



Memorandum of Understanding

South Downs National Park Authority

and

South Downs Network

Memorandum of Understanding

This document provides a framework for the developing relationship between the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and the South Downs Network (SDN). It recognises the contribution of each organisation and the benefits of joint working whilst acknowledging the need to retain independence irrespective of any specific funding or project agreements.

This MOU is set within the context of the draft SDN Constitution and the SDNPA Guiding Principles, both summarised in the appendix attached.

The South Downs National Park Authority will:

- Meet regularly with representatives of the SDN to understand their views in relation to the National Park and provide relevant information
- Consult the SDN on strategic issues relating to the National Park and the development of the South Downs National Park Management Plan
- Provide timely responses to SDN communications.
- Provide adequate time for the SDN to respond to consultations.
- Invite the SDN to nominate individuals able to provide appropriate representation of the environmental and conservation sector to take part in a range of forums, activities and projects relating to the development and delivery of National Park purposes.
- Where appropriate, provide resources to enable the SDN to deliver specific initiatives that help the Authority achieve National Park Purposes and its Duty. These arrangements will fall under this framework but be agreed and dealt with on a case by case basis using separate documentation to ensure clarity of outputs and financial arrangements between the two organisations.
- Advise the SDN of any major concerns the SDNPA may have regarding SDN actions, and seek to resolve any concerns with the SDN at the earliest opportunity and where possible before issuing public comment.
- Provide modest initial financial support to the SDN to enable it to fulfil its purpose.

The South Downs Network will:

- Provide representative members to meet regularly with the SDNPA to reflect the spectrum of views of the SDN in relation to the South Downs National Park and to report back information from the SDNPA to the wider membership

- Endeavour to be as representative as possible of the environmental and conservation sector in the South Downs
- Provide timely responses to the SDNPA's consultations wherever possible
- Encourage all members of the SDN to participate in SDNPA consultations
- Nominate individuals able to provide appropriate representation of the environmental and conservation sector to take part in a range of forums, activities and projects relating to the development and delivery of the South Downs National Park Management Plan
- Meet regularly with Members of the SDNPA to exchange views and information in relation to the National Park.
- Where appropriate, deliver specific initiatives to the best of the SDN ability and as agreed on a case by case basis with the SDNPA, reporting clearly on any agreed outputs and financial information required and clearly requested by the SDNPA.
- Advise the Authority of any major concerns the SDN may have regarding SDNPA actions, and seek to resolve any concerns with the SDNPA at the earliest opportunity and where possible before issuing public comment.

A review of any or all terms of this Memorandum of Understanding can be initiated with three months' notice by either Chair or at any other time by mutual agreement.