



**South Downs National Park Authority**

**South Downs**  
**Landscape Character**  
**Assessment**

**Final report**

Prepared by LUC

October 2020

# South Downs National Park Authority

## South Downs Landscape Character Assessment

**Project Number**  
10736

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1.	Draft Final Report	K Davies A Knight	K Davies	R Knight	26.08.2020
2.	Final Report	K Davies	K Davies	R Knight	09.10.2020

# Contents

---

<b>Chapter 1</b>	
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Reasons for Updating the 2011 ILCA	1
Approach to the Update	1
Structure of the Report	2

---

<b>Chapter 2</b>	
<b>Formative Influences</b>	<b>3</b>
Physical Influences	3
Human Influences and the Historic Environment	6

---

<b>Chapter 3</b>	
<b>The Landscape Classification</b>	<b>16</b>
Changes to the 2011 Classification	16
The 2019 Classification for the South Downs	17

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**This report updates the Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (ILCA) for the South Downs National Park, which was first written in 2005 (before the National Park had been confirmed) and updated in 2011 to incorporate areas within the then newly designated National Park.**

### Reasons for Updating the 2011 ILCA

- 1.1** The Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (ILCA) for the South Downs National Park, produced in 2011, is a large document that contains a huge amount of valuable information. However, it is now 8 years old.
- 1.2** The aim of this update is to provide a more practical tool in a more accessible and interactive form, which can be used to inform and guide positive landscape change, supporting a 'landscape led' approach to planning and design within the National Park.
- 1.3** The project also provides an opportunity to review and update the information within the ILCA to ensure that it captures changes in the landscape since 2011, incorporates updated datasets and responds to current forces for change.

### Approach to the Update

- 1.4** This updated Landscape Character Assessment (hereafter called the 'South Downs LCA') is in accordance with Natural England 'Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014), which embeds the principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) within it.
- 1.5** An inception meeting provided an opportunity to review the use of, and any issues with, the ILCA as experienced by officers at the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).
- 1.6** A stakeholder consultation event was then held on 11th July 2019 to inform stakeholders of the update, invite

feedback on which aspects of the ILCA require updating and to understand what would make the assessment easier for stakeholders to use. The workshop included attendees from SDNPA, Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council, East Sussex County Council and surrounding local authorities.

**1.7** The workshop focused on whether the classification used in the previous assessment was still fit for purpose, the current forces for change impacting the landscape within the National Park and the options for presenting the updated SDILCA in a digital format. A list of workshop attendees and summary of the workshop discussions is contained in the workshops report which is available from the SDNPA.

**1.8** As a result of consultation the classification was reviewed and updated (as described in Chapter 3), the landscape character type and area descriptions and evaluations were updated and the new South Downs LCA was uploaded into a 'StoryMap' format and published on the SDNPA's website.

## Structure of the Report

**1.9** The main output of this update exercise is a 'StoryMap' web output which is hosted on the South Downs National Park's website.

**1.10** This written report provides the background to the update and also provides the descriptions and evaluations for each landscape type and character area which can be printed out and referred to in hard copy, for example in planning inquiries.

**1.11** This hard copy report is set out as follows:

- **Chapter 1** provides an introduction to the updated assessment;
- **Chapter 2** presents the formative influences that have shaped the landscape of the South Downs National Park;
- **Chapter 3** presents the Classification, including a description of the updates made since 2011; and
- A series of **Appendices** present the landscape character type and area descriptions.