



Memorandum of Understanding

South Downs National Park Authority

And

South Downs Land Management Group

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework through which the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and the South Downs Land Management Group (SDLMG) can retain their independence whilst developing a relationship of trust and mutual understanding that leads to a constructive approach to delivery that benefits the South Downs National Park – the landscape, wildlife, heritage and the people that live in, work in and enjoy the area.

To achieve this working relationship the South Downs National Park Authority will:

- Meet regularly with Executive Committee members of the SDLMG to understand their views in relation to the National Park and provide relevant information
- Consult the SDLMG on strategic issues relating to the National Park and the development of the South Downs National Park Management Plan
- Provide adequate time for the SDLMG to respond to consultations (4 weeks minimum)
- Invite the SDLMG to nominate individuals to represent the diversity of the land management sector on a range of forums, activities and projects relating to the development and delivery of the South Downs National Park Management Plan.
- Respect that SDLMG representatives' time is valuable and ensure that meetings, workshops and events are efficiently run.
- Where appropriate, provide resources to enable the SDLMG 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 SDLMG of any major concerns the SDNPA may have regarding SDLMG actions, and seek to resolve any concerns with the SDLMG at the earliest opportunity and where possible before issuing public comment.

To achieve this working relationship the South Downs Land Management Group will:

- Ensure that the membership of the SDLMG is representative and fully inclusive of the farming, land owning and land management sector of the whole South Downs National Park area
- Nominate individuals that are able to represent the diversity of the land management sector and actively participate (through regular attendance and action) in a range of forums, activities and projects relating to the development and delivery of the South Downs National Park Management Plan

- Ensure the SDLMG representatives report back information and wherever possible appropriately involve the wider SDLMG Membership in issues and discussions relating to the SDNPA.
- Meet regularly with Members of the SDNPA to exchange views and information in relation to the National Park.
- Ensure that all or relevant Members of the SDLMG have the opportunity to participate in Authority consultations
- Provide timely responses to the Authority's consultations wherever possible
- Where appropriate, deliver specific initiatives to the best of the SDLMG 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 SDLMG 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.