



South Downs National Park Photo Competition 2026-2027

Theme: “Serene South Downs: Back to Nature”

Terms and Conditions

By entering the Competition you are deemed to accept these Terms and Conditions. If you are under 18 years of age you are able to submit entries to our youth category, but you must have a parent or legal guardian’s permission to enter.

Closing date

The competition will close at midnight on Saturday, 31 October 2026.

Entries received after this deadline will not be accepted.

No responsibility is accepted for network, computer hardware or software failures of any kind which may restrict or delay the sending of your entry. No responsibility is accepted by SDNPA for entries lost, delayed, misdirected, incomplete, or which cannot be entered for technical or other reasons. Proof of entry is not proof of receipt.

Entry details / Images

All competition entries must be submitted by email to photo@southdowns.gov.uk

Entries will not be accepted by post or hand.

Entries must be JPEG files of at least 1Mb in file size (maximum file size 10Mb). A resolution of at least 2MB is preferred, where possible, in order to best judge the quality of the image.

Entries may be taken using digital or film. But you must supply us with a digital JPEG version of the photo. Entries may be in black and white or in colour. Photographs can be captured from any device, including a camera, tablet or mobile phone.

Retouching / manipulation of digital images is accepted provided that all works are original works and not copies of other people's works.

You may not enter an image that has been published elsewhere or has won a prize in any other photographic competition.

You can enter an image taken at any time in the past 10 years since 1 January, 2016.

You may enter up to **six images** in total across all categories – but please do so using separate emails and entry forms.

Your image must be taken within the official boundaries of the South Downs National Park.

Your entry details must specify where the image was taken and when, including the month and year.

Prizes and judging

Shortlisting and judging will take place by the end of 2026.

The winning images will be officially announced in January 2027 in the South Downs National Park newsletter, website and through our social media channels, together with a press release to announce the winning images.

SDNPA may change the advertised panel of judges in the event of circumstances outside of its control.

The judges' decision is final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into in respect of their decision.

The prizes for the competition will be £250 for first place, £150 for second place, £75 for third place.

There will be a separate wildlife category, with a £150 prize for the best shot and £100 for the runner-up image.

There is a £100 prize for the monochrome category and this prize has been part-funded by to fll Workshops, the home of photography workshops by Rachael Talibart. Monochrome entries should have only a single colour or hue.

The prizes are non-transferable.

The youth competition returns this year for budding young photographers – with categories 10 years and under and 11 to 17. The prize for 10 years and under will be a family ticket to Bird World, while the winner of the 11 to 17 category will win a GoApe adventure for two.

Once the winner has been notified, he/she/they will need to provide full contact details including name, age, address, email address and photographic proof of identity in order to claim the prize.

By entering the Competition you release SDNPA from and against all claims and damages arising from or in connection with your participation in the Competition. You agree to comply with these Rules of Entry.

Details relating to any prizes will be sent to the winner within 30 days of the winner being announced.

Youth competition

Entrants under the age of 18 must get a parent/guardian to give permission to enter the competition and the parent/guardian must sign the entry form. Photographs can be captured from any device, including a camera, tablet or mobile phone.

Entrants to the 10 years and under category must be aged 10 years or under on 31 October 2026.

Entrants to the under-18s category must be between the ages of 11 and 17 years on 31 October 2026.

By signing the form the parent/guardian gives permission for the entrant to take part and be identified in the competition and for the information on the form to be used for all stages of the competition, should the entrant progress. By signing the form they also give permission for the National Park's Media and Public Relations Officer to make contact with the parent or guardian to discuss public relations opportunities.

Entrants' responsibilities

You are responsible for informing SDNPA of any changes to the information entered, in particular of any change of contact details at any time before the closing date.

You will not submit any photographs that are obscene, vulgar, pornographic, hateful, threatening, racist, sexist, discriminatory, or which otherwise violate any local or international laws. No nudity is allowed. Children and babies must be wearing at least a nappy and if your image does feature children you must have their parents'/guardian(s)' legal consent for the image to be published online and in hard copy. The SDNPA will ultimately decide if something is appropriate or not and whether it is eligible to be entered into the competition.

SDNPA staff, members and their immediate family members may enter this competition but will not be eligible to win a prize.

Use of drone photography

Drone operators must have permission from the owner of the land where a drone takes off and lands.

Copyright and usage

By submitting images to the competition, you confirm and warrant that:

- you are the sole author of each entry and that it is your original work
- you own the copyright and any other intellectual property rights of each image
- you have the permission of those pictured in the image (or, where the image shows any persons under 18, the consent of their parent or guardian) for the usage rights required in the section on licensing below and will indemnify SDNPA against any claims made by any third parties in respect of such infringement
- you have not licensed or disposed of any rights in the image that would conflict with uses to be made in the licensing section below
- You agree to take part in any post-competition publicity (for the youth category only, this will be subject to consent from the parent/guardian of the minor)

By entering the competition, you grant the SDNPA a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to reproduce, enlarge, publish or exhibit, on any media, the images. This may include, but is not limited to:

- News coverage of the competition
- SDNPA/SDNPT newsletter
- SDNPA/SDNPT website
- SDNPA/SDNPT Facebook feed
- SDNPA/SDNPT Twitter feed
- SDNPA/SDNPT Instagram feed
- SDNPA/SDNPT LinkedIn feed
- SDNPA/SDNPT YouTube page
- SDNPA/SDNPT TikTok feed
- SDNPA/SDNPT BlueSky feed
- Exhibitions
- Publications – such as leaflets, reports and calendars
- for use in press releases and press publicity to be distributed to national, regional and specialist media promoting the South Downs National Park and/or promoting the competition.
- For commercial use specifically for the South Downs National Park Authority, South Downs National Park Trust, National Parks Partnership, National Parks England, including for example calendars and publications.

The photographer must be the sole author and owner of the copyright of photos entered in to the competition. You will retain full copyright for your image and, wherever possible, will be credited if your image is published by SDNPA. Failure to publish a credit due to error or oversight shall not be deemed a breach of this condition.

Please note that by entering the competition you are giving consent for the SDNPA to process your information for the purpose of administrating the competition. We will only

contact you if your photo wins the competition or is selected for inclusion in our photo library. We will delete your information within a year of the close of the competition unless you ask us to sooner, the photo you have submitted wins the competition, or is selected for inclusion in our photo library. We will not share this information with any third party without your consent, unless we are required to do so by law. Your rights are set out in our Privacy Statement www.southdowns.gov.uk/privacy-statement-2/

SDNPA reserves the right to cancel or amend the competition, the rules and the terms and conditions of entry at any time and without prior notice. Any changes will be posted either within these terms and conditions or in the competition details.

The organiser of this competition is: SDNPA, The South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DH. Please email comms@southdowns.gov.uk with any queries.