Executive Summary

Uniquely combining a historically rich and biodiverse landscape with bustling towns and villages, the South Downs National Park covers an area of over 1,600 km^2 and is home to more than 108,000 people.

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders in developing its National Park Management Plan (NPMP) addressing priorities for the short-term (five years) and its Local Plan determining planning polices within the South Downs National Park through to 2035.

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all government local plans and programmes, including the SDNPA's NPMP and local plan.

The objective of the 'SEA Directive' is:
'To provide for a high level of protection to the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of the plans…with a view to promoting sustainable development'

All of the SDNPA's plans and policies are developed within the context of the organisation's statutory purposes which are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area; and
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of National Parks by the public.

If there is a conflict between the two, conservation takes precedence (Defra, 2010).

In addition, SDNPA has a duty to work in partnership to foster the socio-economic well-being of local communities within the National Park, in support of the above purposes.

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) should be regarded as an audit of the plans and policies of the NPMP and Local Plan to assess the extent to which these policies promote sustainable development. This Scoping Report sets out how the SA criteria have been developed.

Section 1 provides an introduction to SA and an overview of the SDNP and SDNPA;
Section 2 outlines the SA process;
Section 3 identifies the plans and programmes relevant to sustainability within the SDNP;
Section 4 provides a thematic overview of the SDNP and some emerging sustainability issues;
Section 5 sets out the SA framework that emerges from the earlier chapters;
Section 5 describes the way forward for the SA.

It is should be noted that SA is an iterative process operating in parallel with developing the plan. The draft plans and policies will be modified by evidence from the SA to bring them into alignment with sustainability objectives.

1. Introduction

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is working in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders in developing its National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and Core Strategy / Local Plan. The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal scoping report is to allow the statutory bodies and other interested parties to be consulted at an early stage on the social, environmental, or economic responsibilities to verify that the appraisal covers the key sustainability issues and ensures a balance of the economic pressures. In addition, this initial document will help to evaluate proposed policies and programmes, highlighting any significant problems or benefits likely to result from their implementation and thereby guiding the development of the SDNPA NPMP and Core Strategy / Local Plan.

1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of a wide range of plans and programmes. The objective of the 'SEA Directive' is

> '*To provide for a high level of protection to the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of the plans…with a view to promoting sustainable development'* (see Art 1, Appendix 1).

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS), Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD).

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is conducted in conformity with the SEA Directive. However, while an SEA is concerned with environmental effects, the sustainability appraisal is an iterative process that considers the environmental, social and economic consequences of a plan and its policies, and seeks to identify ways of achieving a proper balance between these three considerations[1]. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that Sustainability Appraisal should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.

Sustainability Appraisal is a method of assessing the extent to which a plan or programme contributes to sustainable development. **Throughout this document, references to SA of development plans should be taken to include SEA**.

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future[2] set out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development:

- living within the planet's environmental limits;
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- achieving a sustainable economy;
- promoting good governance; and
- using sound science responsibly.

1 Further guidance is contained within Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (ODPM 2005)

2 The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA, 2005)

The government's interpretation of sustainable development is further set out in the NPPF.

The key issues for sustainability, with reference to the SDNP plans and policies are identified through a scoping exercise.

A sustainability appraisal is based on a framework of objectives, which reflects the local priorities for sustainable development. The sustainability appraisal provides a measure by which the plan and policy proposals, content and processes are appraised to ensure that they contribute to the aims of sustainable development. If negative effects are identified, the policy or plan can be amended, or mitigating action can be taken as appropriate.

1.2 The South Downs National Park

Uniquely combining a historically rich and biodiverse landscape with bustling towns and villages, the South Downs National Park covers an area of over 1,600 km^2 and is home to more than 108,000 people.

While designated for the beauty, of its landscapes, the South Downs is also home to a multitude of vibrant working communities steeped in history and traditional English culture, from the edge of the ancient cathedral city of Winchester in the west to the fringes of Eastbourne in the east. It is unique as a National Park, incorporating concentrated areas of population in the market towns: Lewes (population 16,000) and Petersfield (population 13,000). This compares with Bowness/Windermere (population 7,649) in the Lake District National Park, the next largest settlement in any of the 15 UK national parks. As a consequence of the proliferation of settlements throughout and surrounding the park it faces management challenges that are both different in scale and nature to other national parks. The visitor population is estimated to b 39 million visitor days per annum. A detailed description of the character of the SDNP can be found in the State of the Park Report (SOPR) (see paragraph 4.1).

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) was established on 1 April 2011 (after a shadow year in 2010/11) and is the statutory Local and Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for the area enclosed by the National Park boundary. National Park Authorities are independent Authorities operating within the local government framework. They have twin purposes to:

- conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
- promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of National Parks by the public.

If there is a conflict between the two, conservation takes precedence (Defra, 2010).

In addition, they have a statutory duty under the 1995 Environment Act to seek to foster the socio-economic well-being of local communities without incurring significant expenditure in doing so.

2. The Scoping Report

2.1 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

The SA of the South Downs National Park is being carried out by representatives of the National Park Authority with support from partner authorities. To ensure that the SA process is undertaken independently of the formulation of policies and plans, the SA documents will be reviewed by external consultants for soundness prior to public consultation.

The process and tasks of the sustainability appraisal are detailed below.

- Review plans, programmes and policies that are appropriate to the scope of a sustainability appraisal of the National Park Management Plan and Local Plan;
- Compare compatibility of the objectives of appropriate plans, programmes and policies;
- Identify sustainability issues for the South Downs National Park;
- Identify available and appropriate baseline data;
- Identify gaps in baseline data with respect to the most important sustainability issues;
- Identify sustainability objectives;
- Identify key issues;
- Appraise emerging Local Development Documents policies and site specific allocations (this will vary with the actual local development document in question);
- Record appraisal results and how they have or have not influenced policy and site allocations;
- Identify appropriate indicators; and
- Establish a monitoring regime for the indicators identified and carry out monitoring.

Appendix A gives further information regarding the SEA Directive's requirements.

2.2 The Scoping Report

The Scoping Report has been developed in accordance with government guidance for undertaking SA in compliance with the SEA Directive.

According to the guidance, the complete process has five stages resulting in the Environmental Report, which should be implemented in turn. Each stage comprises a number of subsidiary tasks, some of which should be implemented alongside each other and lead to the development of a specific output. The Scoping Report is the first stage of the SEA/SA of both the NP's Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) associated with it. Stage A explains the process used in this Scoping report and is presented below in Table 2.1. While the table may infer a sequential process, in practice, stages A1 to A4 inform each other; e.g. one has to have an understanding of the environmental issues (A3) to assess the relevant plans, programmes (A1) and requirements for baseline data collection (A2).

Consultation on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal is required under the SEA Directive and the Scoping Report guidance detailed above.. Extensive consultation has underpinned the collation of evidence for the SA Scoping (Section 4.2). It is a requirement that the Scoping Report is sent to three statutory Consultation Bodies with environmental responsibilities, as listed:

1. The Environment Agency

2. English Heritage
3. Natural England

Table 2.1 Work Requirements for the Scoping Report

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.			
Sub-Stage		**Tasks**	**Key Outputs**
A1	Identify links to other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives.	Defines how the plan is affected by outside factors and suggests ideas for how any constraints can be addressed	
A2	Collect baseline/ environmental data	Provision of an evidence base for sustainability issues, effects prediction and monitoring	
A3	Identify sustainability issues / problems	Used to focus the Sustainability Appraisal and streamline the subsequent phases, including baseline information analysis, setting of the Sustainability Appraisal Framework, prediction of effects and monitoring	
A4	Developing the SA framework	A process to enable the sustainability of plan to be appraised	**SA framework** consisting of **Sustainability Objectives** (**Table 5.1**) and **Potential Indicators** based upon National, Regional and Local issues.
A5	Consulting on the scope of the SA	Carried out with statutory bodies and other relevant organisations with social, environmental or economic responsibilities to ensure the appraisal covers the key sustainability issues	Revisions to Sustainability framework

In addition, the Scoping Report is being circulated to The South Downs Partnership for review.

The consultation will seek to:

- Ensure the methodology for the proposed sustainability appraisal is comprehensive to support the National Park LDF.
- Provide an opinion on the suitability of the sustainability appraisal objectives.
- Advise on the key sustainability issues.
- Provide advice to ensure the baseline data is appropriate and sufficient.

3. Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)

3.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive and government guidance require that relevant international, national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes are reviewed during the Scoping phase of the SA process. This review should identify existing sustainability objectives and ways in which the SDNP plans and policies can contribute to the achievement of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and other plans and strategies at regional and local level.

3.2 Initial Identification of Sustainability Objectives

The SA for the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East Region, which is still part of the Development Plan undertook such a review with publication of the final report in 2009. This listed 21 sustainability objectives as follows:

1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home suitable to their need.
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion and, by improving their performance, close the gap between the most deprived areas in the South East and the rest of the region.
4. To raise educational achievement levels across the region and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find and remain in work.
5. To reduce crime and perceptions of disorder.
6. To create and sustain vibrant communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals.
7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities including the countryside and the historic environment.
8. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the South East and promote sustainable tourism.
9. To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the region.
10. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness across the region by focusing on the principles of smart growth: raising levels of enterprise, productivity and economic activity
11. To stimulate economic revival in deprived areas.
12. To develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities
13. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce to support long-term competitiveness of the region.
14. To improve efficiency in land use through the appropriate re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings, including re-use of materials from buildings, and encourage urban renaissance.

15. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.
16. To reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve
17. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases
18. To ensure that the South East is prepared for the impacts of climate change.
19. To conserve and enhance the Parks biodiversity
20. To protect and enhance the Parks countryside and historic environment
21. To improve the efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel

Since the RSS fully encompassed the extent of the SDNP it provides a useful starting point in identifying sustainability objectives that are relevant to the development of policies plans and programmes by the SDNPA. Furthermore it is considered to be consistent with the guidance on evidence provided by the NPPF, namely that:

Assessments should be proportionate and should not repeat policy assessment that has already been undertaken.

The direct relevance for a number of the above sustainability objectives to the SDNPA is small either because of the prevalent socio-economic characteristics within the national park or the extent to which the Authority can influence certain issues. For example, in relation to objective 3, poverty and social exclusion is isolated to "a few areas in or around the main market towns with lower incomes and greater unemployment." For this reason, reducing poverty and social exclusion has been considered as a composite consideration under objectives: 1, everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home; 2. improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health; 6. vibrant communities that recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals; and 8. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community.

The other RSS sustainability objectives have been reviewed in terms of their relevance and a number have been excluded or subsumed within other objectives.

Objective 4. Raising of educational achievement levels. The SDNPA is not an education authority and can principally contribute to this objective via provision of access and facilities to educational providers under objectives 7 and 8.

Objective 5. Relative to the surrounding urban areas, crime is not a major issue within the SDNP and the achievement of vibrant inclusive communities (objective 6.), access to services and facilities (objective 7.) and development of the economy and employment (objective 12.) will be the channels through which SDNPA can seek to reduce crime.

Objectives 9, 10 11 and 13. Currently unemployment within the national park is not a significant issue and major development is not consistent with SDNPA purposes. Priorities for providing growth in employment in rural areas that is consistent with a low impact on the natural environment have been subsumed within Objective 12.

Objective 14. The scope to redevelop brownfied land is limited within the NP because land is predominantly undeveloped. Appropriate re-use of existing buildings is an

integral consideration in the protection and enhancement of the countryside and historic environment (Objective 20).

Objective 15. The SDNPA is not a Risk Management Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. We will seek to influence the minimisation of flood risk through the planning process, particularly in relation to addressing the impacts of climate change (Objective 18.)

Objective 16. Air pollution is not a major issue for the SDNP. Strategies that promote the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (Objective 17) will aid improvements in air quality.

A rationalisation of the 21 sustainability objectives to identify relevant sustainability issues for the SDNP has resulted in the following objectives.

Where appropriate, the original RSS objectives have been modified to reflect the particular context of the SDNP. E.g. key changes include:

1. We consider 'good quality' is a more meaningful descriptor than 'decent'; furthermore given that the vast majority of the population will live in older properties rather than new properties that are subject to sustainable construction codes, the revised wording reflects optimising environmental sustainability that will incorporate energy efficiency measures associated with the built housing stock.

7. Specific reference has been removed to the countryside and historic environment. Accessibility is interpreted as physical access as distinct from intellectual accessibility with the emphasis being on community services following on from sustainability objective 6. Promoting universal access to the countryside and historic environment is seen as falling under 20. Broader physical accessibility issues form part of sustainability objective 21 that promotes sustainable transport networks.

1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a good quality, affordable home, suitable to their need and which optimises the scope for environmental sustainability.
2. To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health and well-being.
6. To create and sustain vibrant communities which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals.
7. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities.
8. To encourage increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community in the National Park and promote sustainable tourism.
12. To encourage development of the rural economy in a manner that balances agricultural and other business interests to maintain a living, valued landscape.
17. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases.
18. To ensure that the National Park is prepared for the impacts of climate change.
19. To conserve and enhance the National Park's biodiversity
20. To conserve[3] and enhance the National Park's countryside and historic environment and its enjoyment.

[3] Wording changed in response to EH comments on draft report; 'conserve' was considered more appropriate wording than 'protect'.

21. To improve the efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel

3.2 Relevant Plans and Programmes

Sustainability Appraisal Guidance considers that a plan may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes and by external objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. These relationships have been identified in this Scoping Report to enable potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints to be addressed. Table 3.1 3 illustrates plans, programmes or policies (PPPs) that are under consideration as part of the SA process for the SDNP and identifies links to the relevant sustainability objectives.

New PPPs will emerge during the course of the strategy and the table will be updated in future SA reports to reflect consideration of these inputs

Table 3.1 Representative list of Plans, Policies and Programmes being considered within SDNPA Sustainability Appraisal Process.

International	
Plan / Policy / Programme	**Relevant Sustainability Objectives**
Rio Declaration on Environment and Development Convention on Biodiversity 1992	19.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1994	17.
Kyoto Protocol 1997	
Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development 2002	All
European	
Bern Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats 1979	19 and 20.
Ramsar Convention	19 and 20.
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe	20
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage	20
Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	19 and 20.
Habitats Directive 1992/43/EC	19 and 20
Air Quality Framework Directive 1996/62/EC Council and daughter directives.	17.
European Biodiversity Strategy 1998.	19 and 20.
Renewed European Strategy for Sustainable Development., 2006	All
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	2,7,18,19 and 20.
EU Directive 2002/49/EC: Assessment &	2,19, and 20.

Management of Environmental Noise	
European Climate Change Programme	17, 18.
Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy	19 and 20.
European Landscape Convention, adopted 20 October 2000.	19 and 20.

Plan / Policy / Programme	**Relevant Sustainability Objectives**
National	
UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future 2005	All
English National Parks and the Broads: UK Government Vision and Circular 2010	All
DfT Walking & Cycling: An Action Plan. June 2004	2,7,17, 19,20 and 21.
National Cycle Strategy	
National Tourism Strategy	6,7,8,19,20, and 21.
England Forestry Strategy (EFS)	7,17,19 and 20.
England Biodiversity Strategy	
Natural Environment White Paper, The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, 2011.	
Noise Policy Statement for England 2010.	
Biodiversity and Geological conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system Defra Circular 06/2005.	
Rights of Way Circular Guidance for Local Authorities (Defra Circular 01/09 version 2).	
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services Defra 2011.	
Water for People and the Environment – a water resources strategy for England & Wales (Environment Agency 2009)	12, 19, 20
National Planning Policy Framework 2012	All
National Heritage Protection Plan (English Heritage 2011-2015)	20
HM Government, 2010. The Equality Strategy - Building a Fairer Britain	1,2,6,7,8,
Dept. of Health, 2009. Healthy lives, brighter futures – The strategy for children and young people's health.	2
Regional	
The South East Plan Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East 2009.	
State of the Environment for the South East (Environment Agency)	
River Basin Management Plan for the South East River Basin Management District,	

Environment Agency, 2009.	
South Foreland to Beachy Head Shoreline Management Plan, First Review Final Document – 2006	
Beachy Head to Selsey Bill Shoreline Management Plan, First Review Final Document – 2006.	
Water Resources Strategy – Regional Action Plan for Southern Region (Environment Agency 2009)	12, 19, 20
South East Biodiversity Strategy - 2008	19
Sub-Regional	
Environment Strategy for East Sussex, 2011.	1,7,17,18,21
Arun and Western Streams Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009	
South East Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009	
River Adur Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009	
River Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009	
Cuckmere and Sussex Havens Catchment Flood Management Plan 2009	
Test & Itchen Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	12, 19, 20
East Hampshire Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	12, 19, 20
Arun & Western Streams Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	12, 19, 20
Adur & Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	12, 19, 20
Cuckmere & Pevensey Levels Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy	12, 19, 20
Adur & Ouse Catchment Plan (a Defra catchment pilot)	12, 19, 20
Climate Change Strategy for East Sussex, 2009.	1,7,17,18,21
West Sussex Sustainable Energy Study, 2009.	1,7,17,18,21
East Sussex County Council Cultural Strategy 2008	8,21
West Sussex County Council A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape 2005	20
Hampshire County Council (2008) Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008–2018	8,21
West Sussex County Council Cultural Strategy 2009–2014	8,21

ESCC, 2011. Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) for 2011 to 2026.	7,21
HCC, 2011. Hampshire Local Transport Plan, 2011	7,21
WSCC, 2011. The West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2026	7,21
Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan	19
Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan	19

4. Baseline Data Collection and Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 and A3)

4.1 Introduction

The first stage in the SA process involves establishing the scope of the SA, that is, the issues it will concentrate on (Planning Advisory Service (PAS), 2010). Sustainable development is the driving principle for National Park Authorities and the SDNPA is required to prepare a National Park Management Plan (NPMP) that indicates how the National Park purposes and associated duties will be delivered through sustainable development (Countryside Agency, 2005). A key first stage in developing the NPMP is the collation of evidence to gain a baseline understanding of the state of the National Park culminating in the State of the Park Report (SOTPR). Consistent with best practice process (PAS, 2010) the SDNPA is developing one evidence base for the SOTPR and the SA scoping is being used to identify gaps in the emerging evidence base in order that data shortfalls can be addressed. The SA scoping report provides a useful opportunity to summarise the messages emerging from the evidence base – including the key issues for the area (PAS, 2010). This summary is provided in paragraphs 4.3 to 4.11 below.

4.2 Consultation to inform Baseline Evidence

Consultation has been central to the collation of baseline evidence for the SDNPA. Engagement is an ongoing process and has been contributed to by members of the public and key stakeholder groups including the existing fifteen local authorities within the SDNP. Engagement has been achieved through multiple channels including public events and workshops targeted meetings, questionnaires and via the South Downs Forum web-site. The SOTPR is due to be published in September 2012. As a consequence, this Scoping Report will identify shortfalls in existing data and the measures being taken to address them. Subsequent SA reports will document the evidence upon which appraisal is undertaken based upon the best available information.

4.3 Landscape

The South Downs contains a rich and complex landscape character, with significant local variation and contrast. The South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (2005) that predates NP designation provides the most current assessment within the National Park area. The assessment was updated in 2011, to include the additional areas bought into the NP boundary. Agricultural intensification, particularly since commencement of WWII resulted in an increase in arable and improved grassland crops, and a decline in species rich chalk grassland. Market forces and visitor pressure are also influencing a predominantly agricultural landscape and are likely to have increasing influence into the future. Change of agricultural use to vineyards has increased along the south coast and there are currently 16 located within the NP. The open downland has been vulnerable to urban edge pressures extending from the heavily built-up areas and coastal fringe adjoining the National Park housing 1.5 million as well as from the 110,000 people living in the market towns, villages, hamlets and rural areas within the NP boundary. There has been some deterioration of historic farm buildings, with pressure for their conversion to residential use and new development has not always reflected local character in terms of traditional design and materials (see Section 4.5). This has led to increased urbanisation and some loss of local distinctiveness.

4.4 Biodiversity

Key wildlife habitats within the South Downs National Park include chalk grassland (4%), lowland heath (1%), woodland (20% - approximately half of which is ancient woodland), farmland habitats (85%), floodplain grazing marsh (1.5%), rivers and streams (321km of main river), and coastal and marine habitats (including 20km of coastline). Many of these key habitats have declined significantly in recent decades, both in terms of coverage and quality. Human-related pressures such as development, land use change and pollution have resulted in the loss, fragmentation and degradation of many of the priority wildlife habitats within the Park. E.g. over 95 per cent of lowland heathlands have been lost globally.

Changing agricultural practice, in combination with other factors, has contributed to a decline in many farmland species. For example, populations of grey partridge and tree sparrow have plummeted by 94% over the past 40 years, and 97% of our flower-rich meadows have disappeared since the 1930s. A total of 93,561 hectares of land, or 57%, of the National Park is managed through agri-environment schemes seeking to address these declines. There are nine National Nature Reserves within the Park, all of which are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In total there are 86 SSSIs in the Park covering 6% of the area. While over half (55 per cent) of the heathland within the National Park is designated as SSSI, over 80 per cent of these heathland SSSI units are currently in unfavourable condition. Whilst woodland habitats cover one fifth of the National Park area, a significant proportion of this is under-managed. (Natural England and Forestry Commission, 2012).

4.5 Archaeological and cultural heritage

The SDNP has a rich cultural heritage and historic environment. In terms of designated sites, this includes 152 Grade I, 221 Grade II* and 4798 Grade II Listed Building entries, 616 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 154 Conservation Areas, 30 Registered Parks and Gardens, and 2 Registered Battlefields.

English Heritage undertakes an annual audit of the historic environment and produces a 'Heritage at Risk' Register. In 2011, this identified 50 (8% total) Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 9 Grade I and II* listed buildings, 2 Parks and Gardens and 9 Conservation Areas within the National Park that were "at risk" as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development (English Heritage, 2011).

The Register does not currently extend to Grade II listed buildings and a survey to rectify this is being planned. There is also limited knowledge of buildings and archaeological sites which are important locally but not protected under the national system. E.g. the challenge of providing reliable information on the stock of historic farm buildings cannot be underestimated (University of Sheffield et al. 2009). These buildings and their use of local materials make an important contribution to local distinctiveness. There is information on farmsteads in the Hampshire and SE England Farmstead Character Study (Edwards, 2005). The Historic Landscape Characterisations of Hampshire and Sussex provide evidence of the historic dimension of the South Downs landscapes.

In the Hampshire part of the SDNP, of 62 non-scheduled round barrows visited in 2002, 53% had either been ploughed and would disappear if damage continued or had been destroyed or irreparably degraded. A survey of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit in 1975 identified that, of the known sites surveyed, 60% of the Bronze Age settlements, 64% of Iron Age Settlements and 94% of Neotlithic Open settlements had been damaged. Over 60% of major field systems, Roman sites and villas and Saxon settlements had also been damaged. The South East has suffered the greatest loss of parkland of any English region since 1919 (South Downs Joint Committee, 2007).

Climate change poses a threat to the historic environment in two ways. The first is the impact of changes in temperature and rainfall on decay processes in both buildings and sub-surface archaeology (English Heritage, 2008). The second arises from our poor understanding of the morphology and performance of traditional solid-wall construction. In the absence of that understanding there is a threat to the historic environment from the well-intentioned but ultimately destructive application of modern technologies designed to enhance thermal and energy performance. Energy efficiency assessment of the existing building stock is complicated by the fact that standard calculating methods underestimate the thermal performance of traditionally built buildings (Rye, C., 2011).

4.6 Climatic factors

UK air temperatures continue to rise having increased by 2^0C over the past 350 years with ten of the hottest years over this period recorded since 1999. The strongest average monthly temperature increases have been in the south east along with the Midlands and East Anglia. Table 4.1 shows projected winter and summer temperature and precipitation changes based upon UKCIP projections for a medium emissions scenario. This suggests that the south east will experience hotter, drier summers and warmer wetter winters with more extreme weather events.

Sea level rise predictions for the south east had previously been estimated at 4.0mm p.a. through to 2025 and thereafter 8.5mm p.a. through to 2055. Owing to isostatic readjustment (the rising of the land mass in the northern UK, post glaciation, causing a sinking in the south-east corner) which means that the actual sea level rise as a result of thermal expansion is slightly less than forecast. However, with very high levels of ice sheet melt the sea level could rise by up to 1.9 metres by 2095 (EA 2010).

Climate change will result in a range of direct and indirect effects on both the natural and human environment including flooding, increased soil erosion and adaptation related to both sea level rise and current and projected wetter winters. Increased cycles of drought and flooding are projected. This may impact on soil condition with increased erosion and nutrient loss.. Dryer summers will exacerbate the predicted supply/demand deficit for water supply (see Section 4.12).

Table 4.1 UK Climate Change Projections for the South East 2009

Potential Change	Amount of change from 1962-1990(1)	
	In the 2020s	In the 2050s
Hotter summers	+1.6^{0}C (0.6 to 2.8) ^{0}C	+2.3^{0}C (1.3 to 4.7) ^{0}C
Drier summers	-8% (-28% to +15%)	-20% (-42% to +7%)

	change in rainfall	change in rainfall
Warmer winters	+1.4^{0}C (0.6 to 2.2) ^{0}C	+2.2^{0}C (1.2 to 3.5) ^{0}C
Wetter winters	+7% (-5% to +21%) change in rainfall	+18% (+2% to +39%) change in rainfall
Overall change in rainfall	+1% (-6% to +5%) change in rainfall	-2% (-8% to +4%) change in rainfall

(1) These are the central estimates for the medium emissions scenarios for the South East River Basin District with the 10% and 90% probability values in brackets. Source: Environment Agency, 2010 after UK Climate Impact Programme (2010).

4.7 Climate change mitigation and energy

Generation of electricity from renewable sources is increasing in the South East, However, it only meets 3.8% of current traditional sales in the Region. In the South East, electricity generated from renewable sources is equivalent to 9.4% of domestic sales and 6.5% of commercial and industrial sales in 2008. In 2008 the South East region generated the third highest total amount of electricity from renewable sources (1,554 GWh) in England. Of this, 855 GWh were from landfill gas. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East set minimum regional targets for electricity generation from renewable resources of 620 MW by 2010, 895 MW by 2016, 1130 MW by 2020 and 1750 MW by 2025. It is apparent that the 2025 target has been far exceeded on a regional basis. The additional The proposed Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Project will have an installed generating capacity of 665 MW and will make a further significant contribution towards renewable electricity generation in the south east, including the SDNP.

Evidence collation for the energy consumption has been identified as a current weakness in the SOTPR and a study has been commissioned during 2012 in order to better understand existing and project energy supply and consumption patterns, the opportunities for energy efficiencies and the scope for optimising low carbon energy generation within the constraints of the NP purposes.

The management of the Parks can play a key role in the fight against climate change and in leading others by demonstrating best practice. The Authorities are custodians of lands rich in woodlands, moors and fens: the 449,000 hectares of peat soils in the Parks contain 119Mt of carbon, equivalent to England's carbon dioxide emissions for a year (Defra, 2010).

4.8 Community and Wellbeing

The population of the South Downs is predominantly rural with an average population density of 70 people per square kilometre people per square kilometre compared to a south east average of 440 people per square kilometre. By contrast, population density in Petersfield, Midhurst and Lewes is as high as 5,000 people per square kilometre in places. The dispersed nature of settlement and facilities and limited public transport infrastructure places a high dependence upon cars. 85% of residents owning one car and an estimated 63% of the working population travelling to work by car.

The 'elderly' within the population, i.e. those aged 65 and over, account for around 21 per cent compared to 17 per cent in the South East region. The population is also ageing further with the largest increase between 2001 and 2009 being recorded for

those aged 60-64 (26 per cent), with increases also recorded in the over 85 age group (17 per cent), 45-49 year age group (14 per cent) and those aged 80-85 years (11 per cent). The largest decrease was recorded in those aged 30-34 years (-39 per cent) and 35-39 years (-19 per cent).

Mapping of the indices of multiple deprivation for Health, shows that Urban areas adjacent to the park and within the market towns include pockets of poverty and poor health.

Inequalities exist in both physical and educational access to the countryside and cultural facilities between different social groups. A recent study commissioned by Natural England on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority, examined the existing access network using the Accessible Natural Greenspace standards (ANGst) as a guide. There are some locations, particularly in urban areas, where the population has limited access. This data, when overlaid with information on the density of the public rights of way network highlights areas immediately adjacent to the National Park where communities lack access to both rights of way and ANG (Natural England, 2011).

10% of the population is from a black minority or ethnic BME background but only 1% of visits to NP are from a BME community (Campaign for National Parks, 2012).

In 2009, Natural England, Defra and the Forestry Commission commissioned a new survey called Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) to provide baseline and trend data on how people use the natural environment in England. SDNPA has commissioned bespoke analysis of this survey data for the South Downs National Park which will enable us to develop our understanding of how people engage with the natural environment in the South Downs. This will underpin our work to remove barriers and open up opportunities for all sectors of society to understand and enjoy the South Downs.

As part of a pan-Sussex Review of Environmental Centres by Sussex WT, returns by Centre Managers identified 5 key areas of weakness:

Table 4.2 Weaknesses in Physical and Educational Access / Facilities at Environmental Centres.

	Weakness in environmental education provision	**Percentage of centres**
1	Insufficient funding for educational facilities	34%
2	Lack of funding, particularly for education staff	31%
3	Centres grounds or interpretation not ideal for disabled access	24%
4	Transport to site difficult or costly	21%
5	No or limited accommodation	21%

Source: Review of Environment Centres in the Pan-Sussex Area, WWT Consulting, June 2007

A household is considered to be 'fuel poor' if it needs to spend more than 10 per cent of household income on fuel to maintain a satisfactory level of heating (21 degrees for the main living area and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms. The percentage of homes in fuel poverty is higher in the South Downs National Park (14.5 per cent compared

with 12.5 per cent in the south east). One contributory factor is the number of households that fall outside the gas grid in the rural areas of the park.

4.9 Economy and employment

The GVA per capita is £19,450 broadly similar to the South East and well above many parts of the UK. The unemployment rate at 1.6% is well below the national average of 8.3% labour force but reflects the fact that the adult working population who don't work cannot afford to live in the NP. The average rural house price is £400,300, whilst in the towns it is £265,400 (see Section 4.10)There are, therefore high levels of both in and out commuting for work.

Businesses tend to be concentrated in industries such as agriculture, forestry & fishing and professional, scientific & technical services. Retail, health sector and construction are slightly less represented in the National Park compared to the surrounding area. Evidence seems to suggest that many of these are small or micro businesses (0-9 employees) and that many of these will be home-based. Many areas of the SDNP suffer from poor broadband access and this is a constraint to competitiveness in the online marketplace and a key issue to be addressed.

There are a few areas in or around the main market towns with lower incomes and greater unemployment (Hampshire County Council, 2011).

4.10 Housing

In 2001 there were 50,039 homes in the South Downs National Park. The National Park has a high proportion of detached homes (40 per cent of all homes) with semi-detached homes accounting for a further 27 per cent of homes. Given the high proportion of larger houses and the associated high prices of housing in the National Park access to affordable housing is a key issue facing many local communities.

The 'affordability ratio' indicates how many average annual salaries are needed to purchase an average priced house in a given area. In 2010 the average English ratio was 7.0, whilst the South East regional was 8.2. Eastbourne is the only area in the South Downs National Park where houses are more affordable, compared to the regional average, at 7.1. The other 11 districts have a much lower housing affordability with an average resident of East Hampshire spending 11.0 of their annual salaries in order to purchase an average priced house. In Chichester it is 10.5 and in Winchester 10.2.

There were about 3,780 households on housing waiting lists in the National Park in 2010 which represents about 7 per cent of all households in the National Park. The number of households on local authority housing waiting lists increased by 1,235 between 2008 and 2010 representing a 49 per cent increase (DTZ, 2011).

The Government recognises that National Parks are not suitable locations for unrestricted housing and does not therefore provide general housing targets for them (DEFRA, 2010). Consistent with government policy, the expectation is that new housing in the SDNP will be focused on meeting affordable housing requirements, supporting local employment opportunities and key services (Defra 2010). The general exclusion for major development and, in particular major housing development within national

parks is likely to have implications for surrounding authorities for which pressure to provide new housing may be greater, since designation of the SDNP.

4.11 Transport

It is helpful to differentiate between the transport considerations for business and residential communities these being distinct from visitors to the NP that will be likely to show greater seasonality.

The high dependence on car ownership for residents of the NP has already been mentioned. The increasing dependence upon car travel is a reflection of poor public transport infrastructure made worse by recent cuts in bus subsidies across all four Local Transport Authority areas that have resulted have resulted in reduced services in some areas and a complete cessation of buses in others.

Based upon 2003 data there was an estimated 39 million visitor days spent in the South Downs, Car ownership levels are high with 85% of residents owning at least one car and an estimated 63% of the working population travelling to work by car representing 7.76 million two way journeys annually. High visitor dependence upon cars makes car parking an issue particularly for popular destinations and also for mass participation events such as long distance runs / cycle rides.

Approximately 22,500 residents commute out to other destinations in the south east, including London. Peak capacity on rail commuter routes between London and south coast termini such as Brighton, Portsmouth and Southampton is an acknowledged problem; e.g. by 2020 the Brighton Main Line service to London will be operating at 100% capacity notwithstanding current planned measures to provide additional capacity (Network Rail, 2010). Similar capacity issues are affecting coastway services primarily driven by housing development and associated population increases.

The SDNP is transacted by a number of strategic highway routes including the A27 (east west) and A3M / A3, A24, A23 and A26 with north-south routes concentrated within the principal chalk valleys. Pressures for road improvements, often with major cuttings and/or tunnels in the Downs, have been an issue in the eastern downs. This has led to reduced perceptions of tranquillity in open downland landscapes, especially adjacent to urban conurbations.

4.12 Water

The chalk of the South Downs, being very porous, acts as a huge sponge (or aquifer) and stores water. It is this groundwater that supplies the large majority of the people living within and around the South Downs with their drinking water, constituting ~75% supply. It also feeds water into chalk springs, and provides the source for the important chalk rivers of the Meon and Itchen on the western edge of the National Park.

Pressure from new development and rising household demand is increasing the need for water across the southeast. This is having an impact on the water resources from the South Downs National Park. The level of abstraction, from both the Chalk and Lower Greensand aquifers across the National Park, already exceed the available natural resource (Environment Agency, 2012). This also has an effect on river flows and the need to maintain their ecological condition.

Water companies produce water resources management plans every 5 years which set out how they will manage such increasing demands and maintain supplies over a 25 year horizon. However, with regards to Purpose 1 of National Parks, resource development options (e.g. new reservoirs, groundwater sources) have to be environmentally sustainable and not lead to the further deterioration of river flows and aquifer storage. The SDNPA has a role to play in influencing environmentally sustainable options, working with the Environment Agency in the review of water resources management plans.

An additional 'risk' in water resources planning exists in the southeast due to the number of water companies operating in the region. With each company looking to meet future demands with additional 'headroom' factored (i.e. added security to meet extra demand), over-capacity can result. In their 2004 plans, water companies in the southeast were planning to develop approximately 500 million litres per day over and above what was identified as being required by 2029/30 (Environment Agency 2009). This was equal to a surplus investment cost of £1.4 billion - therefore impacting customer bills and with potential risks to the environment.

In 2008/09, the average actual per person water consumption in the South Downs National Park was 170 litres per person per day. This needs to reduce to 135 litres per day by 2016 en route to meet the Government aspiration of 130 litres per person per day by 2030 or 120 litres per person, per day with technological development (Environment Agency, 2009). Increasingly metering is being introduced by water companies to regulate demand as part of a 'twin track approach' of resource development with demand management to meet future demand pressures.

4.13 Key Sustainability Issues and Future Baseline (A3)

The SEA Directive requires consideration not only of the current state of the environment but also "the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme" or what has been referred to here as the future baseline.

Table 4.3 lists the key sustainability issues that have emerged from the baseline analysis in Section 3, together with characterisation of the future baseline based upon current evidence and trends.

Table 4.3 Key Sustainability Issues and Consequences for Future Baseline for South Downs National Park

Landscape		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Degradation of landscape character	Baseline provided in South Downs National Park Integrated Landscape Character Assessment. Typical frequency for updates to Landscape Assessments is ten years.	Increasing specialisation of agriculture, changing lifestyles and changing forms of land ownership
Increased urbanisation and loss of local distinctiveness, character and integrity of the historic built environment and its setting	Baseline provided in South Downs National Park Integrated Landscape Character Assessment. Typical frequency for updates to Landscape Assessments is ten years. Local distinctiveness being eroded by incremental change, small-scale developments, extensions and conversions unsympathetic to settlement form and local vernacular styles. The condition of listed buildings within the South Downs is poorly recorded.	Pressures for provision of housing, particularly affordable housing within the SDNP have the potential to adversely affect the landscape character and the overspill of existing villages and market towns into surrounding rural areas. Further unsympathetic developments will lead to the greater erosion or loss of the character and local distinctiveness of the SDNP settlements and landscape.
Noise, light and air pollution	Loss of landscape character and tranquillity through poorly sited noisy developments, excessive and poorly designed lighting,and air pollution from vehicles.	Continued loss of landscape character and tranquillity.
Insensitive Golf Course and Horseculture development – and associated buildings, parking lighting etc.	External Consultation SDNPA has received applications for 1 new club house and 1 new golf course and club house since 1 April 2011.	With a growing population in / around the SDNP, there is demand for new golf courses and horseculture development that alter the existing landscape character and natural habitats and migratory routes.
Landscapes lack sufficient permeability for species to be able to move or respond to climate change	Some habitats and species are more sensitive to climatic change than others. Species composition can change, for example favouring grasses and more drought tolerant species. Sites under five hectares are more vulnerable as they have less resilience. Small isolated fragments of habitat are more likely to be lost.	Ecological connectivity is an important function of the landscapes. Without it species are unable to move and adapt to environmental change. Increased habitat fragmentation will mean that landscapes will lack the adaptive capacity to deal with major threats, such as a shift in climatic conditions.
Biodiversity		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**

Comment [RD1]: Reference to be added idc.

Many wildlife habitats are small and fragmented. Lack of long-term, sustainable land management for biodiversity, ecosystem services.	Over 95 per cent of lowland heathlands have been lost globally While over half (55 per cent) of the heathland within the National Park is designated as SSSI, over 80 per cent of these heathland SSSI units are currently in unfavourable condition.	The failure to address habitat fragmentation and management issues will result in further deterioration in site conditions and loss of biodiversity through insufficient capacity to support vulnerable species.
Potential conflicts between differing priorities e.g. access and biodiversity.	External Consultation	Pressures for increased provision of access and recreational opportunities and increased development within the SDNP have the potential to adversely affect the richness and diversity of the Park's wildlife and habitats.

Comment [RD2]: Reference to be added idc.

Archaeological & Cultural Heritage		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Ongoing damage to archaeological sites and historic features and historic landscapes and designed parkland	In the Hampshire part of the SDNP, of 62 non-scheduled round barrows visited in 2002, 53% had either been ploughed and would disappear if damage continued or had been destroyed or irreparably degraded. A survey of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit in 1975 identified that, of the known sites surveyed, 60% of the Bronze Age settlements, 64% of Iron Age Settlements and 94% of Neotlithic Open settlements had been damaged. Over 60% of major field systems, Roman sites and villas and Saxon settlements had also been damaged.. The South East has suffered the greatest loss of parkland of any English region since 1919.	Lack of detailed knowledge and management may lead to further degradation and loss of archaeological features and other heritage assets,
"Heritage at risk" – Conservation Areas, listed buildings, ancient monuments in particular	8% scheduled monuments are deemed by English Heritage to be at risk; the full extent of heritage at risk has not been collated.	Ineffective management of heritage at risk will result in neglect, decay or inappropriate development in relation to both designated and non designated sites.

	The park has 165 conservation areas of which 20 are identified by EH as being at risk although a review is in progress to establish the full extent of conservation areas at risk.	The absence of up to date conservation area appraisals and active management plans threatens to result in incremental change that will undermine the historic identity and features for which the area was designated.
Climate change affecting the Historic Environment	Energy efficiency assessment of the existing building stock is complicated by the fact that standard calculating methods underestimate the thermal performance of traditionally built buildings (Rye, C., 2011).	Effective assessment and targeting of energy efficiency programmes will result potentially result in inappropriate measures if the most recent scientific data regarding thermal performance of building materials are not applied.
Lack of access to and understanding of the historic environment.	Heritage assets not understood and so not valued, cared for or enjoyed.	Lack of understanding leads to lack of care for heritage assets.
Climatic Factors		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Flood risk, increased soil erosion and adaptation related to both sea level rise and current and projected wetter winters. Increased cycles of drought and flooding are projected.	Sea level rise is currently of the order of 4mm p.a. Predicted overall increase in rainfall for the south east is +18% (+2% to +39%).	The EA policy for shoreline management of the NP coastline east of Seaford is 'no active intervention'. Failure to manage the ingress of the sea in the Cuckmere estuary will result in loss or RoW and designated habitat features.
Maintenance of clean water supply in face of increasing demand given dryer summers.	Predicted 8% reduction in rainfall (-28% to +15%) in the 2020s from rainfall data over the period 1962-1990)	Water shortages during dry periods will result in more frequent incidence of hosepipe bans as experienced during early spring 2012.
Increased impact on soil condition with increased erosion and nutrient loss.	Soil degradation in England is currently estimated at between £250 and £350 Million per annum. Increased cycles of drought and flooding are projected.	This may impact on soil condition with increased erosion and nutrient loss/run-off on some steeper slopes. Higher rainfall is likely to result in increased soil erosion.
Increase in extreme rainfall events and flooding.	The cost of damage to UK properties through flooding has reached around £1.3 billion per annum. This does not include the cost of damage to agricultural land or of crop loss (not insurable). More extreme rainfall events, such as in 2007, 2009 and 2012 have caused significant disruption and damage.	If this trend continues, increased risk of flooding of properties and agricultural land and in river valleys may result. Wetter winters will increase frequency of both fluvial and ground water flooding at high risk sites and increase the number/distribution of sites at risk.
Climatic Factors		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**

Increase in the incidence of windstorms.	Average UK insured losses through windstorms are now £620 million per annum. Extreme storm events such as those in 1987, 1990, 2001 and 2007 may be more frequent.	This may result in loss of trees as a landscape feature, disruption to public services and damage to property.
Climatic Change Mitigation and Energy		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Performance of the energy efficiency of the existing housing and future build hosing stock and of the industrial premises.	An energy study has been commissioned during 2012 to establish the baseline and measures to progress this. CFSH in new build.	Increasing energy costs; failure to meet government targets; higher incidence of fuel poverty and business failures resulting from high fuel costs.
Opportunities to develop low carbon and renewable energy within the NP consistent with SDNPA purposes.	Generation of electricity from renewable sources is increasing in the South East, However, it only meets 3.8% of current traditional sales in the Region In the South East, electricity generated from renewable sources is equivalent to 9.4% of domestic sales and 6.5% of commercial and industrial sales in 2008. In 2008 the South East region generated the third highest total amount of electricity from renewable sources (1,554 GWh) in England. Of this, 855 GWh were from landfill gas. These amounts more than exceed the 1750 MW by 2025. The proposed Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Project will have an installed generating capacity of 665 MW and will make a significant contribution towards meeting the above targets.	Failure to take active measures to increase the contribution from renewable energy sources within the SDNP will mean that NPA has failed in its pivotal role in transformation to a low carbon society and sustainable living and therefore its contribution to meeting the UK government target of sourcing 30% of all electricity from renewable sources by 2020
There exists an opportunity to provide more effective valuation of the role of woodlands throughout the National Park to contribute to carbon abatement.	The management of the Parks can play a key role in the fight against climate change and in leading others by demonstrating best practice. The Authorities are custodians of lands rich in woodlands, moors and fens: the 449,000 hectares of peat soils in the Parks contain 119Mt of carbon, equivalent to England's carbon dioxide emissions for a year.	Failure to effectively value this ecosystem service would run counter to carbon abatement efforts which are potentially significant given the importance of woodland to the SDNP.

Community and Wellbeing		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**

Population structure of the SDNP increasingly dominated those aged 65 and over.	The elderly within the population, i.e. those aged 65 and over, account for around 21 per cent compared to 17 per cent in the South East region.	Facilities for youth become increasingly difficult to sustain because of out-migration of families that cannot afford to live in SDNP and the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas. This process is self-perpetuating without active intervention. Fewer working residents living in the park results in increased traffic movements and difficulty for employers to find local workforce to run services for the ageing population.
Rural areas hit harder by closure of pubs, village shops etc. and effect of suburbanisation.	Baseline data is not yet know. % Population within 2km of Post Office, 2km of Public House. Rural pubs close at a rate of 6 per week, whilst urban pubs are closing at a rate of 2 per week (CAMRA)	The continued loss of community facilities undermines the communities themselves and the degree of social interaction as well as detracting from the sense of place that these facilities provide. This results in communities accessing services and facilities outside the community / National Park increasing pressure on rural roads etc.
Cuts in local authority budgets affects grants to major organisations, village halls and public libraries and service delivery in cultural activity.	The current Government plan will result in a cut of central funding to local authorities by 28% over four years 2011-2015.	The continued loss of community facilities undermines the communities themselves and the degree of social interaction as well as detracting from the sense of place that these facilities provide.
Urban areas adjacent to the park include pockets of poverty and poor health.	Multiple Index of Deprivation spatial mapping, Access to Natural Greenspace (ANG) and Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) data.	The SDNP will restrict development further increasing pressure on access to natural green space in surrounding areas. Health and wellbeing will deteriorate without a suitable partnership strategy.
Inequalities exist in both physical and educational access to the countryside and cultural facilities between different social groups.	Pan Sussex Review of Environment Centres by Sussex WT in 2007 suggests 24% facilities have grounds or interpretation not ideal for disabled access and 21% facilities for which transport to site is difficult or costly. 10% of the population is from a BME background but only 1% of visits to NP are from a BME community (Campaign for National Parks)	Some social groups visit National Parks less than others. Without an effective strategy to address this, SDNPA would be failing in its responsibility to promote understanding and enjoyment to all sectors of society.

Community (cont'd).

Key Sustainability Issues	Evidence and Trends	Consequences for Future Baseline
Incidences of rural crime in the South Downs National Park encompassing: Wildlife Crime – Poaching, hare coursing Anti Social Behaviour – green laning, fly tipping, littering, illegal use of private land Farm crime – metal theft, fuel theft, equipment theft and sheep worrying	Anecdotal evidence from visitors survey for land managers which identified rural crime as a key issue affecting landowners. Rural crime highlighted as a common issue in community led plans across the National Park	Increased costs for landowners in replacing equipment and increased insurance premiums, making farming less viable. Cost of removing fly tipping, negative impact on the special qualities of the National Park, impact on visitors / tourism. Failure to tackle sheep worrying effectively could mean loss of sheep farming and increase in arable, especially combined with buoyant wheat market.
Economy		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Economy – disconnected from the landscape/local area (out-commuting to jobs in surrounding towns/cities)	Approximately 14,000 residents commute out to other destinations in the south east, including London. The population is dominated by the 'Countryside category' i.e. well off individuals living in rural or semi rural location, mostly living in detached housing, working in agriculture or a professional capacity and often working from home.	Pattern of out-commuting does not foster strong locally-based rural economy further undermining communities and local services.
Many areas of the SDNP suffer from poor broadband access and this is a constraint to competitiveness in the online marketplace.	There are very few places within the National Park with speeds higher than 8 Mb per second.	Failure to extend broadband coverage will constrain business growth throughout the national park and the competitiveness of existing businesses.
Global market driven forces influence agriculture within the NP that can result in increased intensity.	Spending on agri-environment schemes nearly doubled between 2005/06 and 2009/10 – £4.567 to £8.305 million but currently only 56% of the National Park (93,561ha) is covered by agri-environment schemes.	Changing agriculture has affected the landscape and features of the South Downs in the past and will continue to in the future; recognition of this underpins the need for an ecosystem services approach that must include a realistic valuation of food production (strategic and social importance, not just low farm-gate prices).
There are a few areas in or around the main market towns with lower incomes and greater unemployment.	ONS Socioeconomic breakdown of households at OA level.	The market towns will come under increased pressure for meeting future housing requirements. High localised unemployment could result in blighted areas within these towns.

Housing		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Need for affordable housing stock.	There were estimated approximately 3,780 households on the waiting list in the National Park in 2010, representing around 5% of all households. Between 2008-2010, there was a 49% increase in the number of households on the list (DTZ, 2011).	Population will continue to age, loss of facilities will continue with a lack of younger population to fill local jobs. Increased development pressure on areas outside the National Park.
Need for accommodation for rural workers		Increased inward commuting to fill these jobs, less opportunity for people to find work locally, loss of rural skills.
Under provision of transit and permanent traveller sites.	Area Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments commissioned spring 2012 to provide the baseline and forecast requirements to 2032.	Increase in illegal encampments; increase in planning applications for pitches / sites; potentially an increase in planning appeals related to the former.
Second home ownership/Holiday homes - decrease in resident population and support for local facilities	Second/holiday homes as % of total homes in each parish and/or settlement.	Increase house prices in rural areas impact on residents ability to afford homes in their community Reduction in availability of houses locally to meet local need. De-population of small rural communities with subsequent impact of the viability of local services
Low capacity for settlements to accommodate new housing. Resistance from community. Locations for new housing often unsustainable.	Major should not take place within a Park except in exceptional circumstances (Defra 2010). A development of 3 or more houses is likely to be deemed significant to NP purposes if it is not within an existing settlement boundary (SDNPA, 2011).	
High value area causes houses to be enlarged, improved, replaced, reducing proportion of smaller, cheaper houses	Average house price £330k (SDNPA, 2012). Percentage of 3BR properties within SDNP. 40% homes are detached. 27% homes are semi-detached.	Without intervention there is a likelihood of increased loss of affordable homes and therefore higher waiting lists for affordable homes within SDNP.
Rural nature of community means that a higher than average population of the population are off the gas main which can make domestic heating more costly.	Numbers of households not connected to gas main.	Increasing fuel prices, particularly affecting oil and electricity potentially will result in an increasing number of households not able heat homes appropriately.

Transport		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Poor public transport infrastructure within the SDNP. Data suggests an average of 39 million visitor days spent in the South Downs, 84% of which are reliant upon cars.	The poor public transport infrastructure is reflected in high dependence upon cars with 85% of residents owning one car and an estimated 63% of the working population travelling to work by car. Subsidised buss services have been cut in all four Local Transport Authority areas within SDNP.	Increasing dependence upon cars is not consistent with the low carbon economy that the SDNPA is seeking to develop. Poor public transport infrastructure combined with increasing numbers of visitors to the park will exacerbate problems of congestion on roads and adversely affecting tranquillity. Lack of access to public transport results in social exclusion leaving vulnerable groups in rural areas without access to services that are readily available to residents with cars or those living in urban areas (SDNPA in press).
High dependence on cars by residents in / around SDNP with associated peak time congestion and parking..	Car ownership levels are high with 85% of residents owning at least one car and an estimated 63% of the working population travelling to work by car representing 7.76 million two way journeys annually.	Continued growth in car usage by communities in and around the park, combined with increased volume of traffic associated with visitors will exacerbate existing problems of congestion and car parking in the SDNP undermining the NP purposes.
High visitor dependence upon cars makes car parking an issue particularly for popular destinations and for mass participation events such as long distance runs / cycle rides.	In 2003, it was estimated that there were 39 million visitor days spent in the South Downs. The majority of visitor groups: an estimated 84%, travelled by private by car.	
Some rail commuter routes will be at peak capacity by 2020.	By 2020 the Brighton Main Line service to London will be operating at 100% capacity.	Failure to work in partnership with LTAs/Network Rail to address long-term shortfalls in rail capacity for London-South Coast routes and Coastway services will increase pressure for transport solutions inconsistent with SDNPA responsibilities.

Water		
Key Sustainability Issues	**Evidence and Trends**	**Consequences for Future Baseline**
Water demand for both domestic and agri. Use exceeds supply with resulting over abstraction from aquifers / rivers affecting quality of water sources.	Abstraction, from both the Chalk and Lower Greensand aquifers across the National Park, already exceed the available natural resource (Environment Agency, 2012).	The government target is to reduce per capita consumption to 130 litres / day whereas current pcc for the SDNP resource zones is 170 litres / day. Increasing population growth in the coastal towns will place existing chalk aquifers under further pressure and without reduction in per capita consumption in the longer term.
	15% streams and rivers in the SDNP are at good ecological status. 44% streams and rivers in the SDNP are at moderate ecological status. 41% streams and rivers in the SDNP are at bad ecological status. (Environment Agency, 2012). Key reasons for surface water failure include the state of fish stocks, excessive phosphates in the water, and the impacts of abstraction.	Increasing pressure on abstraction will increase the vulnerability of surface water bodies and aquifers to further deterioration in ecological status without adequate management measures to address these issues. For example, pollutants in water bodies, particularly phosphates from legacy issues associated with private sewers[4] will continue to adversely affect water quality if not addressed. Nitrate, pesticide and sediment from agriculture is already dealt with by NVZ regs, VI, CSF, CFE, agri-env schemes and catchment projects, where these schemes are in place. Where schemes don't exist problems may persist.

[4] Nb. Most private sewers transferred over to the Sewerage Undertaker under the on the 1st October 2011 under the Water Industry (Schemes for the Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011.

5. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework (Stage A4)

5.1 Introduction

The SA Framework is a vital tool to enable the sustainability effects of SDNPA plans, policies and programmes to be assessed. The Framework consists of **SDNPA Sustainability Objectives** that have been developed from consideration of the **Relevant Sustainability Objectives** identified in Stage 1 and the associated **Key Sustainability Issues** emerging from consideration of the baseline data (Stages A2 and A3).

Table 5.1 links the stages in the process together to demonstrate how Sustainability Objectives that are specific to the SDNPA have been derived and how they relate to both the thematic topics of the SEA Directive and the draft Emerging Priorities for the NPMP that will, in turn, shape the local plan.

The final component to the Framework is a suite of Potential Indicators linked to the SDNPA Sustainability Objectives that will be used to provide a basis for future monitoring to allow an assessment of whether or not polices are effective in addressing the Sustainability Objectives. These are listed in Table 5.2. In practice, at this early stage in the scoping process a number of these indicators will be used not only as a basis for future monitoring but additionally to enhance the current baseline that will inform the NPMP as well as the local plan.

Table 5.1 Development of SA Framework: SDNP Sustainability Objectives

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	National Parks Vision & Circular Policies	Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)	SEA Topics	Draft Emerging Priorities	SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)
1. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a good quality, affordable home, suitable to their need and which optimises the scope for environmental sustainability.	… Authorities in association with their partners should: • support the delivery of affordable housing; (paragraph 67) The principles of sustainable development include living within environmental limits, achieving a sustainable economy and ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. NPAs should ensure they are exemplars in achieving sustainable development (para 28).	Need for affordable housing stock.	Population and human health Material Assets	Sustainable Communities Low Carbon Economy	1.1 Enhance rural communities by providing good quality affordable housing for local people which meets the needs of communities now and in the future and provide small-scale open market housing in suitable locations to help support rural services.
		Need for accommodation for rural workers			
		Second home ownership/Holiday homes - decrease in resident population and support for local facilities			
		High value area causes houses to be enlarged, improved, replaced, reducing proportion of smaller, cheaper houses			1.2 To create communities characterised by integrated development which takes account of local housing needs and delivers the widest possible range of benefits consistent with NP purposes & duty.
		Low capacity for settlements to accommodate new housing. Resistance from community. Locations for new housing often unsustainable.			
		Under provision of transit and permanent traveller sites.			1.3 To make suitable provision for transit and permanent traveller sites based upon projected need.
		Rural nature of community means that a higher than average population of the population are off the gas main which can make domestic heating more costly.			S.O. 17.1

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	National Parks Vision & Circular Policies	Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)	SEA Topics	Draft Emerging Priorities	SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)
2. To **improve the health and well-being** of the population and reduce inequalities in health and well-being.	Actively encourage members of the Black and Minority Ethnic community, those with disabilities and those from inner city areas to visit the Park. The Government expects NPAs in partnership with other agencies to provide strategic solutions and local services to foster the physical and mental health of the nation (para 106)	Urban areas adjacent to the park and within the market towns include pockets of poverty and poor health.	Population and human health Material Assets	Sustainable Communities	2.1 Optimise the benefits that the natural environment offers to contribute to peoples' health and well-being.
					2.2 Use environmental and building standards to ensure that places promote health and wellbeing.
	The Authorities also have powers to take enforcement action against unlawful works on common land and to protect commons with no known owner against interference (such as trespass and encroachment (para 60).	Incidences of rural crime in the South Downs National Park encompassing: Wildlife Crime – Poaching, hare coursing Anti Social Behaviour – green laning, fly tipping, littering, illegal use of private land Farm crime – metal theft, fuel theft, equipment theft and sheep worrying.			2..3 To contribute to a reduction in all aspects of rural crime through effective enforcement in partnership with other enforcement agencies.
6. To **create** and **sustain vibrant communities** which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals.	NPAs should foster and maintain vibrant, healthy and productive living and working communities (Section 4.4) Authorities should continue to explore new ways of engaging with their communities e.g. sustainable rural communities toolkit (paras 101-2)	Population structure of the SDNP increasingly dominated those aged 65 and over.	Population and human health Cultural heritage and landscape Material Assets	Sustainable Communities	6.1 Supporting communities where children grow up and go to school
		Loss of young people and skills.			
		Loss of separation between villages and associated loss of settlement identity.			6.2 Supporting and empowering local communities to shape their own community (recognise the value of community and neighbourhood planning)
		Rural areas hit harder by closure of pubs, village shops and other community hubs resulting in a loss of community structure.			

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	National Parks Vision & Circular Policies	Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)	SEA Topics	Draft Emerging Priorities	SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)
6. To **create** and **sustain vibrant communities** which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals (contd.)	NPAs should work to increase the diversity of employees, members and volunteers in order to better reflect their local communities, communities of interest and wider society (para 162)	Awareness and take-up of volunteering opportunities.	Population and human health	Sustainable Communities	6,2 Supporting and empowering local communities to shape their own community (recognise the value of community and neighbourhood planning)
7. To **improve accessibility to all services and facilities**	NPAs in association with partners should: • encourage communications infrastructure; • make tourism sustainable • promote sustainable transport, (para 67)	Poor public transport infrastructure within the SDNP. Data suggests an average of 39 million visitor days spent in the South Downs, 84% of which are reliant upon cars.	Population and human health Cultural heritage and landscape	Sustainable Communities Low Carbon Economy Access	7.1 Encourage partnership initiatives for the development of community facilities to meet local needs guided by the Community Hierarchy Study.
8. To encourage **increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community**	Authorities should continue to explore new ways of engaging with their Communities (para 101) NPAs should help realise the positive contribution that	Inequalities exist in both physical and educational access to the countryside and cultural facilities between different social groups.	Population and human health Cultural heritage and	Sustainable Communities Local Community Action	S.O. 7.1 8.1 A sustainable tourism strategy that supports recreation businesses and includes effective visitor management to avoid adverse impact on agriculture.

in the National Park and promote sustainable tourism.	sustainable tourism can make to the environment of the Parks and to the wellbeing of Park communities (para 82).	Cuts in local authority budgets affects grants to major organisations, village halls and public libraries and service delivery in cultural activity.	landscape		8.2 Access to and representation of all sections of the community in NP facilities. S.O. 12.2

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	**National Parks Vision & Circular Policies**	**Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)**	**SEA Topics**	**Draft Emerging Priorities**	**SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)**
12. To encourage development of the rural economy in a manner that balances agricultural and other business interests to maintain a living, valued landscape.	NPAs should foster and maintain thriving rural economies (para 68 et seq.). In fostering a positive environment for sustaining and developing business in the Parks should be cognisant of those sectors and activities which are most likely to sustain their communities, are appropriate to their setting and maximise the benefits of a high quality environment (para 74)	Many areas of the SDNP suffer from poor broadband access and this is a constraint to competitiveness in the online marketplace.	Population and human health Material Assets	Sustainable Communities Material Assets Ecological Network	12.1 Encourage development of efficient broadband throughout the area to encourage small business, communities & tourism in the Park.
		Economy – disconnected from the landscape/local area.			12.2 Encourage local industry and maintenance of a living cultural skills base that forms part of heritage now and into the future.
		Out-commuting to jobs in surrounding towns/cities.			12.3 Recognise and support core sectors of the South Downs economy such as food production, tourism and land management.
		Global market driven forces influence agriculture within the NP that can result in increased intensity.			12.4 Promote viable agri-environmental businesses and diversification that focuses on ecosystem services and enhancement of the local supply chain.
		Degradation of landscape character			
		There are a few areas in or around the main market towns with lower incomes and greater			12.5 Market towns to provide services to the rural hinterland.

		unemployment.			

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	**National Parks Vision & Circular Policies**	**Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)**	**SEA Topics**	**Draft Emerging Priorities**	**Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)**
17. To address **the causes of climate change** through **reducing emissions of greenhouse gases**	Renewable energy is key to achieving the UK's emissions reductions targets and the move towards low-carbon living. The Parks should be exemplars in renewable energy. Authorities need to work with local communities to reach a position where renewable energy is the norm in all Parks whilst not compromising their overriding duty under the 1949 Act (para 46). The Authorities should promote energy efficiency within the Parks… (para 47). Authorities should assess any external risks and seek to minimise the harmful and maximise the beneficial effects. (para 22)	Performance of the energy efficiency of the existing housing and future build hosing stock and of the industrial premises.	Climatic factors Air	Ecological Network Carbon sequestration Low Carbon Economy Sustainable communities Local Community Action	17.1 Promote appropriate retrofitting and upgrading of the existing housing stock and other buildings informed by the sense of place;
		Opportunities to develop low carbon and renewable energy within the NP consistent with SDNPA purposes.			17.2 Implementing policy of zero carbon new build homes by 2016 in accordance with government policy.
					17.3 Supporting communities with the right LC / RE infrastructure in the right place.
	Woodlands should be managed to increase their contribution to climate change mitigation through either sequestration in growing biomass or through wood and timber produced from the woodlands substituting for fossil	There exists an opportunity to provide more effective valuation of the role of woodlands throughout the National Park to contribute to carbon abatement.			17.4 Extension of wood planting , where appropriate both for carbon storage opportunities and to provide woodfuel sources.

	fuels and more energy intensive construction materials (para 44).				

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	**National Parks Vision & Circular Policies**	**Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)**	**SEA Topics**	**Draft Emerging Priorities**	**SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)**
18. To ensure the SDNP communities are prepared for the impacts of climate change	NPAs are to be exemplars of sustainability in enabling the natural environment to adapt to predicted changes (and being resilient to unpredictable events), in supporting the delivery of ecosystem services1 and in developing more resilient infrastructure (para 41) NPAs with coastal interests are encouraged to contribute to the process of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (para 104)	Flood risk, increased soil erosion and adaptation related to both sea level rise and current and projected wetter winters. Increased cycles of drought and flooding are projected. This may impact on soil condition with increased erosion and nutrient loss.	Water and soil Climatic factors Material Assets Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population and human health	Clean Water Ecological Network	18.1 Minimise the risk of flooding to new development through application of the sequential and exception tests.
					18.2 Promote the uptake of sustainable drainage systems.
					18.3 The achievement of integrated coastal zone management
	By 2030 English National Parks and the Broads will be places where the wide-range of services they provide (from clean water to sustainable food) are in good condition and valued by society (para 10).	Maintenance of clean water supply in face of increasing demand given dryer summers.			18.4 Promote the incorporation of rainwater harvesting in the built environment and measures to reduce water demand. Promote consideration of farm reservoirs and on-farm boreholes for local efficient abstraction under an "Abstract Well and Use Well" basis.

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	National Parks Vision & Circular Policies	Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)	SEA Topics	Draft Emerging Priorities	SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)
19. To conserve and enhance the National Park's biodiversity.	Authorities work with key partners on focused action to: • manage landscape, heritage and improve quality of place; • value, safeguard and enhance biodiversity; • protect and enhance soils; • promote and deliver agri-environment schemes; • promote better management of common land; • improve public understanding of the natural environment and the benefits of outdoor Recreation (para 48)..	Habitats are small and fragmented (except woodland) Lack of long-term land management for biodiversity, ecosystem services A proportion of woodland is not appropriately managed and is poorly connected. Potential conflicts between differing priorities e.g. access and biodiversity. Water demand for both domestic and agri. Use exceeds supply with resulting over abstraction from aquifers / rivers.	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Population and human health	Ecological Network Clean Water	19.1 Maintain a functioning ecological network and improve the resilience of natural systems, flora, fauna, soils and semi-natural habitats, cognisant of the full range of stakeholder issues 19.2 Conserve, enhance, restore, expand and reconnect areas of priority habitat (*'Bigger, better, more and joined).* S.Os 18.2 and 18.4
20. To protect and enhance the National Park's countryside and historic environment and its enjoyment	Cultural heritage and landscape are fundamental to quality of place and, as they are central to attractiveness, distinctiveness, diversity and quality of place in the Parks, should be protected and enhanced (para 49).	Golf Course and Horseculture development – and associated buildings, parking lighting etc.	Biodiversity, fauna and flora Material Assets	Sustainable Communities Cultural Heritage Access	20.1 Provision for equine and golfing recreational activities without compromise to the landscape and historic environment..

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	National Parks Vision & Circular Policies	Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)	SEA Topics	Draft Emerging Priorities	SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)
20. To protect and enhance the National Park's countryside and historic environment and its enjoyment (cont'd.)	NPA's are expected to put in place measures which capture opportunities, mitigate and/or resist adverse pressures and which restore and/or recover damaged landscapes and sites from historical and/or ongoing damage (para 22).	"Heritage at risk" – listed buildings, ancient monuments in particular.	Cultural heritage and landscape Climatic factors Material Assets	Sustainable communities. Cultural Heritage	20.1 Achieve repair and / or enhancement of heritage assets currently identified as "at risk" to the extent that this status no longer applies.
		Climate change affecting the Historic Environment		Low Carbon Economy Sustainable Communities Cultural Heritage	20.2 To help the HE adapt to changing conditions arising from CC (warmer, wetter, infestations etc)
					S.O. 17.1 (where 'appropriate' includes an accurate understanding of the thermal efficiency of traditionally constructed buildings).
	Management Plans should address: • an overview of the state of the historic environment and landscapes; • a strategic framework promoting the protection, enhancement and public appreciation of and engagement with the historic environment, cultural heritage and landscapes; • measures promoting the regeneration of historic places and	Increased urbanisation and loss of local distinctiveness, character and integrity of the historic built environment and its setting.	Cultural heritage and landscape Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	20.3 Promote design sensitive to local vernacular and use of locally sourced building materials while remaining affordable.
		Lack of access to and understanding of the historic environment			

	the sustainable adaptive re-use of the built heritage (para 50).				

Relevant Sustainability Objectives (Stage A1)	**National Parks Vision & Circular Policies**	**Key Sustainability Issues (Stages A2 & A3)**	**SEA Topics**	**Draft Emerging Priorities**	**SDNPA Sustainability Objective (Stage A4)**
21. To improve the efficiency of transport networks by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel (cont'd.)	When assessing options for dealing with increasing demand for access to and within Parks, Transport Authorities are expected to have considered demand management measures before new infrastructure is considered. Where new transport capacity is deemed necessary, consideration should be given to the scope for sustainable low carbon transport initiatives prior to consideration of schemes to create more capacity for car access. These could include schemes to enhance public transport, provide car club and sharing schemes, or improve segregated cycling and walking connections between train stations, local towns, villages and car parks and the local rights of way network**.** (para 87\).	High dependence on cars by residents in / around SDNP with associated peak time congestion and parking.	Population and human health Material Assets Climatic factors Cultural heritage and landscape	Low Carbon Economy Sustainable communities Access	21.1 Providing sustainable access to services through community transport, neighbourcare car schemes, high speed broadband and mobile community facilities.
					21.2. Work with other partners to develop a high quality, safe access network and better links between bus and trains and cycling opportunities.
		High visitor dependence upon cars makes car parking an issue particularly for popular destinations and for mass participation events such as long distance runs / cycle rides.			21.3. Minimising the impact of vehicle infrastructure on landscape and communities.
		Some rail commuter routes will be at peak capacity by 2020.			21. 4 A sustainable transport infrastructure for 2020 and beyond to accommodate increased movements to / from and between South Coast centres that affords protection for the SDNP landscape.

Table 5.2 Development of SA Framework: SDNP Sustainability Objectives and Associated Indicators

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
1.	To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a good quality, affordable home, suitable to their need and which optimises the scope for environmental sustainability	1.1 Enhance rural communities by providing good quality affordable housing for local people which meets the needs of communities now and in the future.	Homes completed per annum analysed into local, local affordable and open market. Annual survey of housing need by parish. Number of completions per annum meeting quality and sustainability standards such as Building for Life and Code for Sustainable Homes. Ratio of average house price to average resident income. Distance travelled to work by rural workers in SDNP. Number of people on social housing waiting lists. Number and tenure type of existing housing stock. Second/holiday homes as % of total homes in each parish and/or settlement.	SDNPA SDNPA SDNPA

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
1.	To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a good quality, affordable home, suitable to their need and which optimises the scope for environmental sustainability	1.2 To create communities characterised by integrated development which takes account of local housing needs and delivers the widest possible range of benefits consistent with NP purposes & duty.	Balance of mixed-use site developments vs. housing specific developments. Breakdown of S106 expenditure. Breakdown of CIL expenditure.	SDNPA
		1.3 To make suitable provision for transit and permanent traveller sites based upon projected need.	Projected gypsy & traveller accommodation requirements.	Area Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (SDNPA)
		See also S.O. 17.1	Average household energy consumption	
2.	To **improve the health and well-being** of the population and reduce inequalities in health and well being.	2.1 Optimise the benefits that the natural environment offers to contribute to peoples' health and well-being.	Availability of ROW (open, in good condition). No. of people accessing the environment for health benefits. Working days lost through illness. % population engaged in active travel. No. of people in fuel poverty. % residents within 4 km of a GP surgery. Life expectancy. Disabled Living Allowance claimants. Indices of Deprivation Investment in access, interpretation, information to encourage use of natural environment for health benefits.	
		2.2 Use environmental and building standards to ensure that places promote health and wellbeing.		

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
2.	To **improve the health and well-being** of the population and reduce inequalities in health and well being.	2..3 To contribute to a reduction in all aspects of rural crime through effective enforcement in partnership with other enforcement agencies.	Incidences of fly-tipping; Incidences of poaching; Rural crime figures;	EA Police authorities
6.	To **create** and **sustain vibrant communities** which recognise the needs and contributions of all individuals.	6.2 Supporting communities where children grow up and go to school	Population age structure No of organisations and no of volunteer man days supporting NP purposes. No of organisations and no of volunteer man days supporting Social welfare schemes.	ONS SDNPA Jan 2012 Audit of volunteer activities in support of NP Purposes.
		6,2 Supporting and empowering local communities to shape their own community (recognise the value of community and neighbourhood planning)	No of neighbourhood plans / neighbourhood development orders in preparation or adopted.	

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
7.	To **improve accessibility to all services and facilities**.	7.1 Encourage partnership initiatives for the development of community facilities to meet local needs guided by the Community Hierarchy Study.	**NP Services**: Accommodation types Visitor numbers; spending in local economy; no. of overnights stays Levels of schools involvement. Also scouts/guides **Wider community services**: Number in the National Park of: primary schools, post offices, convenience stores, public houses, village halls, churches, information centres, libraries and garages. % of residents within 2 km of a post office. % of residents within 4km of a supermarket. Number of playgrounds/ play areas per 1,000 children under 12. Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, areas of employment, and a major retail centre.	SDNPA Community Hierarchy Study County Annual HTS?

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
8.	To encourage **increased engagement in cultural activity across all sections of the community** in the SDNP and **promote sustainable tourism**	8.1 A sustainable tourism strategy that supports recreation businesses.	Visitor numbers & breakdown day vs staying No businesses signed up to the Go Green network.	SDNPA SDNPA
		8.2 Access to and representation of all sections of the community in NP facilities.	% businesses accredited to Green Start/ GTBS Bespoke Survey of Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) data No and range of activities undertaken by SDNPA volunteer ranger service. Amount of matched funding mobilised by the SCF.	SDNPA SDNPA SDNPA SDNPA
		See also S.O. 7.1		
		See also S.O. 12.2		

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
12.	To encourage **development of the rural economy in a manner that balances agricultural and other business interests to maintain a living, valued landscape.**	12.1 Encourage development of efficient broadband throughout the area to encourage small business, communities & tourism in the Park.	Broadband - Spatial mapping and % coverage. Mobile coverage - Spatial mapping and % coverage.	
		12.2 Encourage local industry and maintenance of a living cultural skills base that forms part of heritage now and into the future.	Number of businesses within the SDNP Employment by sector within the SDNP Unemployment levels within the Park GVA Commuting Destinations	Neighbourhood Statistics Business Register and Employment Survey, LSOA level (Local Quotient Data).
		12.3 Recognise and support core sectors of the South Downs economy such as food production, tourism and land management.	Agricultural land classification. The percentage area of land farmed for food production is maintained.	
		12.4 Promote agri-environmental businesses and diversification that focuses on ecosystem services and enhancement of the local supply chain.	Agriculture statistics – e.g. numbers of sheep and use of traditional livestock breeds. Numbers employed in agriculture and land based sectors, including age, skills, seasonality.	
		12.5 Market towns to provide services to the rural hinterland.		

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
17.	To address **the causes of climate change** through **reducing emissions of greenhouse gases** and **the consequences** through adaptation measures.	17.1 Promote appropriate retrofitting and upgrading of the existing housing stock and other buildings informed by the sense of place	% housing In SDNP included in Green Deal Measures. CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions by source.	SDNPA
		17.2 Implementing policy of zero carbon new build homes by 2016 in accordance with government policy.	Code for Sustainable Homes ratings; BREEAM Average Environmental Impacting rating and Dwelling CO2 Emissions rate of all dwellings. Greenhouse Gas Action Plan	SDNPA Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.
		17.3 Supporting communities with the right LC / RE infrastructure in the right place.		
		17.4 Extension of wood planting , where appropriate both for carbon storage opportunities and to provide woodfuel sources.	Acreage (and % increase) of new woodland planted.	
18.	To ensure the SDNP communities are prepared for the impacts of climate change.	18.1 Minimise the risk of flooding to new development through application of the sequential and exception tests.	% approved applications within zones 2 or 3a.	SDNPA
		18.2 Promote the uptake of sustainable drainage systems.	Capital investment in SuDS within SDNP.	
		18.3 The achievement of integrated coastal zone management		
		18.4 Promote the incorporation of rainwater harvesting in the built environment and measures to reduce water demand. Promote consideration of farm reservoirs and on-farm boreholes for local efficient abstraction under an "Abstract Well and Use Well" basis.	Sales of domestic rainwater harvesting systems within SDNP	

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
19.	To **conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity**	19.1 Maintain a functioning ecological network and improve the resilience of natural systems, flora, fauna, soils and semi-natural habitats, cognisant of the full range of stakeholder issues.	Number of species/Plant diversity in the wider countryside (by key habitat types) % of SSSIs in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition.	SDNPA
		19.2 Conserve, enhance, restore, expand and reconnect areas of priority habitat (*'Bigger, better, more and joined'*).	% of Local Sites under positive conservation management (NI 197).	NE
		See also S.O. 18.2, 18.3 and 18.4.		
		Address both water supply and demand issues for water supply in the context of NP purposes in partnership with water companies.	% of land area managed under national agri-environment schemes. % of land under Woodland Grant Schemes	NE
			Achievement of BAP targets.	SDNPA
			Water Framework Directive ecological status of water bodies within the National Park.	EA
			Achievement of landscape scale project objectives (e.g. NIA project, Wooded Heaths Project)	SDNPA

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
20.	To protect and enhance the National Park's countryside and historic environment and its enjoyment	20.1 Provision for equine and golfing recreational activities without compromise to the landscape and historic environment..	Per capita area of golf courses / equine facilities.	SDNPA
		20.2 Achieve repair and / or enhancement of heritage assets currently identified as "at risk" to the extent that this status no longer applies.	Heritage at risk Grade I and II* Listed Grade II Conservation Areas at Risk	SDNPA / EH
		20.3 To help the HE adapt to changing conditions arising from CC (warmer, wetter, infestations etc)		
		S.O. 17.1 (where 'appropriate' includes an accurate understanding of the thermal efficiency of traditionally constructed buildings).	Retrofits on historic buildings.	SDNPA

No	Objective	Sub-Objectives	Indicators	Source
21.	To **improve the efficiency of transport networks** by enhancing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel.	21.1 Providing sustainable access to services through community transport, neighbourcare car schemes, high speed broadband and mobile community facilities.	For Broadband see S.O.12.1. No mobile banks. No mobile libraries	
		21.2. Work with other partners to develop a high quality, safe access network and better links between bus and trains and cycling opportunities.	% Cycle paths Overall no, extent and condition of RoW. No of community transport schemes.	
		21.3. Minimising the impact of vehicle infrastructure on landscape and communities.	Car Park Usage Data.	
		21. 4 A sustainable transport infrastructure for 2020 and beyond to accommodate increased movements to / from and between South Coast centres that affords protection for the SDNP landscape.	Modal split of travel to / from SDNP for visitors. Traffic flow data and identification of congestion points. Modal split of travel to / from work throughout the NP. Modal split of travel to / from school throughout the NP. Modal split of travel to / from local facilities	SDNP Visitor Survey

6. Conduct of the Sustainability Appraisal

6.1 Introduction

This section outlines aspects of the conduct of the Sustainability Appraisal including the provisional programme, the approach to appraisal of individual plans and policies and the quality management aspects.

6.2 Provisional Programme

Based upon current timelines for the NPMP and Core Strategy, the provisional programme for the SA up to completion of the Issues and Options Paper is set out in Table 6.1 below. This table is principally illustrative of the process and approximate lead times for key milestones. A 'live' programme will be maintained to reflect any changes in timescales that impact upon the SA process.

Table 6.1 Provisional Programme for the SDNPA SA.

Phase	**Dates**	**Tasks**
	2012	
Scoping	May 22-31	PAS review of draft SA Scoping Report
	4-8 Jun	1 day review of draft SA Scoping Report by Project Team.
	July	Sign off of draft by Director of Planning
	4 Aug – 24 Sep	Issue draft SA Scoping Report to SDNP Partnership & Statutory Consultees for consultation.
	24-28 Sep	Finalise SA Scoping Report.
	11 Oct	Adoption of Scoping Report by Planning Committee.
SA of Management Plan Options	Mar / Apr 2013	2 day review of draft SA of Management Plan Options Paper by Project Team.
	O/C	SMT sign off draft.
	O/C	Presentation on SA of draft Issues & Options Paper to SDNP Partnership.
	O/C	Independent Review of SA of draft Issues & Options Paper.
	O/C	SMT sign off SA.
	O/C	Issue SA of Issues & Options Paper to SDNP Partnership & Statutory Consultees for consultation (Timed to coincide with formal consultation of Management plan)
	O/C	Issue Post Consultation Report.

6.3 Approach to the Appraisal of Individual Plans / Policies

The SEA Directive and government guidance is not rigidly prescriptive in setting out the manner in which plans an policies are to be appraised against sustainability criteria. While sustainability objectives have been provisionally identified, it is not intended to adopt a matrix approach to the SA. Rather, it is envisaged that alternative plans / policy options will be assessed in terms of their effects upon spatial areas and topics providing a narrative approach. The topics will comprise those listed in table 4.3 under which sustainability issues have been identified. The spatial categorisation has yet to be determined but is likely to consider market towns, rural villages (probably two categories) and adjacent districts.

6.4 Quality Management Aspects

The SA process will be internally audited against the quality assurance checklist at Appendix A. However and will be subject to oversight by a Project Board under SDNPA's project management system. However, in addition to this the South Downs National Park Partnership made up of senior individuals from different sectors, all with an important stake in the future of the South Downs National Park will play a key role in independently reviewing the process. Finally, we will have SA reports reviewed by independent consultants prior to finalising for public consultation.

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Appendix A

Quality Assurance Checklist

Adapted from ODPM guidance on the SEA Directive (October 2005)

Quality Assurance Checklist	
Objectives and Context	**Status in Scoping Report**
The plan's or programme's purpose and objectives are made clear.	The purpose and objectives for the SDNP Management plan and Core Strategy that will follow are not yet finalised. Copies of the Vision for 2032 and draft Emerging Management Plan Priorities are incorporated in Appendices B & C. These will be updated in the SA of the Issues and Options Paper in 2013.
Environmental issues and constraints, including international and EC environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	The Environmental Issues and Constraints are set out in Table 4.3 Key Sustainability Issues and Consequences for Future Baseline for South Downs National Park.
SEA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	The objectives, sub-objectives and indicators are set out in Table 5.2 Development of SA Framework: SDNP Sustainability Objectives and Associated Indicators.
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Table 3.1
Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives, between SEA and plan objectives and between SEA objectives and other plan objectives are identified and described.	These will be documented in the SA of the Issues and Options Paper in 2013 and updated fro the SA Final Report.
Scoping	
Consultation Bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report.	Statutory Consultees will be consulted on the draft SA Scoping Report in Summer 2012. This SA for the Issues and Options Paper will be subject to public consultation at the same time as the main paper, currently scheduled for early 2013. The SA for the Core Strategy will be subject to public consultation at the same time as the Pre submission CS, currently scheduled for Autumn 2013.
The assessment focuses on significant issues.	
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	These relate principally to gaps in baseline data (discussed in Section 3) and
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	These are provided in paragraph 3.2
Options / Alternatives	
Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	Will be documented in the SA Report for the Issues and Options Paper.
Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.	The consequences of the 'do minimum' approach are set out in column 3 of Table 4.3 Consequences for Future Baseline.
The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.	Will be documented in the SA Report for the Issues and Options Paper.

Quality Assurance Checklist (continued)	
Objectives and Context	**Status in Scoping Report**
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	Will be documented in the SA Report for the Issues and Options Paper and subsequent SA reports.
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	
Baseline information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan or programme are described.	This information is summarised in Section 3 based upon the information collated for the State of the Park Report.
Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan.	Will be documented in the SA Report for the Issues and Options Paper and subsequent SA reports.
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	Paragraph 3.1 identifies the existing deficiencies. Subsequent SA reports will provide updates on information availability.
Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects	
Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; other likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate.	
Both positive and negative effects are considered and where practicable the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term is assessed).	Will be flagged up during the assessment process, using the SA Framework.
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	To include in subsequent SA reports.
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	
Where relevant the prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations and thresholds.	
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	
Mitigation Measures	
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated.	To include in subsequent SA reports.
Issues to be taken into account in development consents are identified.	
The Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation. Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical	To include in subsequent SA reports.
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	
Explains the methodology used.	

Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	To include in subsequent SA reports.
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	
Contains a non-technical summary.	
Consultation	
The SA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	Initial consultation details for the Scoping Report are outlined in Section 2.2. Further details updating the consultation undertaken will be includes in subsequent SA reports.
The consultation bodies, other consultees and the public are consulted in ways that give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate timeframes to express their opinions on the draft plan and SA report.	
Decision Making and Information on the Decision	
The SA Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan.	To include in subsequent reports and the final SA Report.
An explanation is given on how they have been taken into account.	
Reasons are given for the choices in the adopted plan, in the light of other reasonable options considered.	

Appendix B

The South Downs National Park Vision

By 2050 in the South Downs National Park:

- the iconic English lowland landscapes and heritage will have been conserved and greatly enhanced. These inspirational and distinctive places, where people live, work, farm and relax, are adapting well to the impacts of climate change and other pressures;

- people will understand, value, and look after the vital natural services that the National Park provides. Large areas of high-quality and well-managed habitat will form a network supporting wildlife throughout the landscape;

- opportunities will exist for everyone to discover, enjoy, understand and value the National Park and its special qualities. The relationship between people and landscape will enhance their lives and inspire them to become actively involved in caring for it and using its resources more responsibly;

- its special qualities will underpin the economic and social well-being of the communities in and around it, which will be more self-sustaining and empowered to shape their own future. Its villages and market towns will be thriving centres for residents, visitors and businesses and supporting the wider rural community;

- successful farming, forestry, tourism and other business activities within the National Park will actively contribute to, and derive economic benefit from, its unique identity and special qualities.

Appendix C

Draft SDNP Management Plan Policy Document with Context (Separate Document)