

# Site Improvement Plan

## Kirk Deighton

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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

**This Site Improvement Plan covers the following Natura 2000 site(s)**

**UK0030178 Kirk Deighton SAC**

## Site description

Kirk Deighton SAC is located on the outskirts of the village of Kirk Deighton, North Yorkshire, situated just north of Wetherby. The site supports a Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* breeding pond which is shallow, seasonal in nature and varies in size from year to year. This pond is surrounded by sheep and cattle grazed pasture and mature hedgerows which provide essential feeding and hibernating sites for the Great crested newts. The pond also supports a small population of Smooth newts *Triturus vulgaris* and common frogs *Rana temporaria*. In addition the site contains a smaller drainage pond also known to be used by the newts.

This is a lowland site on neutral clay soils, the wider landscape supports a patchwork of arable land and grazed pastures.

## 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 Change in land management	Pressure/ Threat	S1166 Great crested newt	Habitat protection, via HLS agreement and through the planning process outwith the SAC	Harrogate Borough Council, Natural England
2 Habitat fragmentation	Pressure	S1166 Great crested newt	Identify the metapopulation ponds outwith the SAC, and conduct a feasibility study for new ponds	Environment Agency, 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 Change in land management

There is limited good terrestrial habitat within the SAC for Great crested newts. The hedgerows which are suitable for cover, hibernation and commuting vary in age but significant lengths along the northern and western field boundaries are over-mature and diseased. Without management this habitat type will be reduced within the site. As the breeding pond is at the edge of the SAC boundary it is considered that Great crested newts utilise terrestrial habitat outwith the SAC such as the mature gardens and stands of tall ruderal vegetation adjacent to the pond (newts have been observed heading in this direction during surveys and newts have been found by local residents in their gardens). These areas could easily be lost or altered to render them less attractive to newts. The field adjacent to the breeding pond, for example, outwith the SAC, used to be rank with piles of rubble but is now a closely mown lawn.

Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>1A</b>	Restoration of the over-mature hedgerows within the SAC to improve commuting, hibernation, resting and foraging habitat for Great crested newts.	£2,450	2015	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	n/a
Action	Action description	Cost estimate	Timescale	Mechanism	Funding option	Delivery lead body	Delivery partner(s)
<b>1B</b>	Aim to protect (through the planning process) terrestrial habitat and ponds outwith the SAC which are considered likely to support the metapopulation of Great crested newts linked to the SAC.	Not yet determined	2014 onwards	Advice	No funding required	Natural England	Harrogate Borough Council

## 2 Habitat fragmentation

There are only two ponds within the SAC and only one which is known to be utilised by Great crested newts for breeding. Within 500m of the SAC's main breeding pond (where the metapopulation is likely to occur) there are 5 ponds; one is within the SAC and could be utilised by breeding newts, one is unsuitable as a breeding pond as it contains fish and it is not known if the other 3 are extant. Also these 3 ponds could be severed from the site due to the presence of a road and buildings. The lack of ponds leaves the site vulnerable to change e.g. from impacts of pollution events, establishment of fish or pond drying of a single pond. Further suitable breeding ponds may be required for metapopulation dynamics to establish, which makes for more robust populations as they are able to express their natural mechanisms for coping with changes and events such as successional changes to the ponds. Investigations into the presence of unsevered suitable breeding ponds within 500m of the SAC is required and if found to be insufficient new ponds may be needed within the SAC boundary.

<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>
<b>2A</b>	Conduct a survey to identify great crested newt breeding/feeding ponds outwith the SAC which are likely to support newts from the SAC's metapopulation. This will add to our understanding of the habitat requirements of the SAC great crested newt population.	£4,500	2016	Investigation / Research / Monitoring	Natural England	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>
<b>2B</b>	Once the metapopulation investigation data is available consider the need for new pond/s, suitable for breeding great crested newts, within the SAC, working with the Environment Agency who will act in an advisory role.	£15,000	2017	Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE): Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)	Rural Development Programme (RDPE)	Natural England	Environment Agency

## Site details

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

### Qualifying features

#UK Special responsibility

**Kirk Deighton SAC** S1166 *Triturus cristatus*: Great crested newt

### Site location and links

#### Kirk Deighton SAC

Area (ha) **4.03**      Grid reference **SE396501**      [Map link](#)

Local Authorities      North Yorkshire

Site Conservation Objectives      [European Site Conservation Objectives for Kirk Deighton 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.*

### **Kirk Deighton SAC**

<i>River basin</i>	Humber	<a href="#">Humber RBMP</a>
<i>WFD Management catchment</i>	Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse	
<i>WFD Waterbody ID (Cycle 2 draft)</i>	n/a	

## Overlapping or adjacent protected sites

Site(s) of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Kirk Deighton SAC	Kirk Deighton SSSI

  

National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
Kirk Deighton SAC	n/a

  

Ramsar	
Kirk Deighton SAC	n/a

  

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)	
Kirk Deighton SAC	n/a

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.0	07/10/2014	

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ipens2000)

