

## Landscape and Biodiversity Strategic Review Summary 2018

### 1. Underlying evidence and drivers for change

The strategy is underpinned by a review of key evidence and Drivers for change. The drivers include National policy such as the Natural Environment white paper, Defra 25 year plan and 8 point plan for national parks, reports from the natural capital committee and the UK 'state of nature' assessment.

Evidence includes recent work to map ecosystem services, habitat connectivity and natural capital accounting, the Landscape character assessment and also more local studies such as tranquillity mapping, chalk streams and grassland condition surveys and dark night skies.

### 2. Key issues

*The most important issues to be addressed in the next 5 years*

- *Habitat fragmentation, degradation and decline in the distribution and occurrence of key species*
- *Poor water quality*
- *Declining soil health*
- *Incremental landscape change and development pressures*
- *The impacts upon land-use, landscapes, habitats and species from climate change.*
- *Threats from Invasive species, pests and diseases*

### 3. Strategic outcomes

This strategy links to outcomes 1-3 of the Partnership Management Plan. Our core principles are to take an integrated approach to land management issues, to enhance and add value to the stock of natural capital and to protect and restore vital ecosystem services. Our strategic outcomes focus on seven priority ecosystem services, pollination, water quality, soil quality, carbon stocks, air quality, biodiversity and cultural services. Under each of these areas we have developed a series of strategic outcomes and priority programmes for the next five years.

### 4. Partnerships and delivery mechanisms

We are keen to collaborate with a wide range of organisations and individual sector specialists, both locally and more widely on priority work. This will include utility companies, land managers, businesses, NGO's and statutory bodies, community groups and academic institutions.

Our aim is to bring together a range of people with relevant knowledge, skills and expertise to support projects that deliver the best outcomes for the landscape and biodiversity of the South Downs.

Delivery mechanisms will include farm clusters, Whole estate plans, new environmental schemes, Green Infrastructure framework, biodiversity 'net gain' and offsetting, CIL, Payments for ecosystem services, charitable trust fundraising and grants.

