

Project Title :

## Big Chalk LIFE + Integrated Project

### Lead Partner or Landowner

This page is only to be completed if the project is being led by another organisation or the work will take place with a specific landowner. Please ignore this page if SDPNA are leading and/or no landowners are involved as key partners.

<b>Partner Organisation/Landowner:</b>	South Downs NPA
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Chris Fairbrother
<b>Contact Address line 1:</b>	South Downs Centre
<b>Contact Address line 2:</b>	
<b>Contact Address line Town/City:</b>	Midhurst
<b>Contact County:</b>	West Sussex
<b>Contact Postcode:</b>	GU29 9DH
<b>Contact Telephone:</b>	
<b>Contact Email:</b>	chris.fairbrother@southdowns.gov.uk

# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

## Project Governance

### Project Governance:

The Technical Assistance bid stage of the project will be led by the South Downs National Park Authority as the co-ordinating beneficiary of the Big Chalk. The project will be functionally managed by a project team and a wider partnership group of the core partners will act as the project board, along with the Director of Countryside and Policy.

### Project Board Membership

1

<b>Name</b>	David Blake
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<b>Organisation</b>	Cranborne Chase AONB
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<b>Job Title</b>	Project Development Officer
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2

<b>Name</b>	Oliver Cripps
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<b>Organisation</b>	North Wessex Downs AONB
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<b>Job Title</b>	Chief Officer
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3

<b>Name</b>	Alison Melvill
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<b>Organisation</b>	Forest Research
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<b>Job Title</b>	Business Development manager
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4

# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

<b>Name</b>	Kate Rice
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<b>Organisation</b>	Environment Agency
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<b>Job Title</b>	Environment Programme Manager
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## 5

<b>Name</b>	Andrew Lee
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<b>Organisation</b>	South Downs NPA
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<b>Job Title</b>	Director - Countryside and Policy
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## 6

<b>Name</b>	Chris Fairbrother
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<b>Organisation</b>	South Downs NPA
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<b>Job Title</b>	Landscape Strategy Lead
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## 7

<b>Name</b>	Louise Bardsley
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<b>Organisation</b>	Natural England
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<b>Job Title</b>	Senior Advisor - water sector
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## Project Team Membership

# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

1

<b>Name</b>	Chris Fairbrother
<b>Organisation</b>	South Downs NPA
<b>Job Title</b>	Landscape Strategy Lead
<b>Amount of Time Required(in FTE)</b>	0.3

2

<b>Name</b>	Vicky Lawrence
<b>Organisation</b>	South Downs NPA
<b>Job Title</b>	Countryside and Policy Manager
<b>Amount of Time Required(in FTE)</b>	0.1

3

<b>Name</b>	Ayla Forbes
<b>Organisation</b>	South Downs NPA
<b>Job Title</b>	Rampion Project Officer
<b>Amount of Time Required(in FTE)</b>	0.2

4

<b>Name</b>	Jeremy Burgess
<b>Organisation</b>	South Downs NPA

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<b>Job Title</b>	Biodiversity & Landscape Lead (Water)
<b>Amount of Time Required(in FTE)</b>	0.2

# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

## Project

<b>Project Name:</b>	Big Chalk LIFE + Integrated Project
<b>Project Location:</b>	South East Protected Landscapes
<b>Project Location (Eastings):</b>	
<b>Project Location (Northings):</b>	
<b>Project Area:</b> Please use the checkboxes if your project cannot be plotted to specific co-ordinates in the Eastings and Northing section above - the project will not be plotted onto a GIS layer if you do this.  <i>(Park-wide, Western Downs, Central Downs, Eastern Downs, Wealden Heath)</i>	
Park-wide	

### Need for Project:

The natural ecosystems of the chalk landscape ecosystems in lowland England are damaged and continuing to deteriorate, with many of the services that they should be providing dysfunctional. The current approach to tackling water quality and improving environmental condition is ineffective, small scale, piecemeal, uncoordinated and based on very few practical examples, resulting in huge water treatment costs rather than dealing with the problems at source.

A consortium of protected landscapes (a National Park and nine AONBs) have come together to provide leadership and support for developing the 'Big Chalk' Integrated Project. They all share a common chalk geology and are faced with similar environmental and economic challenges. They recognise that greater collaboration between them presents huge opportunities. The project is about trying to harness this collective potential to deliver better environmental, social and economic outcomes across a large spatial area.

The project aim is:-

'The effective conservation and enhancement of ecosystem services provided by chalk landscapes; in particular, achieving sustainable growth within environmental limits, protecting biodiversity assets such as chalk streams, grasslands and species that are indicators of environmental thresholds.'

The Big Chalk would primarily be a water themed IP but would also help to deliver elements of other EU directives and UK national policies.

The overarching project objectives are:-

- Delivery of Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive across the extent of the English chalk landscapes through the removal of barriers to progress, greater collaboration and cooperation between the protected landscape and their stakeholders;
- Greater resource efficiency through the effective conservation and enhancement of ecosystem services provided by the chalk landscapes;
- Establish environmental thresholds that can inform strategic planning and develop approaches that can be used to achieve delivery of the Water Framework Directive and Biodiversity 2020 targets in the rest of UK;
- Enhanced collaborative working between protected landscapes with shared geology and environmental issues. Demonstrating the collective power of protected landscapes and their partnerships to deliver effectively at national, regional and local levels.

# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

## Partnership Management Plan Outcomes

### 1. A Thriving Living Landscape

1.1 The landscape character of the South Downs, its special qualities and local distinctiveness have been conserved and enhanced by effectively managing the land and the negative impacts of development and cumulative change (outcome 1)

1.2 There is increased capacity within the landscape for its natural resources, habitats and species to adapt to the impacts of climate change and other pressures (outcome 2)

1.3 A well managed and better connected network of habitats and increased population and distribution of priority species now exist in the National Park (outcome 3)

### 2. People Connected with Places

2.4 More responsibility and action is taken by visitors, residents and businesses to conserve and enhance the special qualities and use resources more wisely (outcome 8)

### 3. Towards a sustainable future

3.2 A diverse sustainable economy has developed that provides a wide variety of business and employment opportunities, many of which are positively linked to the special qualities of the National Park (outcome 10)

## Partnership Management Plan Policies

### 1. A thriving and living landscape

1. Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and special qualities of the landscape and its setting, in ways that allow it to continue to evolve and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and other pressures

11. Support land managers to access and maintain agri-environment schemes that deliver high quality results on the ground and influence the development and delivery of new incentive schemes

13. Support the financial viability of farm businesses through appropriate infrastructure and diversification developments, in particular encouraging those that will support sustainable farming

19. Enhance the landscape, habitat connectivity, carbon storage and flood risk management with woodland creation by natural regeneration or tree planting with appropriate species, on an appropriate scale and in suitable locations

2. Develop landscape-scale partnerships and initiatives to focus on enhancing the key ecosystem services delivered by the National Park

23. Improve the sustainability of water resources and wastewater management through partnership working across the water sector.

24. Support and promote river catchment management approaches that integrate sustainable land management, wildlife conservation, surface and groundwater quality and flood risk management.

25. Actively promote water efficiency measures and more sustainable patterns of domestic, industrial, farming and leisure water use, to reduce overall water use.

26. Raise awareness of the importance of chalk streams and rivers and develop a programme of restoration and rehabilitation.

4. Create more, bigger, better managed and connected areas of habitat in and around the National Park, which deliver multiple benefits for people and wildlife

5. Conserve and enhance populations of priority species and in around the National Park, delivering targeted action where required

6. Favour natural functions and processes in and around the National Park where they support the value and resilience of terrestrial, freshwater, marine, coastal and estuarine habitats

### 2. People connected with places

31. Raise awareness and understanding about the National Park with consistent messages that inspire and celebrate a strong sense of place

34. Support and enable communities to develop and deliver high quality community-led

# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

initiatives that contribute to the understanding, conservation and enhancement of the special qualities of the National Park

46. Develop a research programme leading to a robust evidence base about the National Park and issues affecting it

### 3. Towards a sustainable future

55. Promote opportunities for diversified economic activity in the National Park, in particular where it enhances the special qualities

56. Support appropriate renewable energy schemes,, sustainable resource management and energy efficiency in communities and businesses in the National Park, with the aim of meeting Government climate change targets

#### Project Outline:

The primary focus of the project is the groundwater and chalk river catchments that are so important to these lowland chalk landscapes. The project will seek to address the wider land management issues affecting, or influenced by, groundwater and surface waters; such as sustainable arable farming practices and livestock management, the role of trees and woodlands, ecological connectivity, water resources, flood management and spatial planning. The intention is to develop a bid to become one of 3 UK national projects delivered through the new LIFE+ Integrated Project (IP) strand. The IP will encourage greater collaboration between organisations, better cooperation across economic sectors and increased equity between those who provide or receive these vital ecosystem benefits and those who incur the costs. The South Downs NPA will lead on the Technical Assistance bid and progress towards the full IP. We will also be the main co-ordinating beneficiary for the project.

#### Project aims and objectives:

Technical Assistance (TA) is a stage towards a full funding bid, and provide additional resources to develop the project further. We would intend the TA stage to achieve :-

- A full concept note and support for the final IP bid.
- A consistent evidence baseline for the entire project area.
- Define elements of the project which might have a specific spatial emphasis or focus.
- Attribute objectives to specific locations, catchments and/or partners.
- Stakeholder analysis work to identify potential partners for the full IP bid.
- A funding options paper for different element of the project.

## 1

<b>Measure</b>	Full concept note for the project, EU compliant
<b>Target</b>	1
<b>Unit</b>	Report

## 2



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<b>Measure</b>	Stakeholder Analysis
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<b>Target</b>	1
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<b>Unit</b>	Report
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## 3

<b>Measure</b>	Funding options for the project fully scoped
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<b>Target</b>	1
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<b>Unit</b>	Report
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<b>Measure</b>	Full IP bid is submitted in allocated timescale
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<b>Target</b>	1
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<b>Unit</b>	Bid document
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### **Project Evaluation:**

The project will be kept under continuous review by the Project Board and Project Team. A project plan has been developed for the process of submitting a TA bid by the deadline of the 15th September. If successful, during the TA stage we will have key milestone stages such as the preparation and submission of a full concept note in October 2017 and submission of a full bid in April 2018.

### **Project Partners:**

- South Downs National Park Authority
- Cranborne Chase AONB
- Dorset Hills AONB
- Isle of Wight AONB
- North Wessex Downs AONB

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- Chichester Harbour AONB
- Chilterns AONB
- Surrey Hills AONB
- Kent Downs AONB
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission/Forest Research
- Defra
- CEH and other research partners
- Catchment Projects and Rivers Trusts

## Interface with other Projects:

The intention is to work towards an application for an EU LIFE Technical Assistance Project as the first phase of the application. This will achieve the necessary funding and technical support to help us develop a full LIFE+ Integrated Project bid as the next phase.

The work we have done to develop the LogFrame for the project forms a road map or 'strategy' for how you deliver good environmental condition within the Chalk Landscapes. There are elements of this strategy that could form the basis of separate or discreet funding bids, indeed this would be necessary if it was to go forward as an IP anyway.

It would be sensible to develop a 'funding options' paper to consider possible funding mechanisms for the different elements of the project. Some would be well suited to Horizon 2020 (research), some could be HLF, LIFE+ Environment or Interreg funding, some would rely on influencing the investment plans of the water companies. This would also help us to define what forms the core IP funding and what could be levered in through complimentary actions. It should be noted that core IP funding cannot be directly matched with any other EU sourced money.

## Project Timing:

For the TA stage of the bid, the timetable is as follows:-

- September 2016 Submit Technical Assistance Application with SDNPA as the Coordinating Beneficiary; and the other partners as Associated Beneficiaries (undertaking specific actions).
- January 2017, Technical Assistance phase commences and runs through to either June 2017 or May 2018 - the next application window for Integrated Projects (Co-financed 60%).

If the TA bid is successful we will need to consider funding for the full project. It is proposed to bring a separate Project PID forward for this stage of the process as the funding package will include contributions and complimentary actions from a wide constituency of partners.

This could include funding Horizon 2020, HLF, LIFE+ Environment, Interreg or influencing the investment plans of the water companies.

## Scope exclusions:

The project will only undertake to deliver the aims and objectives set out that relate to developing the TA bid, the preparation of a full concept note, funding strategy and full IP bid in due course. All other actions are excluded.

## SDNPA Role in the Project:

The South Downs NPA will lead on the Technical Assistance bid and progress towards the full IP. We will also be the main co-ordinating beneficiary for the project.

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**Data Ownership:**

Not applicable

**Promotion:**

The project will be promoted through the activities of the partners and through targeted media campaigns - this will be both at local and national level.

**Equality and diversity:**

Equality and diversity policies of the SDNPA will be followed in relation to the project.

**Project Exit Strategy:**

LIFE+ IPs are much more like a programme of work rather than a conventional project. They are envisaged to run for a period of between 5 and 8 years. This a longer period of time than traditional LIFE+ projects.

In terms of sustainability of the project, the intention is to create long-term capacity building through a combination of pilot and demonstration projects, awareness raising and knowledge exchange. To be eligible the experience accrued from the project would need to be replicable and transferable. Through this mechanism they are intended to inform subsequent planning and policy cycles, both within the project area at both national (member state) and EU wide level.

**Mechanism for procurement:**

Tendering of contracts to support the TA application process in accordance with SDNPA financial procedures.

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## Resource

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

<b>Total cost of project:</b>	131,500
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<b>Amount Requested from SDNPA:</b>	52600.00
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<b>SDNPA Budget:</b>	(NPX082) Major Projects Fund
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<b>Total match funding required:</b>	52,600
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<b>Expenditure</b>	SDNPA
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<b>Year 1</b>	40000
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<b>Year 2</b>	
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<b>Year 3</b>	
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<b>Year 4</b>	
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<b>Year 5</b>	
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<b>Total</b>	40000
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<b>Notes</b>	
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1

<b>Source of Funding</b>	Environment Agency
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<b>Year 1</b>	5000
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<b>Year 2</b>	
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<b>Year 3</b>	
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<b>Year 4</b>	
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<b>Year 5</b>	
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<b>Total</b>	5000
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<b>Notes</b>	
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<b>Confirmed</b>	No
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2

<b>Source of Funding</b>	Cranborne Chase AONB
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<b>Year 1</b>	3000
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<b>Year 2</b>	
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<b>Year 3</b>	
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<b>Year 4</b>	
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<b>Year 5</b>	
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<b>Total</b>	3000
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# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

<b>Notes</b>	
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<b>Confirmed</b>	No
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3

<b>Source of Funding</b>	Water Company Contribution
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<b>Year 1</b>	5000
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<b>Year 2</b>	
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<b>Year 3</b>	
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<b>Year 4</b>	
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<b>Year 5</b>	
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<b>Total</b>	5000
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<b>Notes</b>	
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<b>Confirmed</b>	No
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# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

## Co applicant

### Co applicant

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

# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

## Permissions

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

Lease details:

None

**Lease expiration date:**



# PROJECTS FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS

## Supporting Information and Documents

### Additional Information:

A Logical Framework exercise has been carried out, which sets out the full range of objectives and activities for the project. The project group is starting to work on the indicators and means of verification for each of these outputs. The TA process will also assist with this project development work.

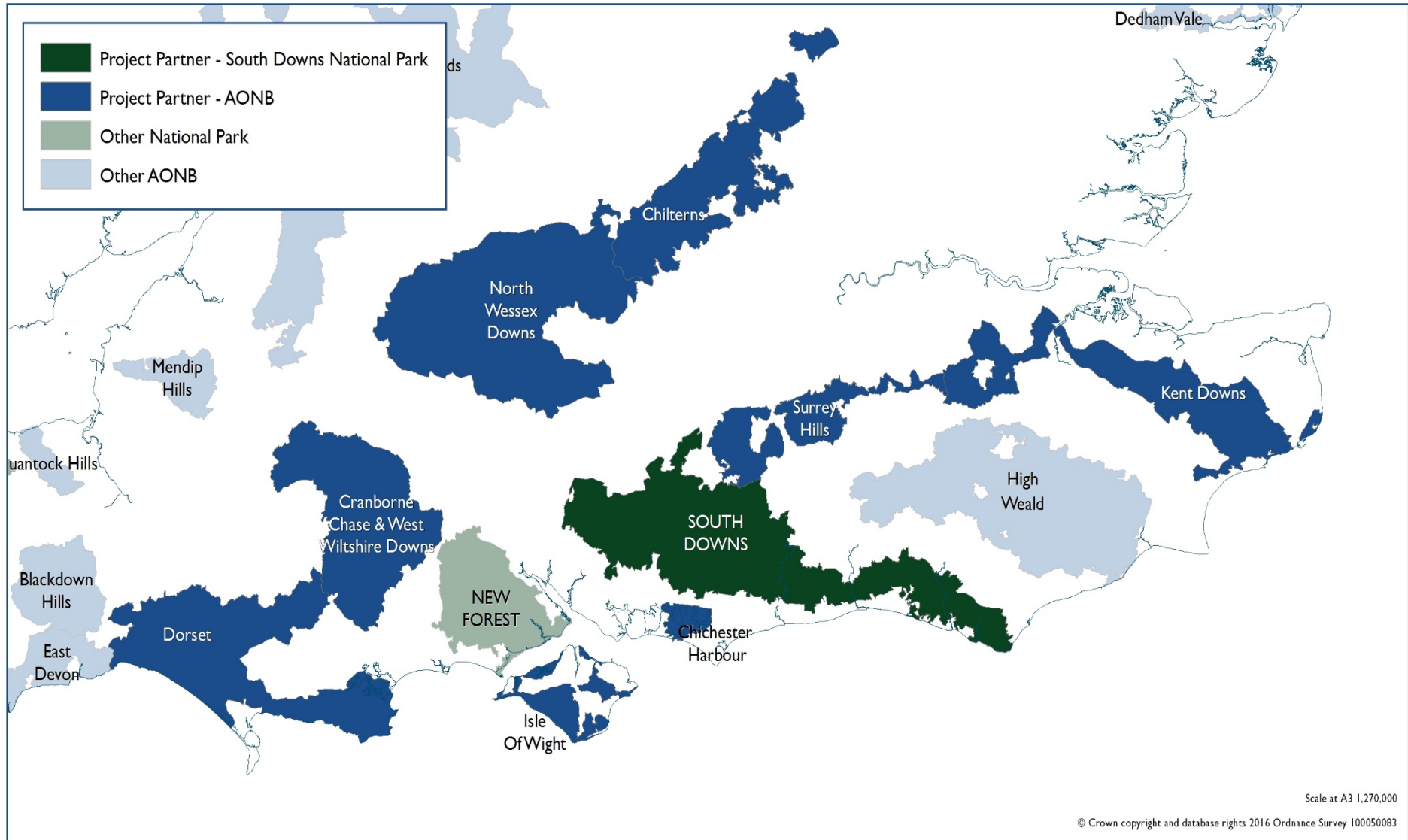
### Additional Documents:

#### TA application stages – Phase 1: July-September 2016

Task	Amount
Consultants support for developing TA bid	£10,000

#### TA development stages – Phase 2: September 2016 – April 2018

Task	Timetable	Amount
Funding options paper	October 2016	£10,000
Stakeholder analysis and communication plan.	November 2016	£8,000
Evidence Baseline	January 2017	£15,000
Development of concept note	October 2017	£5,000
Development and submission of full IP bid.	April 2018	£15,000
Budget Total		£53,000.00



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