

## **South Downs National Park Access & Rights of Way Annual Review 2014/15**

### **I. Introduction**

- I.1 There is an extensive Rights of Way (RoW) network within the SDNP extending to some 3,300km, which is complemented by other forms of access including permissive paths, nature reserves, country parks, and crucially for the SDNPA, by 314 areas of Open Access Land. The local highway authorities (LHAs) are responsible for the RoW, whilst the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is responsible for Open Access Land, other organisations/councils/individuals are responsible for the other types of access
- I.2 The RoW network and Open Access Land provide the main ways that access contributes to the fulfilment of the second National Park statutory purpose “*promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of National Parks by the public*”. The management of both the RoW and Open Access Land should be done in accordance with the first statutory purpose “*conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of National Parks*”.
- I.3 The RoW and Access Accord, between the four LHAs and the SDNPA, was signed in the summer of 2012. The range of access improvement projects carried out under the Accord are outlined in this Review.
- I.4 The SDNPA’s responsibilities are as Access Authority<sup>1</sup> and Relevant Authority<sup>2</sup> under the Countryside and RoW Act 2000. The Act also requires the SDNPA to establish a Local Access Forum (LAF). The South Downs LAF is made up of user and land-owning / managing representatives as well as other related interests. A LAF Annual Report is also produced (see Annex I).
- I.5 This SDNP Annual Access Review summarises the improvement works carried out on the Access and RoW network by all the partners. This is predominantly work undertaken by the SDNPA and the four LHAs, but includes other partners such as the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service (VRS). The report is presented in four parts:
- Access Land
  - Rights of Way
  - South Downs Way (SDW)
  - Added Value and Related Access Work

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<sup>1</sup> Access Authorities have powers to enter into agreements with landowners to make available Access Land by provision of access points.

<sup>2</sup> Relevant Authorities must be informed if a landowner wants to implement a restriction of rights of access on the land for a short period of time; they are responsible for deciding if a landowner can have longer term restrictions on their land for land management purposes; they can also place longer term restrictions on land if they deem it necessary for other reasons such as nature conservation or heritage preservation or public safety.

## 2. Access Land

- 2.1 Work carried out by the SDNPA as Access Authority over the year is detailed in Annex 2. Some headlines are as follows:
- 2.2 Accessibility and connectivity – Building on work done in 2013/14 which looked to improve accessibility on access land and provide better links to the access land work has continued to improve accessibility including the provision of new access furniture (preferably gates to replace stiles) and scrub clearance to open up access points and sight lines. Clearance of scrub on Access Land generally has the dual benefit of improving the condition of grassland and heathland, as well as improving access and views (meeting the National Park twin purposes). Additionally in 2014/15 there have been opportunities to improve existing accessible trails at two access land sites. Improving connectivity improves the value of the Access Land by helping join access sites to the wider RoW network and other available accessible land.
- 2.3 Expenditure in 2014/15 totalling £73,392 was spent achieving these aims (see Annex 2 for details). This however does not capture the significant contribution by the VRS and other partners working on these sites and many others (see 2.6 below).
- 2.4 The third and final year of the DEFRA-funded Nature Improvement Area (NIA) “South Downs Way Ahead” initiative has enabled continued work to improve chalk grassland areas. The majority of this land will be mapped as Access Land, but excludes heathland sites and Access Land not in the NIA area.
- 2.5 Examples of access improvement work include:
- In beginning to develop a Miles Without Stiles initiative £6,500 was spent repairing and improving an accessible trail at Mill Hill near Shoreham-by-Sea. Also a small contribution of £350 was given to bring back up to standard an accessible path at the Natural England managed Old Winchester Hill above the Meon Valley
  - 6 Gates to replace stiles at Ashford Hangers
  - 2 kissing gates for stiles Butser Hill
  - 6 gates on land to be dedicated by Worthing Borough Council near Cissbury Ring
  - 2 new gates and significant scrub clearance on Levin Down
  - Significant scrub clearance to improve accessibility (and restore chalk downland) on Access Land across the National Park is listed in Annex 2.
- 2.6 Volunteers – the Volunteer Ranger Service (VRS) undertook 365 tasks throughout the year, with a total of 2026 volunteer days, on 74 separate Access Land sites. About two thirds of these tasks involved the management of open downland and heathland sites to improve accessibility and habitat by removing the invasive woody species, cutting hawthorn and gorse on chalk grassland and birch and pine on the heaths. Other work included fencing tasks, path clearance and access furniture installation on rights of way including the South Downs Way and other countryside sites managed by partners. Water point installation and boardwalk construction are examples of some special projects carried out by the VRS during the year.

2.7 Under a Memorandum of Agreement Natural England provides services to support Relevant Authorities in exercising their duties. SDNPA paid £2000 in 2014/15 for these services which are, in the main:

- hosting a website showing restrictions on Access Land;
- providing a contact centre for the public and landowners;
- providing expert advice on restrictions to SDNPA;
- receiving applications;
- producing notices.

2.8 SDNPA made decisions on two of its three long term restrictions on Access Land. Coffin Row in Hampshire and Breaky Bottom in East Sussex (completed 28 April 2015) both had restrictions continued for public safety reasons, although Breaky Bottom had more access land made available by negotiations with the landowner and we will be working with the landowner, Lewes DC and partners to ensure maximum accessibility.

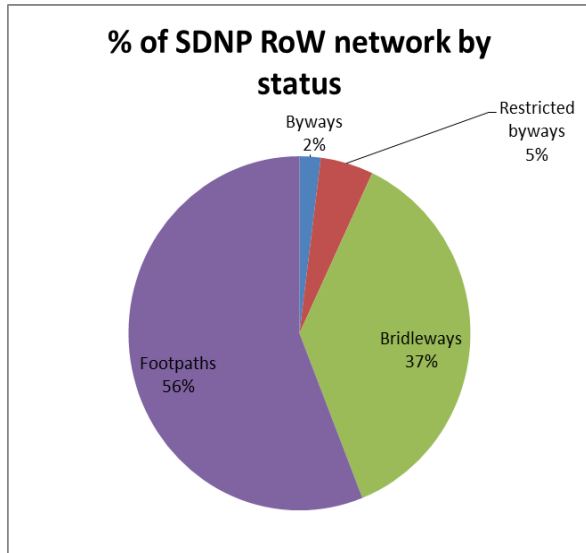
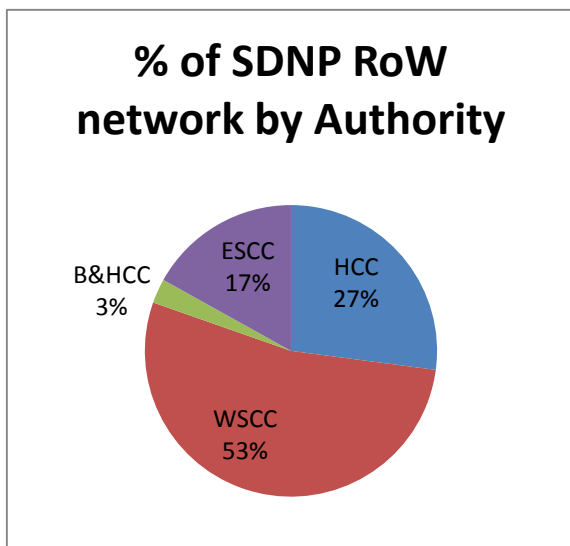
2.9 Reflections on Open Access Land -

The NIA project has enabled more Access Land to be opened up than would have been possible with existing resources and as the NIA project comes to an end we will be relying heavily on the VRS and SDNPA resources to continue this work whilst other funding streams are pursued. The table below show SDNPA funding towards improving accessibility and connectivity over the last four years.

Year	SDNPA spend (does not include match funding)	Hectares improved (NIA only)
2011-12	£36,000	n/a
2012-13	£38,000	n/a
2013-14	£111,000 (including NIA)	769 ha
2014-15	£73,000 (including NIA)	962 ha

### 3. Rights of Way (See Annex 3)

3.1 There are 3,322 km of RoW in the National Park managed by the four local highway authorities: West Sussex County Council (WSSCC), Hampshire County Council (HCC), East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC).



- 3.2 The South Downs RoW Report 2014-15 (Annex 3) gives the reports from each of the LHAs. In addition to this day to day rights of way work all the local highway authorities have contributed to joint projects with the SDNPA [see section 5 below]
- 3.3 All the 4 LHAs have seen changes to their overall budgets and they have worked hard to ensure that the overall condition of the RoW networks they manage hasn't suffered. Inevitably there will be some areas that have seen improvements and some losses. All the authorities are developing new electronic management systems which are already improving what they can report on and we are working to make this as consistent as possible. This is the third year that the LHAs have supplied information (see Annex 3), and whilst not in the same format across the LHAs, or from year to year, it may over time allow some comparisons within a LHA to give a flavour for what is happening on the RoW. For example it is not possible to tell whether an increased resolution of obstructions is due to better reporting or whether there are genuinely more obstructions. Nevertheless over time it may be possible to discern trends.
- 3.4 In 2014, the SDNPA commissioned the South Downs Society volunteer surveyors to survey a small sample of the RoW network to assess paths against the "Easy to Use" criteria. The data is now being analysed by the SDNPA's new electronic Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). At the time of writing there is still data to be inputted but the results, based on a random sample of just under 2% of the 3,300 km network (approximately 52.5 km) show that, by length, 97% of the paths passed the ease of use test. This figure is a Key Performance Indicator for National Parks, based on agreed methodology, that SDNPA will now be able report on annually.

#### **4. South Downs Way (see Annex 4)**

- 4.1. The management of the South Downs Way National Trail (SDW) is overseen by the SDW Trail Partnership of which SDNPA is the lead member, employing authority for SDW staff and budget holder. The Partnership has representatives from HCC, WSCC, ESCC and Natural England. The Partnership also has a formal link with the SDLAF which has an open invitation to have a representative on the Partnership.
- 4.2. The total SDW budget for 2014-15 was £168,937.28, made up of contributions from all of the Trail's partnership members, with Natural England as "Government sponsor" providing some 51% of the budget. Of this total, £96,387 was spent on physical maintenance and improvements on the ground. The remaining budget covers staffing and related costs.
- 4.3. The SDNPA takes the lead on managing the SDW. The management responsibility of each partner is set out in the SDW Maintenance Practice Note – July 2011. The management is then guided by the SDW Management Plan 2009 – 2014. This year has seen the review of the SDW Management Plan and the production of the SDW Management Plan 2015 – 2020. This will guide the management of the Trail for the next 5 years.
- 4.4. 2014-15 has seen an increase in users counted by our people counter network and a decrease in unresolved maintenance issues. 99% of users rated the SDW as Good or Very Good and 97% of people would recommend the trail to friends and family. Volunteers and technology are helping us to maintain the trail more efficiently and income from events using the trail is allowing us to do more. This year we have also reprinted the very popular SDW Mountain Bike Guide, we've seen new guides and map products come onto the market and got parts of the Trail published on Google Street View. key achievement of the year has also been the review and rewriting of the South Downs Way 5 year Management Plan which looks ahead to 2020. This was widely consulted on by LAF's, South Downs Partnership and user groups
- 4.5. The SDW End of Year Summary 2014-15 (Annex 4) summarises the achievements, management work and user activity of the Trail. A full National Trail Quality Standards monitoring report is submitted to Natural England annually and is available on request from the South Downs Way Officer. Full reports on SDW user feedback and analysis of the people counter network are also available.

#### **5. Added Value and Related Access Work**

- 5.1. The RoW and Access Accord signed in 2012 provides the agreement for SDNPA to work in partnership with the LHAs on RoW and Access projects that are over and above the statutory responsibilities of the LHAs to maintain RoW. This includes:
  - a. encouraging a greater diversity of people to enjoy the National Park;
  - b. providing disabled or less able people the opportunity to better access and enjoy the National Park;
  - c. removing barriers to allow easier access for all users to and within the National Park;
  - d. meeting the aims of LHAs' RoW Improvement and Countryside Access Plans;

- e. creating new or enhanced access that meets the identified needs of the public;
- f. providing information to the public, including enhanced signage, interpretation or promotional material;
- g. supporting and enhancing the rural economy of the South Downs;
- h. engaging with stakeholders in the community through dialogue and enabling volunteer involvement.

The SDNPA has been involved in a whole series of projects which support the Accord including work funded by the Department for Transport's (DfT) Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and Cycle Ambition (formerly Linking Communities) initiatives. Using LSTF and Cycle Ambition funds work commenced on the Meon Valley Trail, improving the surface of this multi-user route and carrying out much needed habitat management. This is a joint scheme with Hampshire County Council.

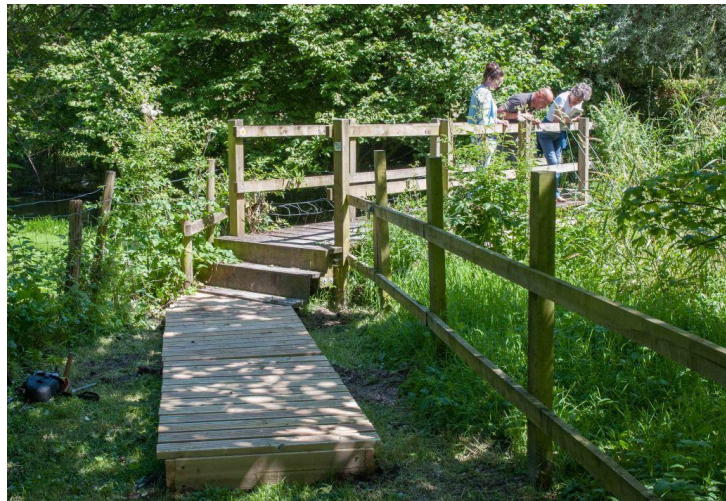
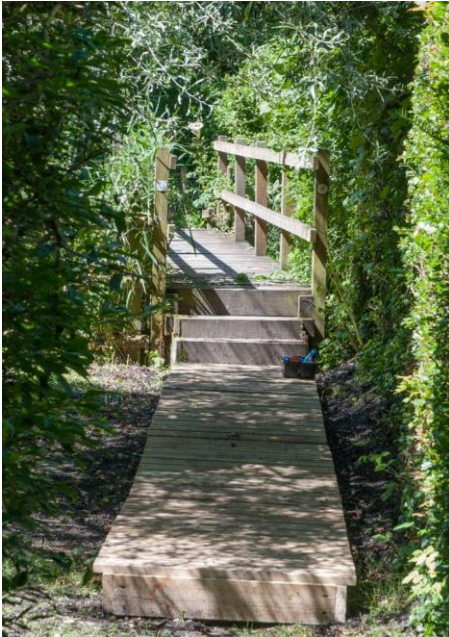
- i. With support from LSTF, signage along the Serpent Trail has been improved and a new guide produced.
- ii. £1000 was spent replacing 2 stiles with kissing gates around Milland village to improve access
- iii. The new Downs Link crossing on the A283 at Bramber has been constructed by WSCC and funded through Cycle Ambition. This scheme complements the Easy Access trail created at Bramber by the local community and part funded by the SDNPA's People and Places budget.
- iv. A new shared use path was built alongside Ditchling Road in Brighton This work was funded through the Cycle Ambition programme and led by BHCC.
- v. A new path was created through wooded verge on the highway on the B2116 below Blackcap. This enables walkers to avoid a dangerous 800 metre stretch of road between two public rights of way.
- vi. A joint project with VRS and Friends of Corhampton Church built a boardwalk and cleared trees providing an all year round accessible footpath to Meonstoke Church costing £3500
- vii. An extension to a boardwalk near the River Rother was carried out to cross a boggy stretch of path. Materials to provide 150 metres of boardwalk cost £3000 and were installed by SDNPA staff and VRS plus Sussex Wildlife Trust and National Trust volunteers.
- viii. A Countryside Access Management System was fully installed and is now being used to manage the South Downs Way and to carry out a survey of rights of way by the South Downs Society.
- ix. Secured through section 106 agreements new Access Land and a bridleway are to be dedicated by West Hove Golf Club.

## **6. Looking Ahead**

The SDNPA will continue to work with its LHA partners to bring improvements to access in the South Downs. Future work includes:

- Joint work to improve signage on the South Downs Way link routes and improvements to key road crossings on the South Downs Way. This work is part of WSCC's Beautiful Outdoors initiative and with support from the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership.

- Continuing Miles without Stiles work to improve access and information for less able visitors to the countryside.
- Completion of Cycle Ambition funded routes including the Egret's Way and Centurion Way schemes.
- As schemes funded by grant money such as NIA and LSTF come to an end new sources of funding to bring about improvements to access will be sought.



New boardwalk on public footpath by Meonstoke Church. A joint South Downs National Park Authority, Volunteer Ranger Service, Hampshire County Council project.



New path alongside B2116 near Lewes

New boardwalk on the Rother Walk

**SDNPA ACCESS LAND REPORT. 2014-15.**

**This table records all work carried out by SDNPA on Access Land which improved accessibility or connectivity.**

**1. Improved accessibility**

Work to improve accessibility will include the following:

- Gates to replace stiles
- More and better access points. Entry and exit points on routes through site linking to access network, viewpoints etc.
- Enhanced information provision on site and on website
- Scrub clearance

**And connectivity**

- “Making sense of Access Land”. The fragmented nature of access land in the South Downs National Park limits the benefit to the public in exercising of their rights. Improving connectivity will help access land make more sense by providing links through sites and onwards to RoW and other available access, both CRoW land and other public access areas.

No	Site name	NPA £	Area of Improvement	Match-funding / in-kind contributions etc	Action
<b>Eastern Downs:</b>					
1.	Westmeston	£1500	Dense Scrub clearance	HLS/ NIA and Volunteers	Restored area of chalk grassland linking to other sites along the Ditchling escarpment
2.	Mill hill	£2680	Dense Scrub clearance	Adur DC and volunteers	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
3.	France Bottom	£3400	Dense Scrub clearance	HLS, Kew and volunteers	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
4.	Seaford Head	£2000	Dense Scrub clearance	Sussex Wildlife Trust, Seaford Town council and volunteers	Scrub clearance for access and bee project
5.	Kingston ridge	£1710	Dense Scrub clearance	HLS and volunteers	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
6.	Brighton (19 acres)	£2700	Dense Scrub clearance	BHCC and volunteers	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
<b>Central Downs:</b>					
7.	Barns Farm	£3000	Clearance of scrub	Landowner time clearing with machine	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land



8.	Steep Down	£2000	Clearance of scrub	Landowner time clearing with machine	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
9.	Long Furlong	£3520	Clearance of scrub	Landowner time clearing with machine	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
10.	Farm Hill	£360	Clearance of scrub		Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
11.	Graffham Down	£2100	Clearance of scrub	Volunteer time (SDNPA and Graffham Down Volunteers)	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
12.	Levin Down	£1625	Installation of access furniture		New access gates to improve access
13.	Levin Down	£6000	Clearance of scrub		Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
14.	Medley Bottom	£1900	Clearance of scrub	Landowner time clearing with machine and VRS tasks	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
15.	Springhead	£3790	Clearance of Scrub		Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
<b>Western Downs:</b>					
16.	Butser Hill	£1920	Installation of access furniture	HCC and volunteers	Replaced three stiles with kissing gates at Butser Hill NNR
17.	Chalton Down	£2200	Scrub management	Landowner time clearing with machine and SDVRS tasks	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land
18.	Meonstoke	£3500	Installation of access furniture and clearance of scrub and trees	Area team, SDVRS and friends of Corhampton Church	Creation of seasonal board walk to enable access of important footpath between Corhampton and Meonstoke church. Designed and built by SDVRS. Removal of non native trees enabling clearer sight lines and access to land.
19.	Hangers way, Hawkley	£3462	Installation of access furniture	Area team, landowner and contractor	Replacement of stiles to kissing gates (6) and stile removal (1)
20.	Old Winchester Hill	£1170	Path surface improvements	Natural England	Improvements to surface of South Downs Way which allows for wider public provision of users to the open access site of Old Winchester Hill
21.	Langrish Parish	£2,000	Footpath improvements	HCC, Langrish Parish Council and SDVRS	Installation of steps on popular footpath from the village, identified by parish council for improvement

22.	Stephen Castle Down	£1,500	Scrub management	HLS, area team and SDVRS	Scrub management to maintain open access
23.	Hockham Down	£1,200	Scrub management	HLS, area team and SDVRS	Scrub management to maintain open access
24.	Binswood	£3,000	Wood pasture and scrub management	Woodland Trust, HLS, area team and SDVRS	Management of trees and scrub to maintain open access site
25.	Woolmer Forest	£600	Scrub management	MOD, ARC, area team and SDVRS	Management of trees and scrub to maintain open access site
26.	Deacon Hill	£600	Scrub management	NIA, landowner, Butterfly Conservation, area team and SDVRS	Management of scrub to maintain open access site
<b>Wealden Heaths:</b>					
27.	Lavington Common	£1325	Scrub clearance to restore chalk grassland and open up access land	NT and volunteers	Improved path access to go around and save wet heath area which is good for dragonflies.
28.	Graffham Common	£1050	Access improvement	SWT and volunteers	New gates were installed on site which has recently been fenced for conservation grazing.
29.	Iping Common	£1000	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.
30.	Stedham Common	£1000	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.
31.	Weaver's Down	£150	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.
32.	Chapel Common	£3000	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.
33.	Hesworth Common	£1000	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.
34.	Midhurst Common	£3000	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.
35.	Lynchmere Common	£1000	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.
36.	Welche's Common	£1000	Dense scrub clearance	HLS/ volunteer task input	Scrub and bracken management within Access land.

37.	Lynchmere Common	£430	Access improvement	Lynchmere Society input	Supplied stone that Lynchmere Society used to repair storm tree damage to path
	TOTAL	£73,392			

## South Downs Rights of Way Report 2014-15

## 1. Issues/reports Resolved:

Total number of issues recorded 2014/15					
		HCC	WSCC	ESCC	B&HCC
	TYPE	Number resolved only	Reported/resolved by 31.03.15	Number resolved only	Number resolved only
1.	Nuisance e.g. signs, animals, intimidation	28	17/5	Not available	6
2.	Obstruction – cropped or ploughed line of path not reinstated through crop or after ploughing	30	15/6	Not available	1
3.	Obstruction – fallen or unstable tree	131	211/71	21	0
4.	Obstruction - fencing/other e.g. locked gate, fence, other physical obstruction	47	41/19	Not available	1
5.	Other (Enquiry/improvement request)	29	5/1	Not available	Not available
6.	Signage – missing or broken sign posts	159	733/600	35	25
7.	Structure – Bridge (LHA responsibility)	12	109/75	3	N/A
8.	Structure - gates and stiles (landowner responsibility)	46	184/60	24	6
9.	Surface -condition/drainage/other	52	151/26	13	1
10.	Vegetation – surface (LHA responsibility)	103	907/888	22km	79.3 km (BHCC is landowner for almost whole area)
11.	Vegetation – side and overhanging (landowner responsibility)	Not available	77/32	Not available	
	<b>Reports resolved in South Downs area</b>	637	1783	96	40
	<b>Total</b>		2450		

WSCC have adopted a new electronic RoW management system – CAMS. As a result WSCC can now report on the numbers of issues it now deals with. The process of adopting this new system has been gradual and some components are yet to be fully incorporated. Reporting will become more accurate in subsequent years. Some reported issues (stiles / trees in particular) may have been resolved but WSCC will not know about it until the next inspection in the 15 month cycle.

WSCC cleared a total of 229km of surface vegetation.

ESCC cleared a total of 22km of surface vegetation.

BHCC cleared a total of 79.3km of vegetation both surface and side.

## 2. WSCC bridge and surfacing works:

Bridge works 2014/15			
PARISH(or B&H)	PATH or location	COST (if applicable)	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Elsted	FP872	£10,801	Replacement 7m timber footbridge
Graffham	FP984/1 & FP986	£2,780	Replacement of 2 no 6m timber footbridges
Heyshott	BW3545	£14,825	Replacement 7m timber bridlebridge
Rogate	FP1148	£4,385	Costs to lift bridge from site
Trotton with Chithurst	BW1137/1	£6,704	Replacement of timber deck and parapets
Trotton with Chithurst	FP1138	£20,819	Replacement of timber deck, abutment repairs and repainting
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>£60,314</b>	<b>Spent and committed</b>

<b>Surfacing works 2014/15</b>			
<b>PARISH(or B&amp;H)</b>	<b>PATH or location</b>	<b>COST (if applicable)</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION OF WORKS</b>
Funtington	BW468 & BW470	£2,750	Re-grading 300 metres of bridleways and installation of grips
Kirdford	RB640	£1,698	30 metres of surfacing
Lurgashall	BW2017	£14,663	250 metres of surfacing with clearance, ditch clearance and installation of 2 no culverts
Milland	RB3304	£1,650	200 metres of re-grading with clearance of ditches
Petworth	BW649	£4,895	25 metres of surfacing with re-grading, ditch clearance and installation of a culvert
Pyecombe	BW7Py	£9,687	400m of surfacing
Trotton with Chithurst	RB3340	£4,384	170 metres of surfacing
Warningcamp	BW2189/1	£16,952	270 metres of surfacing with associated clearance, ditching and re-grading
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>£56,679</b>	<b>Spent and committed</b>

### 3. Highlights and other projects

**WSCC:**

- WSCC service continued its successful 'gates for stiles' programme in 2014/15, replacing 112 stiles with gates
- Volunteer Rangers – Between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 there were 33.5 days of practical activities supported by volunteers donating 1485 hours of their time. Projects included vegetation clearance, ditching, surfacing, step repairs, revetments and installation of bridges
- The change to a 15 month inspection and maintenance cycle was initiated in February 2015. Although early days, it has generally been a smooth transition for inspectors, contractors and RoW team
- During 2014/15 problem reports continued to be received and considered by PROW service. However, it has become necessary to prioritise reports – issues of Health and Safety to PROW users continue to be given early attention whereas minor maintenance issues, such as damaged signage, is now left until the cyclical parish visit for remedial attention
- CAMS (Countryside Access Management System) has been rolled out across the team following training. It will take a considerable time to be fully populated with data from across the WSCC PROW network but is already being used for works orders, logging problem reports and asset recording

**ESCC:**

- The White Bridge at Alfriston on the South Downs Way was subject to a major refurbishment. ESCC carried out all the work with its in house maintenance team plus a spend on materials of £30,000 of a total of £40,000 (SDW £10,000).
- ESCC provided expert legal advice and preparation of documents to bring forward the Egret's Way project.

**BHCC:**

- Brighton & Hove City Council are currently updating their Definitive Map – adding the urban footpaths (Twittens) that were not included in the original 1995 version. The digitised mapping is complete, and the legal event order process is in hand.
- BHCC are embarking on an asset & condition survey of its rights of way network, which will be digitally mapped and used to help prioritise future maintenance plans.
- BHCC is also in the process of officially dedicating the Open Access areas around Stanmer and Patcham Court Farm. The latter was created this year and covers 282 hectares with 28 gates installed for access.

**HCC:**

- Hampshire County Council carry out an Ease of Use Survey on their rights of way. The figure for the whole county for 2014 is 76%.
- HCC repaired or replaced a total of 12 bridges and resolved 52 surfacing issues of all types.

**ESCC Condition of Assets**

	<b>South Downs National Park Area</b>			

	Good	Attention or Replace (includes missing roadside signposts)	Total	Percentage in Good condition
Bridges	177	22	199	89%
Gates	773	182	955	81%
Steps	133	50	183	73%
Stiles	378	136	514	74%
Waymarkers (Signposts and existing Waymark posts)	1140	326	1466	78%
<i>Information based on rolling survey data as at 10/05/2015</i>				

## South Downs Way end of year summary 2014-15

### The facts & figures

#### Condition assessment

	2013/14	2014/15	% change
Number of Stiles out of condition	3	0	▼30
Number of Gates out of condition	76	29	▼28
Number of Bridges out of condition	1	0	▼5
Number of Fingerposts out of condition	84	67	▼6
Number of Waymark posts out of condition	64	33	▼20
Approx. Length of surface requiring repair	3300m	2850m	▼0.04
Number of unresolved high priority issues	24	4	▼

#### Issues resolved

242 issues were resolved along the SDW in 2014/15 consisting of:

- Alfriston “White bridge” restored (£30K ESCC / £10K SDW joint project)
- 25 Missing finger posts installed
- 16 Waymark posts replaced with new finger posts
- 2 Waymark posts replaced
- 43 Fingerposts replaced
- 20 Fingerposts repaired
- 3 Signage clutter removed
- Gates removed
- 18 Bridleway gates replaced
- 10 Bridleway gates repaired
- Kiss gates repaired
- 4 Kiss gates replaced
- Step stiles repaired
- Step stiles replaced
- Step stile removed
- 29 Vegetation issues
- 14 Terrain issues
- 51 Other (mapping anomalies, temporary issues, obstructions, issues not requiring action etc.)

#### Volunteer effort

77 Days of SDW volunteer warden surveying carried out  
400 Days of practical volunteer work along the SDW.

#### User feedback & engagement

491 completed feedback questionnaires.  
99% rate the trail as “Good” or Very Good”  
97% would recommend the SDW to friends & family  
2302 twitter followers

#### People Counters

10 counters logged 354,418 people on the trail, up 8% on last year.

#### Budget

Total expenditure (excluding staff costs) £96,387 made up of : -  
£39,408 from Natural England  
£43,000 from LHA’s  
£13,000 from SDNPA  
£979 from SDVRS