

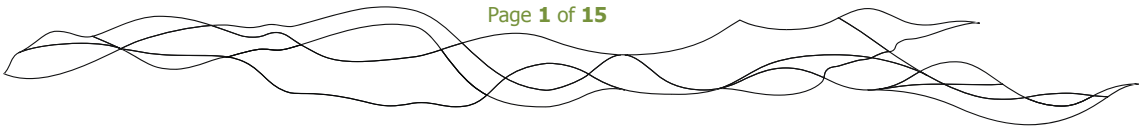
Project Title :

Conservation Grazier

Lead Partner or Landowner

Will this be led by another organisation or will the work take place with a specific landowner?
No

Pre-submission



Project Governance

Project Governance:	
The project is being submitted as part of a wider HLF bid, the 'Changing Chalk' which is being led by the National Trust. this project will have it's own overall governance structure. Internally the project will be led by the Landscape and Biodiversity Lead (Chalk) and the Eastern Area Team Leader, working with the relevant area team rangers and volunteers as necessary. The project will be overseen by the Water and Chalk Board.	

Project Board Membership

1	
Name	Chris Fairbrother
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy Lead
2	
Name	Lead/ Ranger
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Ranger
3	
Name	TBC
Organisation	SDNPA?
Job Title	Grazier

Project Team Membership

1

Name	Ranger / Lead
Organisation	SDNPA
Job Title	Ranger
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	0.2

2

Name	TBC
Organisation	SDNPA?
Job Title	Grazier
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	1

3

Name	VRS
Organisation	SDVRS
Job Title	Volunteer
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	1

4

Name	VRS
Organisation	SDVRS
Job Title	Volunteer
Amount of Time Required(in FTE)	1

Project

Project Name:	Conservation Grazier
Project Location:	Changing Chalk Project Area
Project Location (Eastings):	538300
Project Location (Northings):	107800
Project Area: Please use the checkboxes if your project cannot be plotted to specific co-ordinates in the Eastings and Northing section above - the project will not be plotted onto a GIS layer if you do this. <i>(Park-wide, Western Downs, Central Downs, Eastern Downs, Wealden Heath)</i>	
Central Downs, Eastern Downs	
Need for Project: The state of lowland calcareous grassland within the South Downs National Park was previously surveyed to establish its baseline condition. The published report, by the Sussex Biological Records Centre (2016) found that 37% of chalk grassland sites surveyed were in 'unfavourable' condition and 25% were labelled as unfavourable recovering. Of these, for 60% of the unfavourable sites and 15% of all unfavourable recovering sites, the principle issue undergrazing. <i>"118 (out of 479) sites would benefit to an alteration to the grazing regime such as a change in stock density or the use of other livestock breeds to tackle stubborn scrub and coarse vegetation"</i> (SxBRC, 2016). This is in spite of the current system of payments and agri-environment support which indicates there remain additional barriers to bringing these sites into appropriate management. The majority of these Chalk Grassland sites occur within the Central and Eastern Open Downland which is home to over 50% of the chalk grassland within the South Downs National Park. Therefore the suggested project area would provide the best location and platform for a pilot grazing project to address these issues and to halt the decline of this priority habitat. Existing agri-environment schemes go some way to addressing the specific need for conservation grazing through payments for the management of chalk grassland. It is however, often difficult to achieve appropriate, or sufficient levels of grazing into a traditional farming system, without incurring considerable time or financial losses. This is often beyond the payments offered under existing agri-environment and acts as a barrier to achieving good condition for Chalk Grassland sites. This is demonstrated in the state of lowland calcareous grassland within the South Downs National Park report. In this it was found that of the 479 of the sites surveyed for this project 72% were in an agri-environmental scheme. It was recommended by surveyors that 118 would benefit from an alteration to their management, and 204 showed little or no management. 33 were recorded as being maintained through rabbit and deer grazing alone. It is evident that these sites would benefit from some form of more targeted and conservation focussed grazing to prevent loss of interest features. Sites where grazing has been successful are either one offs, due to an innovative rotation being implemented that works for chalk grassland and the current farming system, or where the farmer has a specific set of animals to provide suitable conservation grazing. Either through a third party or through investment in non-commercial livestock whose primary purpose is conservation grazing. In order for some of the more remote and difficult sites to be grazed the only viable option is to	

have a dedicated and experienced conservation grazier that understands both farming and conservation grazing. Where the product supplied is conservation grazing rather than meat production.

Partnership Management Plan Outcomes

1. A Thriving Living Landscape

- 1.1 The landscape character of the South Downs, its special qualities and local distinctiveness have been conserved and enhanced by effectively managing the land and the negative impacts of development and cumulative change (outcome1)
- 1.2 There is increased capacity within the landscape for its natural resources, habitats and species to adapt to the impacts of climate change and other pressures (outcome 2)
- 1.3 A well managed and better connected network of habitats and increased population and distribution of priority species now exist in the National Park (outcome 3)
- 1.4 The condition and status of cultural heritage assets and their settings (including monuments, buildings, towns and buried remains) is significantly enhanced, many more have been discovered and they contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place (outcome 4)

Partnership Management Plan Policies

1. A thriving and living landscape

- 1. Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the landscape and its setting, in ways that allow it to continue to evolve and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and other pressures
- 12. Support conservation grazing on semi-natural habitats as part of a profitable livestock and mixed farm economy
- 13. Support the financial viability of farm businesses through appropriate infrastructure and diversification developments, in particular encouraging those that will support sustainable farming
- 14. Develop the market for and production of sustainable food, drink and other products with a South Downs National Park provenance
- 2. Develop landscape-scale partnerships and initiatives to focus on enhancing the key ecosystem services delivered by the National Park
- 4. Create more, bigger, better managed and connected areas of habitat in and around the National Park, which deliver multiple benefits for people and wildlife
- 5. Conserve and enhance populations of priority species and in around the National Park, delivering targeted action where required
- 6. Favour natural functions and processes in and around the National Park where they support the value and resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, marine, coastal and estuarine habitats

Project Outline:

The Proposal:

To employ a conservation grazier to cover the Changing Chalk project area (broadly the Worthing to Eastbourne block of the Open Downs). This will be a 5 years project to carry out specific targeted grazing, working with a number of partners and stakeholders (landowners, graziers, Natural England, Butterfly Conservation, National Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust, rare breeds organisations, SDNPA Rangers etc). The grazier will establish their own grazing stock to support the appropriate stocking levels for sites covered within the project area. This will be a five year project will take place in 2 phases.

Phase 1 will be a development phase, identifying 'quick win' sites, assessing grazing infrastructure

requirements and the work required to bring priority sites under appropriate grazing management. In this phase there will be some initial work on the economics that supports Chalk Grassland grazing and the barriers that exist to its future sustainability. Phase 2 will provide the funding for the necessary infrastructure ie/ fencing, water troughs, bowsers and pumps to enable the grazier and farmers within the project area to graze the priority Chalk Grassland sites. This phase will also test approaches to establishing a sustainable grazing regime for nutrient poor chalk grassland sites as part of an economically viable farming system. The intent will be test and establish a viable business model that could support conservation grazing in the future. Along with identifying a sustainable business template, the success of the project will be evidenced by the improvement to the condition of the Chalk Grassland sites being managed through the project. This will be measured in relation the baseline survey for the Chalk Grassland sites.

Project aims and objectives:

1. AIM : Work with landowners and other project partners to enhance the unique and iconic biodiversity of the chalk downland landscape. To increase the capacity for conservation grazing of vulnerable Chalk Grassland sites through the establishment of a grazier. To develop a model that can be self sustaining beyond the life of the project.
Objectives :
1/ Target priority Chalk Grassland sites within the project area and bring them into favourable condition through establishment of appropriate site grazing.
2/Test and establish a business model that will sustain conservation grazing of vulnerable Chalk Grassland sites within the Project Area.

1	
Measure	Development of Business case
Target	1
Unit	Buisness case
2	
Measure	Identification of barriers sustainable buisness
Target	1
Unit	Report
3	
Measure	Grazing management plans
Target	10
Unit	Sites/plans

1

Measure	70% of sites in project area improving condition
Target	70
Unit	%

2

Measure	Sustainable long term business created
Target	1
Unit	business

Project Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based upon clear measures of success for each of the project objectives and their realted Outcomes :

1/ Target priority Chalk Grassland sites within the project area and bring them into favourable condition through establishment of appropriate site grazing.

- Site specific and follow up surveys for the priority sites at key stages of the project to establish the condition of Chalk Grassland (species composition/decrease in occurence of invasive species such as Tor-Grass)
- Full condition survey of all of the sites within the project area to assess improvements against the project baseline. (based on Natural England's 'Rapid Site Assessment' methodology)
- Production of site based grazing management plans for each of the priority Chalk Grassland sites.

2/Test and establish a business model that will sustain conservation grazing of vulnerable Chalk Grassland sites within the Project Area.

- Identification of the barriers to sustainable grazing of the sites (Report collated with input from the farmers and project partners)
- Development of a business plan to set out how a sustainable, long term, conservation grazing system can be established for Chalk Grassland sites across the wider Open Downland landscape.

Project Partners:

The proposed project is part of a wider HLF Landscape partnership bid. The National Trust is the lead partner and will be overseeing a suite of projects, of which this is one. The project will involve members of the Farming community within the project area, particularly those involved with the Eastern Downs Farm Cluster. It will also coordinate project delivery with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Natural England and the Local Authorities with landowning or land management interests within the project area. Though part of the wider project it is proposed that oversight would be delivered through a small project board made up of SDNPA staff, National Trust wardens/rangers, Lewes & Eastbourne District Council Rangers and representation from the Farm Cluster Group.

Interface with other Projects:
Reconnecting Dew Ponds of the Eastern Downs - (SDNPA Project) Other projects taken forward as part of the 'Changing Chalk' landscape partnership bid.
Project Timing:
The project has two phases. Phase 1 - development phase (2 Years) Phase 2 - Project Implementation phase (3 years)
Scope exclusions:
This element of the project will not involved community engagement - this will be delivered by the complimentary component of the 'Changing Chalk' project (2X Community Ranger Posts) the project will not be a replacement for existing agri-environment schemes, but will add value to existing agreements. It may also inform the development of future agri-environment schemes (Post-Brexit)
SDNPA Role in the Project:
Providing evidence base for sites to target, designing and specifying contractual specification for grazer, and managing contract, some staff and volunteer time in assisting with infrastructure/looking
Data Ownership:
Business case will remain property of SDNPA and grazier. SDNPA will use as a model that could be applied park-wide.
Promotion:
The project will be promoted through the communications activity undertaken as part of the Changing Chalk HLF Partnership Project.
Equality and diversity:
Potential to act as a route for young farmer to get established.
Project Exit Strategy:
The legacy of the project will be that the barriers to conservation grazing will be identified and overcome, and that it is both economically viable and sustainable for the future.
Mechanism for procurement:
The project is part of a wider HLF Partnership Project which will have its own administrative arrangements. Any financial outlay for the project that comes from SDNPA sources (match funding/project costs) will be managed through our standard procurement procedures.

Resource

Show clearly who is supporting your project financially and in-kind.

Total cost of project:	396000
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Amount Requested from SDNPA:	90000.00
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Total match funding required:	306000
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1	
Expenditure	Salary for grazier
Year 1	30000
Year 2	30000
Year 3	30000
Year 4	30000
Year 5	30000
Total	150000
Notes	

2	
Expenditure	Start up costs
Year 1	20000
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	

Total	20000
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Notes	
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3

Expenditure	Capital fund
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Year 1	10000
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Year 2	10000
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Year 3	10000
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Year 4	10000
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Year 5	10000
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Total	50000
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Notes	
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1

Source of Funding	SDVRS
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Year 1	22000
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Year 2	22000
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Year 3	22000
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Year 4	22000
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Year 5	22000
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Total	110000
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Notes	
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Confirmed	No
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2

Source of Funding	SDNPA Ranger
Year 1	6000
Year 2	6000
Year 3	6000
Year 4	6000
Year 5	6000
Total	30000
Notes	
Confirmed	No

3

Source of Funding	SDNPA Strat Lead
Year 1	3600
Year 2	3600
Year 3	3600
Year 4	3600
Year 5	3600
Total	18000
Notes	
Confirmed	Yes

4

Source of Funding	Use of SDNPA yard
Year 1	3600
Year 2	3600

Year 3	3600
Year 4	3600
Year 5	3600
Total	18000
Notes	
Confirmed	Yes

Pre-submission

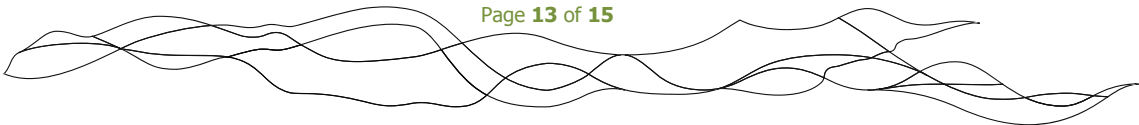


Co applicant

Co applicant
Please provide contact details if you would like a co-applicant to assist you with this bid (optional):

Co applicant	Status
Ms Phillippa Morrison-Price	Confirmed - Approval Required
Mr Chris Fairbrother	Confirmed - No further action
Liz Gent	Unconfirmed

Pre-submission



Permissions

If there is a building or other lease associated with any element of this project please give details and show when it will expire?	
Lease details:	
Lease expiration date:	

Pre-submission

Supporting Information and Documents

Additional Information:

Additional Documents:

Pre-submission

