

Site Improvement Plan

Kingley Vale

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)

UK0012767 Kingley Vale SAC

Site description

Kingley Vale is one of the sites representing yew *Taxus baccata* woods on chalk, in the central southern part of its UK range. It has been selected primarily because of its size, as it is the largest area of yew woodland in Britain. In addition to the woodland, four nationally uncommon habitats are represented at the site: chalk grassland; chalk heath; juniper scrub and yew scrub.

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 Deer	Threat	H91J0 Yew-dominated woodland	Control overgrazing by deer for natural regeneration of yew trees	Natural England
2 Undergrazing	Threat	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Redress the undergrazing of grassland by livestock because of yew toxicity	Natural England
3 Agriculture: other	Threat	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites)	Provide incentives to encourage neighbouring farmers to have organic pasture	Natural England, South Downs National Park Authority
4 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition	Pressure	H6210 Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone (important orchid sites), H91J0 Yew-dominated woodland	Influence improvement of air quality to reduce nitrogen pollution deposition	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 Deer

Large herds of fallow deer present on the site appear to be a large factor in preventing natural regeneration of the yew trees. Surveys carried out in 2013 recorded little or no regeneration of yew.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
1A	Control of deer numbers within yew woodland to allow for natural regeneration of yew trees.	No cost	2015-25	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a

2 Undergrazing

Undergrazing is a threat at this site due to the conflicting issues around grazing animals and yew toxicity.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
2A	Manage grazing adjacent to yew woodland to ensure that any yew regeneration is not affecting livestock.	£3,500 per year	2015-25	National Nature Reserve (NNR) management plan	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a

3 Agriculture: other

Parts of the site are adjacent to land that is intensively managed for agriculture. This management includes the regular application of fertiliser and pesticide, which, if allowed to come into direct contact with the grassland sward, can destroy the sward entirely or, through the addition of nitrogen cause loss of species 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>
3A	Secure the uptake of agri-environment agreements on neighbouring land.	Not yet determined	2016-26	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Common Agricultural Policy 2014-20 (New Environmental Land Management Scheme)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	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>
3B	Prevent the drift of fertilisers and pesticides onto the NNR.	Staff time	2016-26	Advice: Negotiation	Staff time	Natural England	South Downs National Park Authority

4 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>
4A	Control, reduce and ameliorate atmospheric nitrogen impacts.	Not yet determined	2014-20	Site Nitrogen Action Plan	Not yet determined	Natural England	Not yet determined

Site details

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

Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

Kingley Vale SAC

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

H91J0# *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles

Site location and links

Kingley Vale SAC

Area (ha) **208.05** Grid reference **SU824110** [Map link](#)

Local Authorities West Sussex

Site Conservation Objectives [European Site Conservation Objectives for Kingley Vale 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.

Kingley Vale SAC

River basin

[South East RBMP](#)

WFD Management catchment

Arun & Western Streams

WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)

n/a

Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Kingley Vale SAC	Kingley Vale SSSI

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Kingley Vale SAC	Kingley Vale NNR

Ramsar	
Kingley Vale SAC	n/a

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Kingley Vale SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	15/05/2015	

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