

SOUTH DOWNS  
NATIONAL PARK

# Together Now for Nature, Climate and People

Partnership Management Plan 2026-31



# Special Qualities



# OUR VISION FOR 2060

The South Downs National Park is a vibrant place with nature everywhere, for everyone, where wildlife flourishes, clean water flows and stars fill the dark night skies.

Together we care for a climate-resilient landscape with thriving communities and a dynamic green rural economy at its heart.

Shaped by stories old and new, this place inspires everyone to connect, enjoy, belong and take action.







# NATURE & CLIMATE

## AIM 1 NATURE RECOVERY

The South Downs National Park is a nature-rich, resilient working landscape where wildlife flourishes.

- **Objective 1.1:** To improve, expand, connect and increase the resilience of wildlife-rich habitats and land managed for nature to ensure we are on track to reach 60% managed for nature by 2060.
- **Objective 1.2:** To support land-based businesses to thrive as economically viable, nature-friendly, climate-positive food and drink producers.
- **Objective 1.3:** Improve and manage existing nature-rich sites – protected sites and priority habitats.

## AIM 2 CLIMATE ACTION

The South Downs National Park is on track to become net zero by 2040 by mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

- **Objective 2.1:** To support businesses and local communities to take positive climate action to ensure they are adapted and resilient to climate change.
- **Objective 2.2:** To support land managers, farmers, foresters and landowners in their aspirations to deliver nature recovery and climate action on their land.

## AIM 3 CLEAN WATER

Clean, abundant water supports nature and communities in the South Downs National Park and beyond.

- **Objective 3.1:** To support catchment-based partnership approaches to water management so that nature and communities can thrive, and flood risk is reduced.
- **Objective 3.2:** To improve the condition of the water environment to ensure enough clean water for nature and people, and water habitats are restored.



## PEOPLE & PLACE

### AIM 4 YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people will have opportunities to access training and skills to enable them to take action to care for and enhance the South Downs National Park.

- **Objective 4.1:** To provide opportunities for young people to take positive action for nature, climate and heritage.
- **Objective 4.2:** To support young people on the pathway to green careers.

### AIM 5 WELCOME & ACCESS

A valued South Downs National Park is welcoming and accessible to all.

- **Objective 5.1:** To improve the accessibility of the National Park to enable everyone to actively travel and connect with nature.
- **Objective 5.2:** To increase the darkness of the National Park's International Dark Sky Reserve to support nature recovery and improve understanding of and access to dark skies for all.

### AIM 6 ARTS & HERITAGE

Cultural heritage in the South Downs National Park is conserved, understood, valued, created and passed on for future generations.

- **Objective 6.1:** Increase conservation, awareness, access and understanding of cultural heritage in the National Park.
- **Objective 6.2:** Promote connection to the landscape and its special qualities through archaeology, traditional crafts, contemporary arts and diverse storytelling.

### AIM 7 A THRIVING, GREENER PLACE

A thriving rural economy and local communities sit at the heart of the South Downs National Park.

- **Objective 7.1:** To support the growth of a greener economy across the National Park while providing outstanding visitor experiences that benefit our communities and landscape.
- **Objective 7.2:** To support the needs of local communities through affordable, accessible and low-carbon housing.



# The future



How do the vision aims and objectives align with your existing plans and strategies – how will you link to the PMP when you develop them ?

How can we elevate what we work on together over the next 5 years to have an impact on the aims by 2031 ?

How can you encourage your communities to contribute to achieving the plan aims how can we help you to do that ?

