<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>
9A	Development of a national strategic approach or plan/policy to address loss of native White-clawed crayfish on SAC sites.	Staff time	2015-21	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Environment Agency

<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>
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<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>
9C	Development of a site-specific risk register for SAC rivers with known/historic native White-clawed crayfish populations, to include a review of the likely causes of the loss of populations for each river and assessing the potential for recovery. This should also include an evaluation of measures or projects being carried out by voluntary groups on non-designated water bodies, the scope for future reintroductions within the SAC from any existing local populations, and the longer term implications for the recovery or maintenance of Favourable Condition for the SAC.	£25,000	2015-21	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

10 Disease

Chalara (ash dieback) disease poses a major threat to ash woodland in the dales in the longer term, with the potential to wipe out the majority of ash trees. It is predicted to impact severely within the next 20 years, based on European experience. Although currently a threat, preparing for its future impact now is vital.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
10A	Establish a <i>Chalara</i> project with lead officer employed to develop and implement proposals to tackle risk from <i>Chalara</i> based on results of an ongoing monitoring project. Repeat monitoring will be required in 5 years time.	£140,000	2018-20	Existing Local Project	LIFE, New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS), European funding (Horizon 2020)	Natural England	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority

11 Climate change

The location of the SAC is such that changes in species distribution through climate change are expected to be pronounced (many species are at the edge of their range). Additionally, dales habitats are fragmented and surrounded by agriculturally productive land which cannot usually act as a buffer or corridor for species, which makes populations more vulnerable.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
11A	Review likely climate change impacts and identify appropriate adaptation actions as the SAC supports edge of range species (both southern and northern species) and thus is highly vulnerable to climate change	Staff time	2015-21	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority

12 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. Survey work conducted locally was inconclusive about impacts.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
12A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts	Not yet determined	2020	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

13 Vehicles

A number of threats from vehicles exist, including issues with Byways open to all traffic (BOAT), the use of tracks and threats of illegal vehicle use. There is a push to open up new cycling routes which pass through SAC dales.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
13A	When necessary, use enforcement to control inappropriate vehicle use, including Byways Open To All Traffic, 4x4 off roading, use of tracks etc. (proposed cycle routes will be dealt with via the planning system)	Staff time	2014-20	Enforcement: S34 Road Traffic Act/ S28p(6) Liaison With Natural England	Not yet determined	Derbyshire County Council	Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority

14 Forestry and woodland management

1. Management of sycamore and other non-natives and fencing to exclude stock grazing were addressed at most locations through the WoodLIFE project, however some outstanding sites still require management. Additionally, HLS agreements are currently not achieving the follow up management required due to high annual management payments but low capital works payments. Felling sycamore, or fencing, on steep dale terrain is not cost effective.
 2. The threat of *Chalara* overshadows all other woodland threats and will result in additional management, based on diversifying the woodland. Currently, a strategy to deal with *Chalara* is in its early stages.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
14A	Continue to ensure grazing excluded from woodlands as follow up to the successful Ravine WoodLIFE project. Develop woodland management strategy in light of threat/impact of <i>Chalara</i> and agree management required to achieve favourable condition as necessary. Monitor impact of deer and other potential woodland issues (eg. Himalayan balsam).	Not yet determined	2014-20	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority

15 Direct impact from 3rd party

Localised incidents of flytipping can impact SAC interest features.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
15A	Use SSSI enforcement to address minor 3rd party damage at specific locations (eg flytipping).	Staff time	2014-20	Enforcement	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, National Trust

16 Feature location/ extent/ condition unknown

There is a need for an improved evidence base for certain interest features. Chasmophytic vegetation requires specialist survey and monitoring, as it is found in rock crevices and often requires surveyors with specialist climbing as well as lower plant identification skills. Furthermore, the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) classification for scree and chasmophytic vegetation was developed post-designation and re-survey is required in the light of this.

<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>
16A	Commission NVC surveys of key features (scree vegetation, chasmophytic vegetation).	£10,000	2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	Natural England	n/a

17 Public Access/Disturbance

Localised inappropriate recreational use (scree running, rock climbing etc) can affect SAC interest features. There are occasional public access issues with litter and camp fires accusing fires. Landowners can be reluctant to shut stock on dales where dogs may be an issue, meaning appropriate grazing is difficult to achieve.

<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>
17A	Increase public awareness of the potential for inappropriate recreational use to damage interest features	£10,000	2015	Advice	Not yet determined	Natural England	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Peak District Dales SAC

H4030 European dry heaths

H6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*

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

H7230 Alkaline fens

H8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)

H8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

H9180# *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines

S1092 *Austropotamobius pallipes*: White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish

S1096 *Lampetra planeri*: Brook lamprey

S1163 *Cottus gobio*: Bullhead

Site location and links

Peak District Dales SAC

Area (ha) **2326.33** Grid reference **SK142550** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities Derbyshire; Staffordshire

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Peak District Dales 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.

Additional information is provided on targets for flow and some water quality parameters, in order to meet the conservation objectives for certain Natura 2000 sites. The relevant targets are identified in the revised conservation objectives document (see link to PDF below).

These targets have been revised for a number of Natura 2000 rivers and lakes, following a review by the conservation agencies of Common Standards Monitoring Guidance. For rivers, this is done through local discussions between Natural England and Environment Agency staff. For lake sites, the only parameter where alignment of standards was reviewed was phosphorus and so this work was undertaken jointly at a national level.

The linked PDF documents include the proposed target values, and also set out an 'interim progress goal', that will need to be achieved by 2021. Where sufficient information is available the document also identifies a timescale for achievement of the longer-term target. For any sites where it has not been possible to agree specific targets, usually because further technical work is required, these will be indicated in the documents by an asterisk. For further information please see Part 2 of the River Basin Plan

Peak District Dales SAC

River basin	Humber RBMP
WFD Management catchment	Derbyshire Derwent, Dove
WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)	GB104028052891, GB104028052900, GB104028053450, GB104028057780, GB104028057820, GB104028058450, GB104028058460, GB104028058470
Locally revised Conservation Objectives	Moving towards common standards monitoring guidance targets for SAC rivers
Additional information on locally revised Conservation Objectives	n/a
EA/ NE agreed RBMP lake SAC targets	n/a

River Restoration Plan

Source of information on river restoration plans for SAC rivers where these are in place or planned, with links to documentation where this is available.

Webpage link: Restoring Designated Rivers	n/a
River Restoration Plan document	n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Peak District Dales SAC	Wye Valley SSSI Long Dale, Hartington SSSI Ballidon Dale SSSI Monks Dale SSSI Long Dale & Gratton Dale SSSI Lathkill Dale SSSI Via Gellia Woodlands SSSI Hamps & Manifold Valleys SSSI Dove Valley & Biggin Dale SSSI Cressbrook Dale SSSI Coombs Dale SSSI Matlock Woods SSSI Topley Pike & Deep Dale SSSI
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Peak District Dales SAC	Derbyshire Dales NNR Dovedale NNR
Ramsar	
Peak District Dales SAC	n/a
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Peak District Dales SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	17/10/2014	

www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000

