

The redacted sections of this appendix are not for publication as they contain exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to the financial and business affairs of individuals, companies and other organisations, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. This conclusion is reached on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in maintaining transparency of Authority proceedings in relation to commercial activities it is felt that on balance this is outweighed by the requirement of the National Park Authority to be able to discuss commercial activities and fully consider the implications of its actions or proposed actions without commercially sensitive information being released into the public domain.

Presentation to East Sussex County Council

Seven Sisters Country Park



Potential acquisition of Seven Sisters Country Park by SDNPA



Proposals examined by Member / Officer Working Group

Three criteria adopted:

- 1). Can SDNPA make a positive and significant contribution, in pursuit of its purposes and duty?**
- 2). Can SDNPA do this in a way that is sustainable and does not create a long term call on the limited resources of the organisation?**
- 3). Will SDNPA be able to work, as far as possible, in partnership with others?**



Can SDNPA make a positive and significant change?

To the Habitats and Landscape

SDNPA will develop a detailed Habitat Management Plan for the site. Current plans include:

1). North Meadow (West Dean Brooks)
Create conditions suitable for breeding waders such as lapwing and other wetland species for instance reed and sedge warbler.

2). The Meanders
Improve visitor management, ensuring disturbance to wildlife is kept to the minimum. Inclusion of more reedbed habitats. The meanders, if managed more effectively, will attract larger numbers of waterfowl and waders by creating better conditions for feeding, breeding and roosting for these birds.



Habitats and Landscape (Cont'd)

3). South of Foxhole

The saline lagoon could be expanded and ideally this should be alongside the creation of other scrapes and wet areas in the adjacent grassland. The islands in the lagoon could be improved to provide suitable roosting and nesting sites for wading birds and seabirds such as terns.



Habitats and Landscape (Cont'd)



Chalk Grassland Management and Restoration

Chalk grassland is the archetypal habitat of the Downs. The vision for the remaining chalk grassland areas would be to bring them into excellent condition by reversing the invasion of scrub and implementing a targeting grazing regime on those areas to create authentic chalk grassland.



Seven Species for Seven Sisters



Breeding lapwing
Adonis blue
Redshank
Meadowsweet
Ringed plover
Reed warbler
Wigeon



Can SDNPA make a positive and significant change?



For the people who visit the Country Park



- **Providing an online gateway**
- **Visitor centre open seven days a week and for twelve months of the year**
- **Creating a world class visitor experience**

- **Promoting local food, drink and crafts**
- **Creating a strong sense of arrival for visitors to the site by public transport, car, foot or bike**



For the people who learn in the Country Park



[Redacted]

Engaging with a large schools audience, utilising the SDNP Travel Grant.

Promoting the learning resources on the SDNP Learning Zone.

Engaging families in discovering, exploring, conserving and sharing their experiences of the Country Park through the John Muir Award.

Continuing to use Forest Schools and Beach Schools to connect children with nature in this inspirational setting.



[Redacted]



And for the people who should visit the Country Park



- Ideal site for broadening participation
- Unlock potential to diversify audiences
- Realise health and wellbeing benefits
- Build on experience with community leaders, 'Miles without Stiles', Health and Wellbeing conference



Can SDNPA make a positive and significant change?

For the local economy



Can SDNPA do this in a way that is sustainable?



SDNPA believe that the East Sussex County Council staff currently managing the Country Park are doing as much as they can with the resources they have at their disposal.

Making the Country Park financially sustainable for the longer term will require a step change to turn liabilities into assets.




Proposed further Capital Investment



n.



In Summary; SDNPA can bring the following benefits to Seven Sisters Country Park



SINGLE MINDEDNESS – South Downs National Park Authority is a landscape based organisation. All the proposals we are making for Seven Sisters Country Park are in complete alignment with our Purposes and Duty.

SECURITY – South Downs National Park Authority is part of Government and the organisation is funded by the National Park Grant. We can provide a secure home for the Country Park for the foreseeable future. [Redacted]

CAPITAL FUNDING [Redacted]

PARTNERSHIP – [Redacted]

