

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 1: Thriving Living Landscapes

### Outcome 1: Landscape character of the National Park has been conserved

#### Action: Character of the landscape, including historic elements, is maintained

Period	Comment
2016/17	Our aspiration is to set up a process to measure changes in land-use that might impact on extant character. There are two potential ways to do this: a) measure it through our planning system, for example monitoring if a development has taken landscape advice into account, or b) develop a system that uses remote sensing or satellite imagery to identify and define changes to the landscape and assess the impacts upon extant landscape character 'over time'. We would need to establish a baseline and set a 'time series' for repeat surveys. It would then require technical input to assess the scale and impact of changes between the images and over time. We need to establish a system and find the funding to monitor it effectively.

#### Measures

Title	Actual	Comment
Percentage area considered to have a dark night sky	69.00	66% of the SDNP has dark skies sufficient to qualify for dark skies Bronze level status, and 3% at the Silver level. On 10th May 2016 it was announced that the South Downs National Park had been awarded DNS reserve status, one of only eleven to be named in the world.
Percentage of designated or notified Geological/Geomorphological Sites managed in better condition	20.00	There are 61 geological sites within the National Park. It is broken down into 51 RIGGS and 10 Geological SSSIs. SDNPA do not have any involvement in their management as they are most often privately owned and in many cases do not have public access to them. The RIGGs have been recently surveyed by volunteers from the Sussex Geodiversity Group to get a sense of whether they still existed, or had been lost. We are not aware of any sites that are actively being 'managed' for their geological features other than the SSSIs.
Percentage of the National Park that is relatively tranquil for its area	0.00	All of the SDNP is deemed relatively tranquil compared to the areas outside the National Park. From 2017/18 onwards we will endeavour to report on the '% of the National Park that scores 'high' levels of tranquillity' to make this indicator more meaningful. This will be done by GIS placing a range on the scores.

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 1: Thriving Living Landscapes

### Outcome 2: Increased capacity to adapt to climate change

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Percentage of farmland that is managed under agri-environment or other schemes	76.2	84530 ha ELS/HLS/OELS as recorded by MEOPL. 3951 ha Countryside Stewardship; 76% of Utilisable Agricultural Area
Percentage of farmland and of woodland area that is managed under agri-environment or other scheme	74.0	74% of farmland and woodland is under agri-environment scheme
Percentage of woodland that is managed under agri-environment or other schemes	67.2	67% of woodland is considered under management. Data from Forestry Commission England - 31 March 2017
Total greenhouse gas emissions in the National Park	5.7	Target for 2018 (year of next survey) is to see a 2%-3% reduction in tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e
Percentage of rivers and groundwater bodies with water available for abstraction	0.0	This information is obtained via the Resource Assessment report from the Environment Agency (EA); available on a five year rotation. The Resource Assessment forms part of the strategy for each catchment. Data is only available every 5 years so in future we might consider using Water Framework Directive status as an alternative.

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 1: Thriving Living Landscapes

### Outcome 3: Well managed and better connected habitats

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Percentage of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland that is in favourable condition	81.15	81% of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland SSSIs are considered to be in favourable condition (note that just 8% is in a SSSI; therefore the actual figure may be higher or lower if all woodland in the South Downs National Park was surveyed)
Percentage of calcareous grassland that is in favourable condition	41.78	42% calcareous chalk grassland SSSI is considered to be in favourable condition (note that just 45% is in a SSSI; therefore the actual figure may be higher or lower if all chalk grassland in the South Downs National Park was surveyed)
Percentage of neutral grassland that is in favourable condition	32.21	32% of neutral grassland is considered to be in favourable condition
Percentage of lowland heath that is in favourable condition	9.65	10% of lowland heathland SSSI is considered to be in a favourable condition (note that just 55% is in a SSSI; therefore the actual figure may be higher or lower if all heathland in the South Downs National Park was surveyed)
Connectivity of target priority habitats		The Government White Paper (Lawton Review) and guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework highlighted the need for planning authorities to have a better understanding of habitat connectivity. As a result the NPA commissioned some work to develop a GIS based tool. The tool maps the connectivity between key habitat types and highlights opportunities to enhance this through land use or land management change. This mapping tool is part of a suite of GIS based evidence we are using to inform the Local Plan and landscape-scale projects.
Distributions of target non-native invasive species		Following the adoption of a strategy for INNS, we are focusing our efforts on 11 species that have the highest impact and where we can make the most difference. We have established a partnership to tackle these issues collaboratively and make best use of resources. Part of this has been to look at current distribution information and to seek to carry out further survey work.
Percentage of water bodies achieving 'good' or 'high' status or potential		Unfortunately we have not been able to collect this data this year. We are working with colleagues at the Environment Agency to sort this for 17/18
Population and distribution of target priority species		We are continuing to monitor water vole populations on the River Meon. In addition, there is extensive monitoring work involving the presence and absence of farmland birds and butterflies. The Farmland Bird Initiative (FBI), one of the biggest projects around this, focuses on the presence and absence of farmland bird species. The work is led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), with support from SDNPA, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT), Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS), and Natural England. There are many recording and reporting groups focusing on their specific species of. Follow up work is needed to investigate gaps in knowledge and how these can be addressed.

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 1: Thriving Living Landscapes

### Outcome 4: Condition and status of cultural heritage assets enhanced

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Number of new heritage assets in the National Park added to Historic Environment Record	844.00	This figure is not representative of the actual number of new heritage assets identified, but rather represents a point in time as to how many have been entered into the HER that financial year and is very resource dependent. Hence a great disparity in figures year on year.
Percentage of designated heritage assets 'at risk'	2.22	Figure derived from MEOPL and local data

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 2: People Connected with Places

### Outcome 5: Outstanding visitor experience supported by sustainable transport network

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Percentage of visitors who felt very satisfied with the visitor experience	99.00	This information was collected through the visitor survey of 1,009 visitors to the South Downs National Park between July and September 2015. The next survey is due to take place between July and September 2018.
Percentage of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that is 'easy to use' or in good condition.	88.00	Surveys of 6% of the PRoW network undertaken by the South Downs Society in May and November 2016.
Proportion of visits by public transport	12.00	This was calculated via the visitor survey of 1009 visitors to the South Downs National Park between July and September 2015 and is a slight increase on the same period in 2014. The next survey is due to take place between July and September 2018.
Number of routes promoted as accessible	5.00	Five Miles without Stiles leaflets were produced and released in 2016/17: Bramber; Mill Hill; Seaford; Seaford Head, and Seven Sisters
Number of day visits to museums and heritage sites	0.00	This work has been deprioritised due to the staff resource needed to obtain this information from museums and heritage sites.

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 2: People Connected with Places

### Outcome 6: There is widespread understanding of the special qualities of the National Park

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Percentage of people who are aware of why the National Park is a special place	95.00	This information was collected through the Visitor Survey 2015. 972 of 1020 survey respondents noted at least one of the 7 special qualities as their factor of enjoyment of the National Park. The next survey is due to take place between July and September 2018.
Percentage of schools within a 5km radius of the National Park boundary using the National Park for learning outside of the classroom experiences at least once a year	58.00	The figure for this indicator is obtained through a contracted out piece of research. Learning outside the classroom is defined as any learning activity that takes place within the SDNP. The baseline figure is 58%. The survey will be repeated every three years (the next survey is due in 2017/18). Our target over the next few years is to see an increase in % of schools from the baseline figure of 58%

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 2: People Connected with Places

### Outcome 7: Range and diversity of traditional culture and skills has been protected

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Number of courses in traditional crafts	11.00	Courses in traditional crafts provided by FE and HE institutions in the National Park included: historic building restoration; conservation and repair of stone masonry, and timber building conservation.
Number of grants made by key organisations for cultural projects inspired by the special qualities	0.00	We will be providing case study examples for this indicator from 2017/18 onwards.
Value of grants made by key organisations for cultural projects inspired by the special qualities	0.00	We will be providing case study examples for this indicator from 2017/18 onwards.

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 2: People Connected with Places

### Outcome 8: More responsibility taken by visitors, residents and businesses to conserve & enhance special qualities

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Total number of volunteer days spent on activity relating to the special qualities	95120.00	This information was taken from a survey of volunteering organisations who were asked to provide information for 2015/16. From the data provided, an average number of volunteers and volunteering days were calculated. These figures (average of 82 volunteers * average of 8 volunteer days) were multiplied by the number of volunteering organisations we know of in the National Park (145). The next survey is due to take place in 2017/18.
Number of community led plans submitted that are endorsed or adopted by the SDNPA	1.00	During 2016/17 5 community led plans were submitted to the SDNPA for adoption or endorsement. Unfortunately, due to resourcing constraints the SDNPA were only able to adopt one of these community led plans, Lodsworth PDS).
Average annual daily traffic flows on National Park roads		We are assessing the relevance of this indicator and how best to measure the impact of the work of the SDNP and its partners on car and road usage
Average public water supply consumption for areas supplied by sources within the National Park		National Park staff are working with the various water companies to get an approximation of water usage within the catchment areas overlapping the park boundary. Data is only available every 5 years and is tied to the water company business planning cycle. Data will next be available in 2019.



# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 3: Towards a Sustainable Future

### Outcome 9: Communities & businesses in the National Park are more

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Percentage of communities with access to natural greenspace	90.00	According to the 2014 Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) Study, 90% of households within the NP boundary were located within 2km of a 20ha site of ANG.
Percentage of communities with access to key facilities	46.56	Key facilities are classed as cashpoint, GP, primary school, pub, supermarket and post office. The 2013/14 dataset obtained from the Office for National Statistics showed that the percentage of communities with access to key facilities from this data set was 46.56%. ONS have decided that they will not prioritise collection of this information moving forwards; thus we need to consider alternative ways we can collect this information.
Proportion of new homes built that are 'affordable housing'	13.36	Note that the data for completions in 2016/17 won't be available until September. Therefore, we always report a year in arrears, thus these figures are from 2015/16.

# Partnership Management Plan Annual Reporting 2016/17

## Objective 3: Towards a Sustainable Future

### Outcome 10: Diverse & sustainable economy developed providing range of business & employment opportunities

Measures		
Title	Actual	Comment
Spend per visitor per day	9.97	The £9.97 figure is the mean amount spent on non-accommodation costs for both day and overnight visitors taken from the 2015 visitor survey. The next survey is due to take place between July and September 2018.
Average length of visitor stay	4.00	The average of 4 nights figure is based on accommodation use within the park boundary from the 2015 visitor survey. The next survey is due to take place between July and September 2018.
Number and diversity of business types that exist in the National Park		The SDNPA and other UK NPAs have been in talks with the Office for National Statistics to get this data cut to the park boundary. ONS have deprioritised this work, thus it is unclear when we will be able to report a baseline figure.
Percentage of National Park with mobile coverage		Work is on going to improve coverage in not spot areas
Percentage of National Park with normal broadband connection		BDUK phase one has completed achieving 90% broadband coverage nationally, although this figure will be lower in the National Park. Phase two aims for 95% by the end of 2018. The UK Government is offering a 'Basic Broadband Subsidy' of up to £350 towards a satellite or fixed wireless broadband solution to support people living in properties with speeds below 2Mbps.
Percentage of National Park with superfast broadband connection		SDNPA along with other partners obtained a £450k funding package (for 15/16 & 16/17) from Coast to Capital, under its 'Growth is Digital' programme to trial approaches to improving rural business superfast connectivity. So far we have only allocated around £100k although this does include two business clusters in SDNP. A West Sussex Superfast Broadband Voucher Scheme closed in March 2017 with limited take up due to the complexity of enabling rural superfast connections and changes to the phase two commercial rollout.