

UK Geodiversity Action Plan



***A framework for enhancing the importance and role of
geodiversity***

www.ukgap.org.uk

What is the UKGAP?

The UKGAP sets out a framework for geodiversity action across the UK. It has been developed and agreed through wide consultation and dialogue across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland between organisations, groups and individuals currently involved in geodiversity.

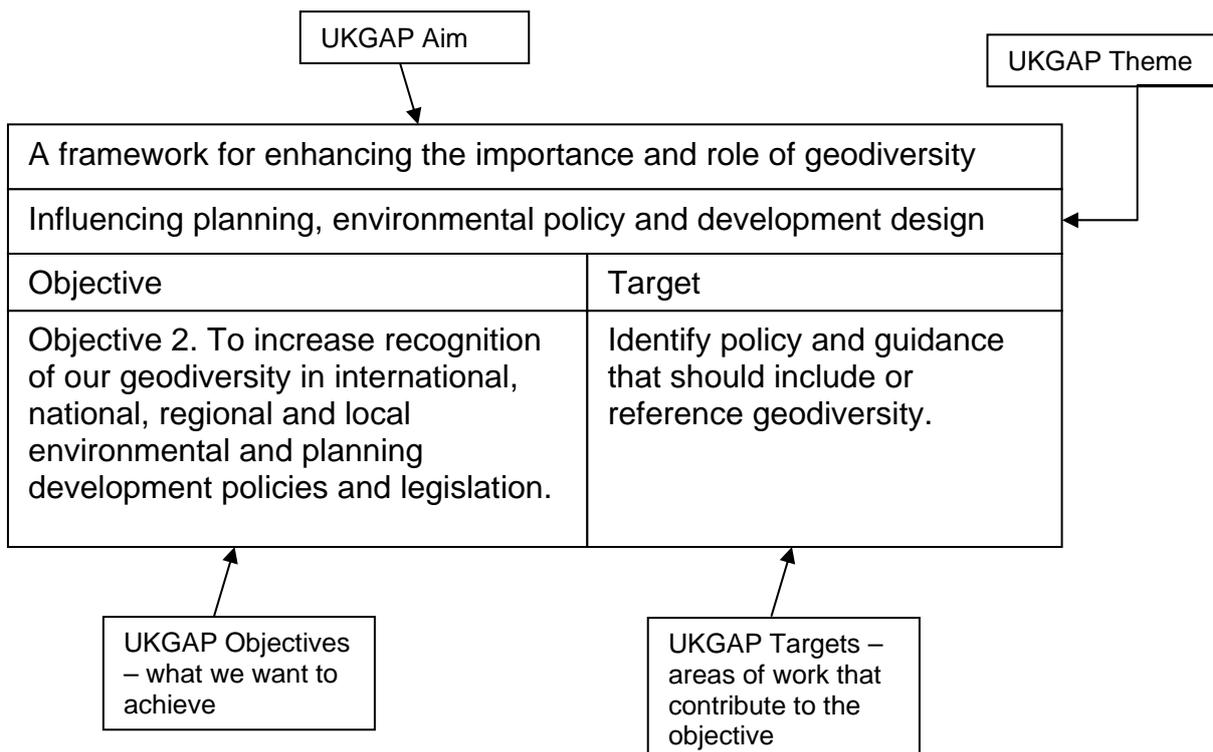
The UKGAP provides a shared context and direction for geodiversity action through a common aim, themes, objectives and targets which link national, regional and local activities. The UKGAP is a mechanism for encouraging partnership, influencing decision and policy makers, funders and promoting good practice. The UKGAP establishes a shared understanding of what is happening and what needs to happen to promote and conserve geodiversity, a process for measuring and reporting on progress and, importantly, celebrating success.

How to read the UKGAP

The UKGAP objectives and targets have been allocated to one of six broad themes. The plan is presented in two ways. Firstly, as an interactive website www.ukgap.org.uk that can be interrogated by UKGAP theme or objective to show the activity taking place across the UK. The website also gives background information on geodiversity and the history and context of the UKGAP.

Secondly, the UKGAP is presented as this summary document through a series of tables with objectives and targets listed under each of the themes. This document does not show all the activities that are taking place or list any of the partners that are delivering against objectives and targets but suggests areas where activities could contribute to the UKGAP.

Organisations, groups and individuals are expected to share their actions (the activities they are doing or are going to do) that contribute to these objectives and targets. These actions will be captured on the UKGAP website, to see who is contributing visit the 'getting involved' section of the website.



Theme 1: Furthering our understanding of geodiversity	
Objective	Target
Objective 1. To foster UK-based pure and applied geoscience research in order to better understand our geodiversity and its role in understanding and managing our natural environment.	Continue to undertake research that enhances our understanding of UK geodiversity.
	Continue to undertake research that interprets UK geodiversity to support and better understand the Ecosystem Service Approach.
	Continue to undertake research to better understand landform and surface processes to contribute to our understanding of landscape-scale management and change
	Use geodiversity evidence to help us better understand past climate and environmental changes and to forecast future change.
Indicator 1. Recognition within research	
The number of refereed research papers relating to UK geodiversity	

Theme 2: Influencing planning policy, legislation and development design	
Objective	Target
Objective 2. To increase recognition of our geodiversity in international, national, regional and local environmental and planning development policies and legislation.	Identify policy and guidance that should include or reference geodiversity.
	Work with relevant government departments, authorities and other organisations in order to secure wider geodiversity policy

	inclusion.
	Respond to relevant consultations advocating geodiversity inclusion in development and delivery of strategic documents and overarching policy.
	Integrate geodiversity within other environmental agenda, strategies and action plans, including the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and European Landscape Convention.
Objective 3. To demonstrate the relevance and benefit of including geodiversity across our work in relation to the natural and built environment and the role that geodiversity plays in sustainable development.	Demonstrate how to use geodiversity information to better understand, plan for and mitigate the effects of climate change, coastal erosion and flooding
	Identify where using geodiversity information is important to Ecosystem Services including soil formation, flood management, pollution control, mineral resources and the enjoyment of our environment.
	Identify where geodiversity information can support the delivery of wider environmental and landscape initiatives (including landscape characterisation and delivery of the European Landscape Convention).
	Demonstrate the sustainable socio-economic benefits that geodiversity brings for people and the cultural services it provides across a range of sectors and social agenda (for example, contributing to sense of place and a healthy lifestyle).
Objective 4. To advocate and support development design and restoration that incorporates and enhances our geodiversity.	Advocate good practice for geodiversity conservation across a range of sectors including transport, housing, mineral extraction and waste.
	Advocate policies and environmental assessment methods that accommodate and plan for geodiversity enhancement and

	mitigation.
<p>Indicator 2. Local policy recognition The number of statutory Development Plans in which geodiversity issues (and issues relevant to similar disciplines) are formally recognised.</p> <p>Indicator 3. Organisational policy recognition The number of organisations with a specific geodiversity policy or where geodiversity is recognised within other corporate plans or action plans.</p> <p>Indicator 4. Geodiversity gain at development sites and restored mineral sites The total number of sites where geodiversity has been recognised within the design.</p> <p>Indicator 5. National policy recognition The number of national-level policy statements (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales) plans and strategies, in which geodiversity issues (and issues relevant to similar disciplines) are formally recognised.</p> <p>Indicator 6. Regional policy recognition The number of regional-scale policy documents, plans and strategies, in which geodiversity issues (and issues relevant to similar disciplines) are formally recognised.</p>	

Theme 3: Gathering and maintaining information on our geodiversity	
Objective	Target
Objective 5. To audit and document our geodiversity including sites, archives and collections.	Continue to map the distribution of UK geodiversity and use a range of tools to present and interpret the mapped information.
	Maintain and update information on nationally important

	geodiversity site networks.
	Maintain and update information on locally important geodiversity site networks.
	Identify and document new localities important to our understanding and interpretation of geodiversity.
	Audit and maintain records of geodiversity in public collections (including collections of specimens, published material, photographs and other geodiversity ephemera).
	Identify and better understand geodiversity in relation to other interest areas such as wildlife sites, the built and historic environment, landscape and the marine environment.
<p>Indicator 7. Geodiversity Mapping The total number of published geological maps at 1:50 000 scale which have been revised (either completely or partially re-surveyed; refitted 1" to 1:50 000 topographic base map; or, where elements have been modelled into a 3-dimensional format).</p> <p>Indicator 8. Geodiversity collections The total number of geodiversity collections available to view by Geoscientists and the public.</p>	

Theme 4: Conserving and managing our geodiversity	
Objective	Target
Objective 6. To conserve and manage our geodiversity through appropriate recognition at international, national and	Recommend areas of international geodiversity importance including Global Geoparks and World Heritage Sites.

local levels.	Designate areas of national geodiversity importance including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (or their equivalent), Marine Conservation Zones and National Nature Reserves.
	Designate areas of local geodiversity importance as Local Geological Sites (or their equivalent) and Local Nature Reserves.
Objective 7. To maintain and enhance our geodiversity through the management of sites, areas and wider landscapes.	Establish sustainable management within internationally / nationally designated geodiversity sites and areas that maintains and enhances the features of interest.
	Establish sustainable management within locally designated geodiversity sites and areas that maintains and enhances the features of interest.
	Encourage integrated management of geodiversity within sites and areas designated for other interests, including biological SSSIs, Local Wildlife Sites, protected landscapes and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
	Establish clear objectives for geodiversity at a landscape-scale, including National Character Areas (and their equivalents).
	Maintain the conservation and storage of public geodiversity collections.
	Encourage conservation and restoration of landform and surface processes.
	Manage and conserve geodiversity in response to climate change.
	Increase access, through management, so more people can experience and understand our geodiversity.
Objective 8. To share experience of conserving our geodiversity through the provision of good practice guidance.	Establish and support partnerships and networks that share good practice at national, regional and local levels.

	Work with international and global networks to share our experience of geodiversity conservation.
	Provide good practice guidance on the development of geodiversity policies for inclusion in policy documents.
	Share good practice and experience for the establishment and delivery of Local Geodiversity Action Plans and organisational / company Geodiversity Action Plans.
	Share good geodiversity conservation practice through publication of guidance, case studies and articles / papers in a range of journals, magazines and newsletters and through the internet.
<p>Indicator 9. Designation and protection of Local Geological Sites The total number of Local Geological Sites (or their equivalent) formally designated and therefore recognised by local planning authorities as a material consideration in planning decisions.</p> <p>Indicator 10. Condition of geological and geomorphological SSSIs/ASSIs The total number of SSSIs/ASSIs designated for their geological or geomorphological features and/or active processes, where the majority (or all) of the site is in 'favourable' condition (Scotland and Wales) or 'favourable'/'favourable recovering' condition (England and Northern Ireland).</p> <p>Indicator 11. Positive management at Local Geological Sites The total number of Local Geological Sites (or their equivalent) in the local authority in positive management.</p>	

Theme 5: Inspiring people to value and care for our geodiversity	
Objective	Target

Objective 9. To interpret our geodiversity for a range of audiences and communities, making geodiversity relevant to where we live and the places we visit.	Develop consistent and simple messages that support the wider recognition of geodiversity and develop initiatives that promote geodiversity.
	Connect and involve communities in their surrounding geodiversity (including museum collections) in simple, accessible and innovative ways.
	Use geodiversity to support sustainable tourism.
	Increase geodiversity media coverage.
Objective 10. To use the arts to explore and make links between geodiversity and our cultures, involving people in geodiversity in new and innovative ways.	Encourage arts-based organisations and groups to use geodiversity as an inspiration and connection to the world around us, our cultural history and lives.
	Support and advocate arts-based projects that widen our understanding of, and engagement with geodiversity.
Objective 11. To develop and provide educational resources that interpret, utilise and widen understanding of our geodiversity as part of formal and informal learning.	Maintain and develop the role of geodiversity across all relevant subjects.
<p>Indicator 12. Visits to sites of geodiversity interest The total number of people visiting a selection of geodiversity places within each of the four countries.</p> <p>Indicator 13. Recognition within formal education The total number of students sitting Geology GCSE (England, Northern Ireland, Wales) or Geology SG (Scotland) examinations.</p>	

Theme 6: Sustaining resources for our geodiversity	
Objective	Target
Objective 12. To increase the number of people involved in conserving and advocating the value of our geodiversity.	Encourage increased participation in geodiversity-related degrees.
	Increase the number of people undertaking volunteer work for geodiversity.
Objective 13. To increase the financial resource that supports action for geodiversity.	Develop and share guidance and experience on funding sources for geodiversity and the process of application.
	Increase available funding for geodiversity from grant givers, sponsors, statutory agencies, local authorities and other organisations and industries.
	Secure resources to maintain and create further education opportunities in geodiversity.
	Secure resources for the maintenance and acquisition of public geodiversity collections.
Objective 14. To support initiatives that encourage working together for our geodiversity	Support existing local geoconservation groups and facilitate their establishment in new areas.
	Encourage wider establishment and implementation of Local Geodiversity Action Plans.
	Encourage a range of industries and national organisations to develop company / organisational Geodiversity Action Plans.

	Establish a reporting process for the UK Geodiversity Action Plan and undertake a periodic review of progress.
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Indicator 14. Voluntary involvement

The total number of people actively involved in geodiversity initiatives within LGAP partnerships and voluntary geoconservation groups.

Indicator 15. Funding used for geodiversity action planning

Total funds devoted to geodiversity action plan delivery from a selection of national funding organisations.

Indicator 16. Active GAPs in operation

The number of GAPs that completed an annual progress report, identifying the actions completed or progressed and which targets and/or objectives were met.

Indicator 17. Awareness of UKGAP

The number of visitors to the UKGAP website.