

Report to	Policy & Resources Committee
Date	15 July 2021
By	Performance and Research Lead & Project Management Lead
Title of Report (Note)	Year-End Review 2020/21 (Corporate Performance & Project Performance)

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Receive and note the year-end review of Corporate Performance & Project Performance**
- 2) Receive and note the Annual Review**

I. Introduction

- I.1 As a publicly accountable body, the SDNPA is responsible for monitoring its performance. The Policy and Resources Committee has terms of reference which include:
- “To monitor and review the performance, including financial performance, of the Authority in the context of its business delivery, and the management and maintenance of the Authority’s assets in accordance with the Authority’s agreed budget, Corporate Plan and other approved plans, and make recommendations for changes as appropriate”, and:*
- “To monitor and identify improvements arising from the outcomes and evaluation of projects identified by the Committee, audits, survey and other feedback and make recommendations as appropriate”*
- I.2 This report draws together a comprehensive overview of Corporate Performance & Project Performance for 2020/21. It covers the following:
- Annual Review 2020/21
 - Corporate Plan 2020/21 measures of success and key priorities
 - Compliments, Comments and Complaints (CCC) received during 2020/21
 - Partnership Management Plan (PMP) 2020-25 performance indicator progress update
 - Project Performance reporting:
 - Q4 Project summary
 - Year overview of project deliverables
 - Seven sisters summary
 - Signage summary
 - COVID projects
 - Grassroots and Open Access projects
 - Theme Programme Board funding summary
 - Strategic Fund summary

- Communications and Engagement 2020-21.

2. Annual Review 2020/21

- 2.1 An overview of SDNPA performance (which includes case studies and a year-end financial round up) aimed at the general public and partners is published in the Annual Review. The Annual Review for 2020/21 is at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 Key achievements highlighted in the Annual Review and in the Corporate Performance report (see item 3.2, **appendix 3**) include:
- 66 projects in the National Park supporting jobs, small business and the rural economy were awarded money from our **Covid Recovery Fund** of over £295,000
 - The **Aquifer Partnership (TAP)** and **Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services (SPES)** projects continue to trial new approaches to land management, such as regenerative farming, helping to reduce nitrates and pesticides and increase carbon storage in soils
 - Three projects in the **Climate Change Action Plan** were started, one of which was the Community Energy Pathway project working with Community Energy South
 - Developing a clear programme of work for **Nature Recovery (NR)**. This includes: developing a vision for NR in the SDNP; developing the South Downs Biological Monitoring Framework and developing a Campaign
 - Publication of our **Planning Position Statement** to help local businesses during Covid-19. The package of measures includes free pre-application advice for businesses in key sectors or those with fewer than 10 employees
 - 22% of new homes built in the National Park are considered **affordable**
 - 452 entries on our new **Connecting our Communities map** to support the rural economy
 - Adapting the **John Muir Families Award**, moving it online as a result of Covid-19. We successfully engaged 65 families in Q1, and 230 families in Q4
 - Our **virtual festivals and content** reaching tens of thousands of people, many of them new audiences
 - Collecting £216,741.31 of **Section 106 money**, spending £143,436.92 on 11 projects
 - Launching our **Health and Well-being strategy** and the **People and Nature Network (PANN)**.
- 2.3 We request that Members promote the Annual Review widely by signposting people to our website and taking copies to hand to partners at meetings (when we can meet face to face safely).
- ## 3. Corporate Plan 2020/21 performance indicators and key priorities
- 3.1 Our **Corporate Plan five year measures of success** are reported on annually and can be found at **Appendix 2**. Our volunteering and youth engagement work was delayed by Covid. Thus we are unable to report figures for these elements as this was the first year we were collecting and reporting on this information. We will report figures in 2021/22 and set targets based on the baseline data. For those measures where we can report a RAG status¹ eight out of ten measures were green at the end of 2020/21 and two were amber. The reasons for this are explained in the 'commentary' section at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2 An **overview of performance for each of the four objectives in the Corporate Plan** can be found at **Appendix 3**. Key data (where applicable), commentary, a RAG status for performance and next steps & potential risks is noted for each key priority or area of

¹ Depending upon whether delivery is on track (green), slightly behind schedule (amber) or significantly behind schedule (red)

core work. Note that projects are reported on later in this report and through Tableau as part of the Project Management Lead's project update.

3.3 There are **61** key priorities in the Corporate Plan. Of these, 12 are classified as projects. Of the remaining 49 key priorities **37** achieved a **green RAG status** for **performance** by year end, showing that the work was on track.

3.4 The table below and overleaf lists the **10** key priorities or areas of core work with an **amber** RAG status for performance, where our work has fallen slightly behind schedule, and the reason for this:

Corporate Plan objective	Key priority	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	Reason for amber RAG status for performance at the end of Q4
<u>Strategic priority 1: Enhance</u> We will develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage	Create and Install 'Meet the Archaeologist' Near Field Communication (NFC) plaques	Work with historic environment county and district specialists to identify key sites and relevant archaeological expertise	Covid-19 delayed this work but this work is gradually getting back on track
	Deliver Centurion Way Phase 2 from Singleton to Cocking	Undertake ecological/tunnel surveys for Centurion Way Phase II	Surveys have now been suspended until Summer 2021 (at the earliest).
	<u>Strategic priority 2: Connect</u> We will develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events	Develop the 'Our South Downs' Learning Network	1) Pilot the ambassador schools programme with Bury Primary School and Droxford Junior School 2) Research the potential for a schools eco grant
		Develop our Health and Wellbeing work programme by developing our partnerships	Due to Covid-19, this work has been put on hold until September 2021
		Support the delivery of the Southern National Parks and Public Health England social prescribing conference	Conference cancelled due to Covid-19. However, other collaborations and partnerships are being established
	Develop our youth engagement programme	Review the youth ambassador pilot and extend the role to other National Park areas	Impact of Covid-19 has delayed this work. However, we hope to launch South Downs Youth Action (SDYA) later in 2021/22

<p><u>Objective 3:</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our third objective to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism - towards a sustainable future</p>	Assist in the development of the Sussex Heritage Coast Visitor Management Plan	Commission the development of a Visitor Management Plan with Heritage Coast Partners	This piece of work has been put on hold while we first revise the Sussex Heritage Coast Partnership Strategy and Action Plan
	Deliver ongoing process and procedure improvements as set out in the Development Management Improvement Plan	Introduce a new Pre-application Service Charging Schedule	Other work streams took priority in 2020/21, however this will be picked up in 2021/22
	Undertake a systematic assessment of the way the organisation acquires, stores and maintains its spatial and generic data	Assess current data holding and produce plan for solution implementation	Plan produced; needs to be shared with IT and process agreed
	Continue to review opportunities to secure suitable long term accommodation for our area offices that meets the aspirations of the Authority	Relocate the Weald and Downland (Central) area team to new suitable accommodation	Heads of Terms and lease agreed but team not yet relocated
	Commission a new Staff Survey and create an action plan	Plan the survey ready for commission and implementation the following year	Focus has been on internal staff surveys in response to Covid-19. We will procure the full staff survey later in 2021/22.
<p><u>Objective 4:</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our fourth objective to be a confident and secure organisation exercising effective influence delivering shared outcomes through excellent customer service, providing value for money and generating income to support our work</p>			

- 3.5 The table below lists the **two** key priorities with a **red RAG status for performance**, where our work has fallen significantly behind schedule, and the reason for this (note that these are the two areas of work also reported as red in quarter 3 and the reasons remain the same):

Corporate Plan objective	Key priority	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	Reason for red RAG status for performance at the end of Q3
<u>Strategic priority 1: Enhance</u> We will develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage	Deliver the strategic approach to spatial elements of the People and Nature Network	Pilot the Green Infrastructure National standards working with Natural England	Key member of staff on secondment so SDNPA has pulled out of the pilot
<u>Strategic priority 3: Thrive</u> We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the Duty of National Parks: to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism	Develop an annual challenge fund to support the development of community facility enhancements that contribute to multiple PMP outcomes	1) Launch the concept and define the criteria 2) Seek external funding to create the fund	Looking for alternative sources of funding such as through the SDNP Trust

4. **Compliments, Comments and Complaints (CCC) received**

- 4.1 During the year the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) received 11 compliments and 39 complaints about its services. Of these 39 complaints, one was for Countryside Policy and Management, with the remainder relating to the Planning function (including for the host planning authorities where they undertake planning work on our behalf).
- 4.2 The Ombudsman determined three complaints during the year. The Ombudsman found in the Authority's favour for all and none of the complaints were upheld. Summary information about compliments, comments and complaints and the Ombudsman's response to the three complaints is at **Appendix 4**.

5. **Partnership Management Plan 2020-25 performance indicator progress update**

- 5.1 Members should note that, whilst it has been agreed that Partnership Management Plan (PMP) performance information will be reported annually, it will not always be possible to produce updated data on that cycle. This is due to the fact that much of the data we utilise to report on the indicators is produced infrequently – for example once every 5 or 10 years. Where this is the case it has been noted in the table at **Appendix 5**. The infrequency of data collection for many of our indicators also means that we are unable to report much, if any, trend data year on year, and for many indicators, it is unlikely during the lifetime of the Partnership Management Plan. We are more likely to see change over the next 10 years (the lifetime of two Partnership Management Plans). As such, the new Partnership Management Plan 2020-25 has continued to report on much of the same information that we reported on

in the 2014-19 PMP. This will ensure we are able to measure and report on change over the longer term.

- 5.2 Note that delivery against **Partnership Management Plan outcomes** is reported in the next section as part of project performance reporting.
- 5.3 Of the **30** currently defined² Partnership Management Plan performance indicators, we are able to provide a RAG status for **23**. This is due to a variety of factors including: data availability; having the required data but being unable to set a RAG status, and some indicators being actions rather than measures.
- 5.4 Of the 23 indicators with a RAG status, 20 are **green**, 2 are **amber**, and 1 is **red**.
- 5.5 The reason for the **amber** RAG status for 2 of the indicators is shown in the table below.

PMP indicator	Data	Reason for amber status
Area of the National Park with broadband connection (at or above national average speed)	95%	Our target is 99% - the performance at National level
Average length of visitor stay in the National Park	4.1 nights	This figure is slightly down on the previous figure of 4.3 nights

- 5.6 The reason for the **red** RAG status for 1 of the indicators is shown in the table below:

PMP indicator	Data	Reason for red status
Number and proportion of community-led plans that are adopted and/or endorsed by the National Park Authority	0	Our target was 30 (the figure achieved in 2019/20) however no community-led plans were adopted or endorsed in 2019/20

6. Project Performance reporting

6.1 Q4 Project summary

- 6.1.1 Tableau dashboards have been used to monitor project performance through 2020/2021. A new dashboard was produced for each quarter (**Appendix 6**). A link to the Tableau Dashboard for Q4 is:
- https://public.tableau.com/views/PRProjectsDashboardQ420202021/ProgrammeandRAGstatus?:language=en-GB&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link
- 6.1.2 The 'Programme and RAG status' shows 7 of the projects in delivery at the end of Q4 have an amber RAG status.

Projects at Amber or Red RAG status	Q3 RAG	Q4 RAG	Reason for RAG status
Active Access	Amber	Amber	Since Active Access funding ceased March 2020 the focus of the project has changed. The offer above is supported by underspend over the lifecycle of the 3-year project. Unfortunately due to COVID 19 all deliverables have been put on hold apart from Eastbourne Walking Festival Steering Group

² We are in the process of defining methodologies for 12 new performance indicators, which we hope to start reporting on in 2021/22 or 2022/23

Lullington Heath	Amber	Amber	Contractor work carried out on site. Grazing over winter observed. Lots of work with partners and Defra to draft a MoA which is nearly finalised. Good relationship built with new NE warden for site. Works inspected.
Phase 2 Signage	Amber	Amber	Prototype signs have been signed off with Tara signs, all Hampshire signs agreed for manufacture and install proposed for late May. Hampshire CC met onsite for sign locations to agree visibility details, HCC9 sign at Bishops Waltham cannot be installed as planning application location needs to be revised. HCC18 at Lower Upham had a new tree planted by HCC in sign location so this has arranged to be moved prior to install.
Stanmer Park and People project	Amber	Amber	<p>Construction programme now mostly completed.</p> <p>Walled garden opened at Easter.</p> <p>The Green Drive is complete.</p> <p>There is a significant project overspend; B&HCC exploring options to address funding gap and ongoing negotiations with Buxton's regarding ongoing delays and compensation events; overspend reported to B&HCC P&R Committee with a report going the February meeting; a further application going to NHLF</p> <p>Way forward on the signage, interpretation and use of the shared identity has been reach. Installation is due in May.</p> <p>SDNPA contribution of £53k has been processed (contribution for the green drive, interpretation and signage)</p> <p>Engagement plan:</p> <p>Still to be progressed. Implications of Covid-19 means it has been delayed.</p> <p>Under the Activity Plan some educational resources have been produced and volunteer activities planned with the Stanmer Rangers</p> <p>An oral history event is planned for Easter and the launch of the restored Park is planned for May 2021</p>
SuDS for Schools	Amber	Amber	Detailed design work is now complete for two schools and beginning for the third school. The school staff were well engaged throughout the detailed design process and very positive and inspired by this project. Fundraising has continued informed by costings drawn up as part of the detailed design package. Key stakeholders have been consulted on the design (UKPN and BHCC Highways and Tree Officer).

Tide Mills: A Living History *	Amber	Amber	<p>Website launched: www.tidemillsproject.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists commissioned for the project have been 'launched' as part of the promotional campaign for the project. 400 weaving kits developed by the artist Kitty Kipper were sent to the primary schools engaged in the project, which were then sent on to children at home to take part in the project with their families. She has also activated the community into her weaving project. : https://tidemillsproject.uk/learning-resources/ghost-net-weaving-kittie-kipper/ Advice given by Jonathan Dean (SDNPA Education Officer) to Project Manager re. development of online schools resources for the website. Online platforms (Facebook and Twitter) launched and regularly updated with news and content.
Winchester Study	Amber	Amber	Due to the lead officer undertaking a six month secondment (beginning October 2020) no further work has been carried out on this project. It will re-commence when the lead officer returns (April 2021).

6.2 Year Overview of Project Deliverables

6.2.1 There were 135 projects in delivery at the end of 2020/21 which includes projects from 2019/20 that haven't completed. Thirty projects carried over from 2019/20 which are shown in the table overleaf.

Project Name	Completed
Winchester Study	Still ongoing
Truleigh Inspiring	Closed 2020/21
Business Survey	Closed 2020/21
Linking communities	Still ongoing
Beggars Bush	Closed 2020/21
Pump it Up	Closed 2020/21
Sussex Modern	Extended in 2020/21 closed Q4
Discover England	Extended in 2020/221 closed Q4
Stanmer Park	Closed 2020/21
Active Access	Still ongoing
Environmental Summer	Closed 2020/21

Truleigh Hill Landscape	Closed 2020/21
Petersfield Museum	Closed 2020/21
Phase 2 Signage	Still ongoing
The Bluebell Community	Closed 2020/21
Bringing back the Elms	Still ongoing
Tide Mills: A living history	Still ongoing
Truleigh Hill Habitat	Closed 2020/21 Q4
Channel Payments	Still ongoing
Miles without Stiles	Still ongoing
Cluster Development	Closed 2020/21 Q4
Heathlands Reunited	Still ongoing
Arun Vision	Still ongoing
Coppicing for Longlands Wood	Still ongoing
Changing Chalk Dew Ponds	Still ongoing
Changing Chalk Grazier	Still ongoing
Floodplain Meadows	Still ongoing
Seven Sisters	Still ongoing
Watercress and Winterbourne	Still ongoing
Rampion Monitoring	Still ongoing

6.2.2 Of these 135 projects in delivery at the end of 2020/21, 110 are new projects and these were funded from the following sources:

- 38 were funded through TPB budgets
- 1 through the climate change action fund
- 2 from the Strategic Fund
- 1 from the South Downs Trust
- 66 from the COVID fund
- 2 from External funding sources

6.2.3 Below are the 34 new projects (excluding core work items and COVID projects) from 2020/21. **Subsequently completed in 2021/22*

Project Name	Cost to SDNPA
Access Unlimited	£0 (SD Trust funded)
Artist in Residence SSCP Heritage Coast	£17,500.00
Artscape 2	£11,500.00

Beat the Street*	£10,000.00
Cherry Soup Goes Viral*	£2,000.00
Cissbury Digital Interpretation	£6,862.90
Cockshut Stream Regeneration Project	£25,000.00
Communities in the South Downs	£50,000.00
Community Energy Pathway Project	£30,790.00
Cut and collect	£15,000.00
Deep Time*	£0 (Public Health England funded)
Downland Man	£2,200.00
Egrets Way- Phase 5*	£35,000.00
Ewe Dean Fencing	£7,000.00
Footsteps App	£8,550.00
Graffham Woodland Recovery- Deer Fencing*	£15,000.00
Greenspaces	£25,000.00
Kingley Vale Interpretation	£12,500.00
Lullington Heath	£60,000.00
Midhurst Greenway	£15,000.00
Moulsecoomb Forest Garden*	£0 (Public Health England funded)
On Course to Flail	£20,500.00
Peppering Dew Ponds*	£8,500.00
Permissive Paths	£23,075.00
Rother Valley Way *	£25,000.00
Scheduled Monument Research & Data	£14,000.00
Shifting the Gaze - Micro Bursary Scheme	£10,000.00
South Downs Enterprise Partnership	£80,000.00
Stop a minute	£4,000.00
SUDs for Schools	£50,000.00
Towner Art Packs*	£1,650.00
The full harvest (was Cherry Soup - the full harvest)*	£1,500.00
Westland Meadow Farm*	£8,800.00
Workforce Support Webinars	£3,000.00
TOTAL SDNPA CONTRIBUTION	£598,927.90

6.3 Seven Sisters Annual Summary

- 6.3.1 Since last April work has been progressing on the legal transfer of Seven Sisters from East Sussex County Council to the SDNPA. We submitted a planning application in May 2020 which was granted permission in October 2020. A Heads of Terms was

agreed with ESCC and presented to the Secretary of State in August which resulted in formal approval from the Secretary of State of both DEFRA and MHCLG before Christmas. The formal process of legal conveyance with ESCC started in January and at the time of writing is close to completion,

- 6.3.2 A new Commercial Manager, Peter Cousin, was recruited in October 2020. In addition he has now recruited the staff for the Seven Sisters Country Park team so they are ready to start work on site on day 1 of ownership.
- 6.3.3 An overall masterplan and vision for the site was also completed and supported by the Project Board in May 2020 and this was presented to the NPA for approval in July along with the updated business plan and approval for funding up to £1.9million for Phase 1 delivery. This was increased to just over £2million at the March NPA with additional contingency approved for Phase 1.
- 6.3.4 Following a submission of several applications for funding we were formally approved CIL funding in Q3 of £100,000 and have also been successful in securing £25,000 from Rampion to deliver sustainable elements in the Phase 1 works. We hope to be successful in further funding applications that are still available.
- 6.3.5 We have produced a Landscape Management Plan which is due for external public engagement at Seven Sisters during the summer of 2021. This will become a working document for delivery by the Seven Sisters ranger team as soon as we become owners.
- 6.3.6 In addition we are also producing a visitor experience plan that will feed into our day to day operational considerations of how we manage, engage and involve our visitors to ensure we provide the best visitor experience we can.
- 6.3.7 Following ownership we hope to start our proposed Phase 1 building works at Seven Sisters with contractors starting in July/August and completing in early 2022.

6.4 Signage Project Annual Summary

- 6.4.1 In July 2019 the NPA approved a Phase 2 for the SDNPA boundary signs. This progressed to a planning application for 32 signs in September 2019 followed by the successful tender award for manufacture to Tara Signs based in Lancing, and to AJ Wells for installation, based on the Isle of Wight.
- 6.4.2 **Appendix 7** shows the location of signs from phase 1 and phase 2 signs (not yet installed).
- 6.4.3 COVID unfortunately delayed the manufacture of the signs in early 2020 which stalled the overall project. However the prototype signs were agreed and signed off at the start of March 2021. We have also been in discussions with each of the highways authorities regarding the signage detail.
- 6.4.4 Hampshire signs are all now agreed with a future license in place. Unfortunately one of the signs cannot be installed at Bishops Waltham following a site visit from the Highways officer. However the remaining sign locations were all agreed and confirmed on site. The Hampshire signs should now be installed in late June.
- 6.4.5 West Sussex, Brighton and Hove and East Sussex signs will all then be installed from July to September.
- 6.4.6 In addition a new maintenance agreement has been put into place for the existing Phase 1 signs.
- 6.4.7 We aim to complete Phase 2 of the Signage project before December 2021.

6.5 COVID project summary

- 6.5.1 A COVID recovery fund was launched in 2020 and the authority received significant interest from many small businesses and partners. The grants ranged between £500–£23,000 and were awarded to 66 small businesses and partners across the different

themed programme boards for specific COVID projects and a total of £295,699.75 (£255,577 from Q3 report) of funding was given to COVID recovery projects, divided between projects awarded across three areas: projects approved by Theme Program Boards (TPBs), Small Grants Fund awards for Cultural Heritage partners and Small Grants Fund awards for Sustainable Economy and Tourism partners. This grant fund has now closed. Some of the partners were unable to complete their COVID projects due to the second lockdown so extensions were agreed on a case by case basis, and projects are starting to plan delivery as government guidance allows.

6.5.2 The below table summarises the projects awarded COVID funding by each TPB for the 2020-2021 period for specific reactionary measures to support their work in relation to COVID restrictions and new social distancing requirements.

COVID Partner/Project Name	Theme Programme Board*	£ from COVID fund
Amberley Museum		£8,770.00
Arundel Museum	CH	£2,175.00
Brighton Earthship (Low Carbon Trust)	CPC	£10,000.00
Butser Ancient Farm	CH	£10,000.00
Chalk pit Forge	SET	£7,260.00
Chawton House	CH	£9,220.00
Chichester Forest Schools	CPC	£9,735.00
Connecting our Communities	SET	£3,300.00
Dark Night Skies Welcome	SET	£5,000.00
Direct to Consumer Model	SET	£6,000.00
East Clayton Farm (Lorica Trust)	CPC	£7,288.00
Enriching Environmental Encounters	CPC	£1,644.00
Gilbert White	CH	£10,000.00
IPSE Wilderness	CPC	£1,500.00
Pallant House	CH	£2,000.00
Petworth Vision	CH	£1,800.00
Railway Land Wildlife Trust	CPC	£2,780.00
Schools Digital Learning Project	CPC	£10,000.00
Sompting Estate	SA	£7,500.00
St Catherines Hill	SA	£10,292.00
Steyning downland	LB	£9,448.00
Survive, Thrive and Revive	SET	£5,000.00
Sussex Modern	SET	£12,000.00
Sustainability Centre	CPC	£23,500.00
Swanbourne Lake & Arundel Park	SA	£2,600.00

The Nourishing Nature of the South Downs (Creative waves)	CPC	£7,250.00
The Novium	CH	£9,904.93
Towner	CH	£9,820.00
Tuppenny Barn	CPC	£2,750.00
Uni of Chichester	CH	£8,400.00
Unlock Summer	SET	£1,250.00
Unmissable England	SET	£5,920.00
Wildwood charcoal	LB	£14,250.00
Winchester Go	CPC	£7,687.50
Small Grants Fund for CH partner business adaptation and innovation		
Butser Ancient Farm	CH	£1,919.90
The Novium	CH	£1,647.76
Take Shelter	CH	£1,350.00
Charleston	CH	£1,965.00
Chawton House Library	CH	£1,910.00
Small Grants Fund for SET partner business adaptation and innovation		
Sinah Common Honey	SET	£1,680.00
Edgumbes Tea & Coffee Co Ltd	SET	£2,000.00
Pookles Farm Flowers	SET	£2,000.00
Gospel green cyder Co Ltd	SET	£1,997.84
The Artisan Bakehouse	SET	£2,000.00
Sussex Lamb	SET	£2,000.00
The Novium Museum and Tourist Information Centre	SET	£1,647.76
Butser Ancient Farm	SET	£1,919.90
Market Town Foods Limited T/A The Hungry Guest	SET	£2,000.00
The Shoe	SET	£1,000.00
Charleston Trust	SET	£1,965.00
HOLOS London Ltd	SET	£2,000.00
Take Shelter	SET	£1,350.00
Gnarly Tree	SET	£1,300.00
The Ship Inn, Owlesbury	SET	£1,000.00
Chawton House Library	SET	£1,910.00
Tipple Talk	SET	£980.68
Hampshire Tours	SET	£1,812.31
Royal Society for Protection of Birds	SET	£1,500.00

Ashling Park Estate Ltd	SET	£957.94
Alfriston Woodlands Cabins	SET	£1,575.76
South Downs Sourdough	SET	£744.47
Camilla and Roly	SET	£1,915.00
Sairas Kitchen	SET	£500.00
Noble and Stace Chocolatiers	SET	£936.00
DurleighMarsh farm shop	SET	£1,500.00
Made and Making	SET	£670.00
TOTAL SDNPA CONTRIBUTION		£295,699.75

*theme programme board areas listed below

- Landscape and Biodiversity (LB)
- Access (SA)
- Cultural Heritage (CH)
- Sustainable Economy and Tourism (SET)
- Connecting People and Communities (CPC)

6.6 Grassroots and Open Access projects

6.6.1 A dashboard summarising the grassroots and open access spend across locations in the SDNP for 2020-2021 has been produced (**Appendix 8**) using the following link:

https://public.tableau.com/views/RangerDashboard202021/ProgrammeandRAGstatus?language=en-GB&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link

6.6.2 This shows the overall spend on grassroots projects and open access areas in 2020/2021 was £121,038 at over 96 locations across the park. These projects are reactive small projects ranging from a few hundred pounds up to a few thousand pounds in cost. They include small landscaping elements such as wildflower meadow seed, scrub clearance, tree planting and new fencing. These projects are managed directly by the four area teams.

7. **Theme Programme Board Fund Summary**

7.1 There is a separate project pipeline for PMP projects over the next 5 years for smaller proactive projects, these will be funded (where budgets allow) from the Theme Programme Boards (TPB) funds which for 2020-2021 were approved at the March NPA 2020. The TPB are split into areas responsible for delivering against specific PMP outcomes (and priorities) as follows:

- Landscape and Biodiversity (PMP outcomes 1, 2 and 3)
- Access (PMP outcome 5)
- Cultural Heritage (PMP outcome 4)
- Sustainable Economy and Tourism (PMP outcomes 1.3, 8, 9 and 10)
- Connecting people and communities (PMP outcomes 5.1, 6, 7, 8.1 and 9.2)

7.2 The proposed TPB budgets for 2021-2022 are set at £60,000 for each TPB.

7.3 The below table summarises the spend allocation by each TPB at the end of Q4 with respect to PMP outcome delivery.

TPB	TPB Budget Approved in March NPA	Allocated to projects by the end Q4	Actual spend by end Q4 2020/2021	PMP outcomes delivered (by these and other projects in delivery funded
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	(not including COVID recovery fund)			through strategic fund)
Landscape and Biodiversity	170,000	167,684	106,808	1, 2 and 3
Access	95,000	98,547	37,837	5
Cultural Heritage	90,000	81,905	143,396	4.1 and 4.2
Sustainable Economy and Tourism	90,000	90,060	70,548	10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 9.2 and 9.3
Connecting people and communities	58,000	48,100	85,585	5.1, 6.1, 7.1 and 9.2
Total	503,000	486,296	444,172	
Underspend		16,704		

8. Project Summary for 2020-2021

- 8.1 It has been a challenging year for projects in more ways than one. The three periods of lockdown across 2020-2021 resulted in more projects being brought forward and developed than normal due to increased staff productivity with home working. However, there have been challenges in delivering existing projects with partners experiencing furlough, or having changes to funding as a result of the pandemic. The COVID projects were quickly turned around and support provided by all the Strategy Leads and Countryside and Policy Managers (CPMs), but this short delivery period also meant additional time and resource was needed to help support partners in this difficult time to deliver projects on the ground.
- 8.2 The TPB funding budgets were largely allocated by year end, but due to resource, partners and funding issues, some of these projects have been delayed and some cancelled. Very little funding was applied to from the strategic fund in 2020-2021 as the projects tended to be smaller and were able to be funded from the TPB budgets. This will probably change in 2021-22 as the TPB budgets are smaller this year.
- 8.3 In addition the other significant impact on projects has been those where delivery includes engagement, communities and events. Where projects have adapted and gone online these were a great success and the online presence helped reach wider audiences. Our projects have had to adapt this year, and innovate where possible to still provide delivery of our original PMP objectives.

9. Strategic Fund Summary

- 9.1 The budget for the Strategic Fund from 2020/2021 to 2023/24 is set out in the overview table below; this shows the position of spend at the end of Q4. The level of funding available for projects may vary depending on the level of funding carried over as well as the annual allocation of funds into the Strategic Fund on an annual basis (this year there was nothing transferred into the strategic fund). The annual budget contributions are based on assumptions within the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by the NPA in March 2020.

	Budget 2020/21	Budget 2021/22	Budget 2022/23	Budget 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Annual Budget (£)	300,000				
Budget Carried forward (£)	669,705	734,014	282,509	243,509	184,509
Total Budget	969,705	734,014	282,509	243,509	184,509
Requirement for funding	*635,225	451,505	39,000	59,000	0
Estimated funding available	334,480	282,509	243,509	184,509	184,509

*This total includes projects that have been approved funding but are currently on-hold awaiting other funding decisions.

- 9.2 There were less requests for funding from the strategic fund in 2020/21 due to the TPB funding being used to directly fund projects.
- 9.3 There is a separate project pipeline for PMP projects over the next 5 years. The project pipeline funding requirements are NOT included in the above table (Requirement for funding) which only shows projects that have been through the Funding Approval process.

10. Communications & Engagement 2020-21

- 10.1 This has been an extraordinary year for our Communications & Engagement work. With the advent of Covid and the lockdown we had to find new ways to communicate and engage with our key audiences. At a time when health and wellbeing has never been higher on the agenda, it was clear that people needed nature more than ever. We therefore made a commitment early in the first lockdown to bring the South Downs National Park right into people's homes.
- 10.2 During the year, we ran three virtual festivals, Wild Chalk in July 2020, Secrets of the Heath in September 2020 and Dark Night Skies in February 2021. Together, these festivals reached over 500,000 people. We also used our digital channels to maximum effect, increasing our social media following by 46% and our website visitors by 208%.
- 10.3 With most work going virtual, much of our project delivery has come to rely in part or entirely on our digital platforms and over the year we have worked closely with colleagues across the organisation to help deliver over 60 different projects as part of the SDNPA's core work and as part of our Covid Recovery Fund.
- 10.4 In December, the NPA signed off our new Communications & Engagement Strategy and this is guiding our work going forward, continuing to develop the valuable new engagement skills gained during the pandemic to ensure we have a skilled, flexible, creative, innovative and representative communications and engagement that are so central to the National Park going forward
- 10.5 An infographic detailing some of our key Comms achievements is at **Appendix 9**.

11. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be	It will be the case that per the standing orders and the

required by another committee/full authority?	terms of reference for this Committee projects will come forward for approval in due course.
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	There are no direct resource implications to this report as the recommendations are for receive and review only. This report reports a position for projects in delivery at the end of Quarter 4 which includes projects funded from the Strategic Fund which is funded from approved budgets.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	Value for money for individual projects is assessed at the development stage, midway through a project and at the end, through an evaluative process that is reported to this Committee. Setting aside a fund to support projects represents a positive return on investment as it enables projects to go ahead which might not otherwise
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	No, not directly. All projects will contribute positively to the delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes, some of which are aimed at delivering social enhancements, health and wellbeing and connected communities.
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes – as the subject matter of the report is an update on organisational and project performance, no specific issues arise. Projects are subject to an equalities impact assessment at the appropriate stage of their development
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	No
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No
Are there any sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	No, not directly although during development of the Corporate Plan, sustainability issues are included as part of the process. All projects will contribute positively to the delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes, all of which are aimed at delivering sustainability

12. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

- 12.1 Robust corporate planning and regular monitoring of organisational and project performance are part of the mitigations for our corporate risk as detailed in the table below:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Unforeseen changes to the level of funding provided by relevant Government departments for future years	Likely	Minor	A robust monitoring and project approval system and regular reporting to relevant committees on projects and the budget available along with a corporate plan which sets clear priorities to support delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes.
There may be some risks to our reputation if we are unable to provide match funding for some of our larger projects. This would also potentially reduce the types of funding we were able to apply for.	Possible	Moderate	<p>The main mitigation for this is to keep close scrutiny of the Strategic Fund and apply a rigorous prioritisation process when approving those projects that commit the SDNPA to significant funding over a number of years.</p> <p>Further mitigation for this risk is the work that will be carried out to generate income for the South Downs National Park and also potentially for the SDNPA.</p>

**TANYA HIBBERD, Performance and Research Lead &
LIZ GENT, Project Management Lead**

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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Review 2020/21 2. Corporate Plan five year measures_2020/21 3. Year-End Corporate performance 2020/21 4. Compliments, Comments and Complaints (CCC) report 2020/21 5. Partnership Management Plan indicators progress update 2020/21 6. Q4 Projects Tableau Dashboard 7. Map showing Phase 1 and 2 signs 8. Grassroots Tableau Dashboard 9. Comms key achievements infographic 2020-21
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager, Planning Policy Manager, Major Planning Projects and Performance Manager, Development Manager, Countryside and Policy Management Managers, Head of Governance and Support Services, Head of Marketing and Income Generation
External Consultees	None
Background Documents	Corporate Plan Partnership Management Plan 2014-19

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020/21



ANOTHER YEAR OF CHANGE IN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

National Parks were created as the nation's breathing spaces – stunning world-class landscapes with the power to inspire everyone and replenish the soul.

Never before has this quality been more important than the past year.

With all our communities, both within and outside the South Downs National Park, dealing with the daily challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, this beautiful “green lung” for the South East has been a lifeline of escape, restoration and recovery.

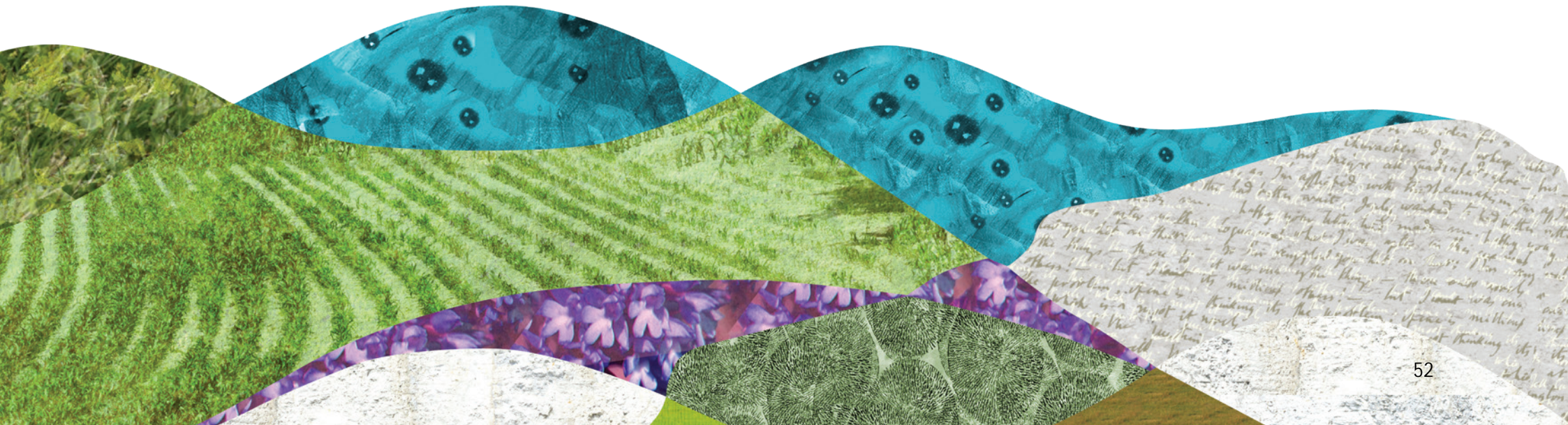
One of the true positives to come from this testing time has been the renewed wave of interest in connecting with nature and the very vital role green spaces play for our health and wellbeing.

As an Authority, we have had to respond and adapt quickly – fully recognising our important role as a major stakeholder across Sussex and Hampshire to play our part in helping communities recover.

Central to this task, and a measure taken early on in the pandemic, was the creation of a COVID-19 Recovery Fund.

A total of 66 projects across the National Park have so far benefitted from a share of more than £295,000. This funding has helped to support a myriad of projects, including helping to give people improved access to the countryside, supporting our amazing cultural heritage venues, small businesses and rural economy.

The important day-to-day work of the Authority has gone on, conserving and enhancing this treasured landscape with the aim of making the South Downs a better place for both nature and people. Our on-the-ground work from rangers, planners and staff has continued this year, albeit without the usual 3,742 days of volunteer work we so hugely benefit from. The impressive biodiversity figures we usually report on in this report such as the 126 chalk grassland, woodland, heathland and river sites maintained and enhanced, has been impacted due



to Covid-19 this year but restrictions lifting should allow us to pickup again in 2021-22.

The diversity of our work has been significant – whether it be helping to plant 10,000 trees across the South Downs, facilitating the creation of new life-giving dew ponds, delivering enforcement action to protect the landscape, or laying the groundwork to help young people access outdoor learning opportunities.

It was also the year where virtual engagement ascended to new heights of importance. Our virtual festivals and content, inspiring people about this wonderful place, reached tens of thousands of people, many of them new audiences who may not have connected with the South Downs National Park before. We enter the next year with a strengthened digital offering, while fully appreciating the very real need for face-to-face engagement and the fact that nothing quite beats taking in the views and experiencing this remarkable landscape for yourself!

Important strategies came to the fore this year, not least the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the launch of The People and Nature Network (PANN). The PANN partnership strategy, covering the South East region, aims to create a connected network of green infrastructure that makes havens for wildlife, supports local economies, helps to mitigate climate change and gives local people all the health and well-being benefits of a better natural environment. An ambitious vision indeed, but a strong framework for change.

We hope the strategy will inspire and help create a better future for us all. Now truly is the time for nature and everyone can play their part in nature recovery. This will be demonstrated by our acquisition of the Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP) from East Sussex County Council. Progress on delivery of our aspirations at SSCP will feature heavily in the Annual Review next year

I do hope you enjoy reading this Annual Review, which shines a spotlight on the breadth of our work over the past year and the important commitments we have made.

Celebrating the strength, innovation and resilience of the National Park, the Authority, our partners and our communities, this Annual Review shows we are ready to meet the future with courage and determination.



Ian Phillips
Chair



Trevor Beattie
Chief Executive

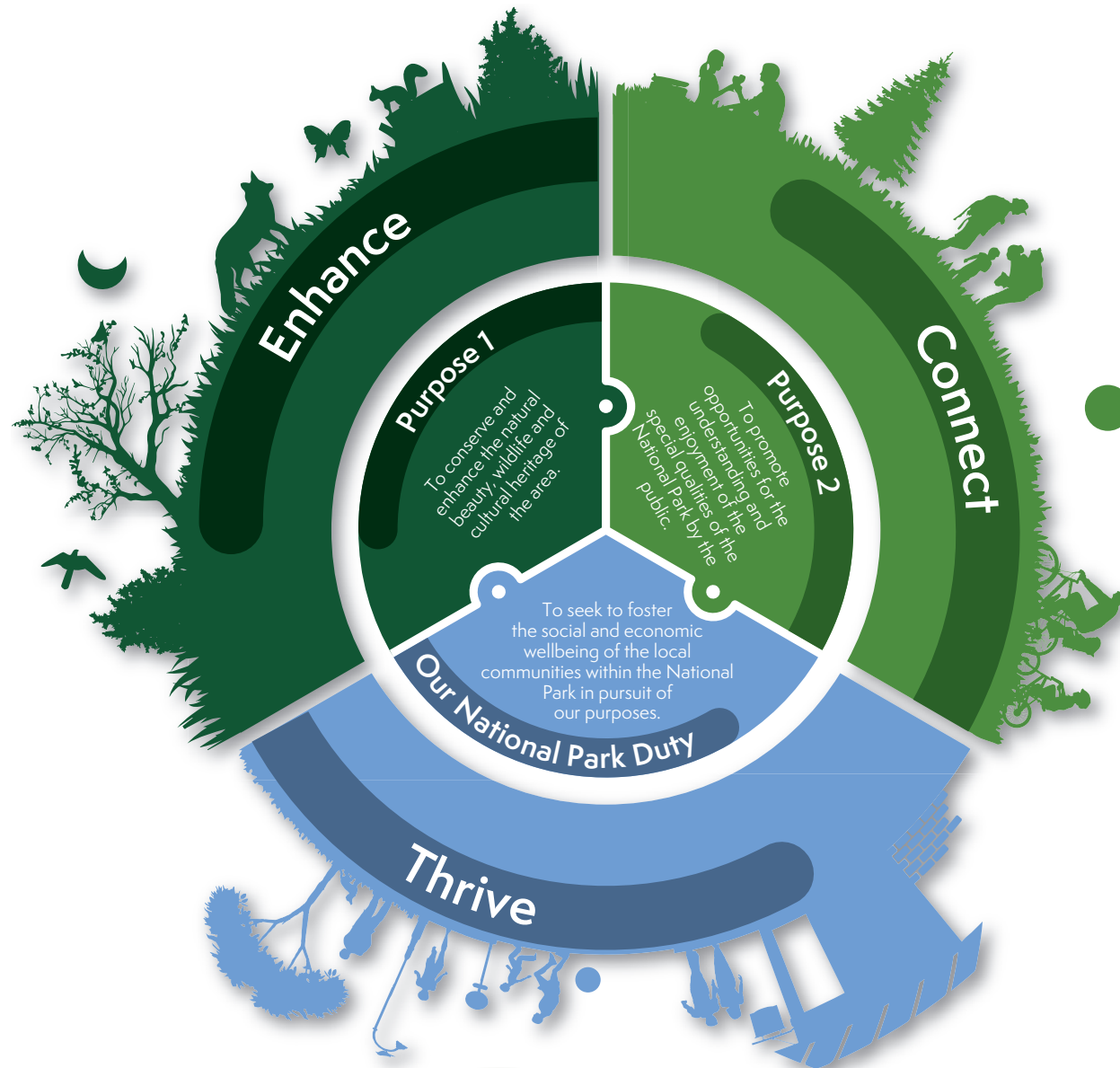
This Annual Review highlights some of our key achievements for 2020/21 which link to the objectives laid out in our **Corporate Plan 2020/21**

Cover image: © SDNPA – Long man of Willmington



OUR PURPOSES AND DUTY

Our role as the National Park Authority is clearly defined by Parliament in our statutory Purposes and Duty, which are:

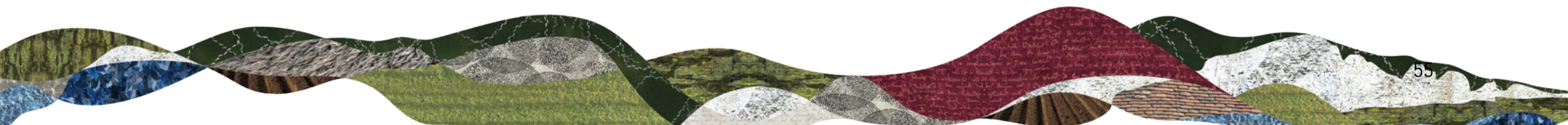
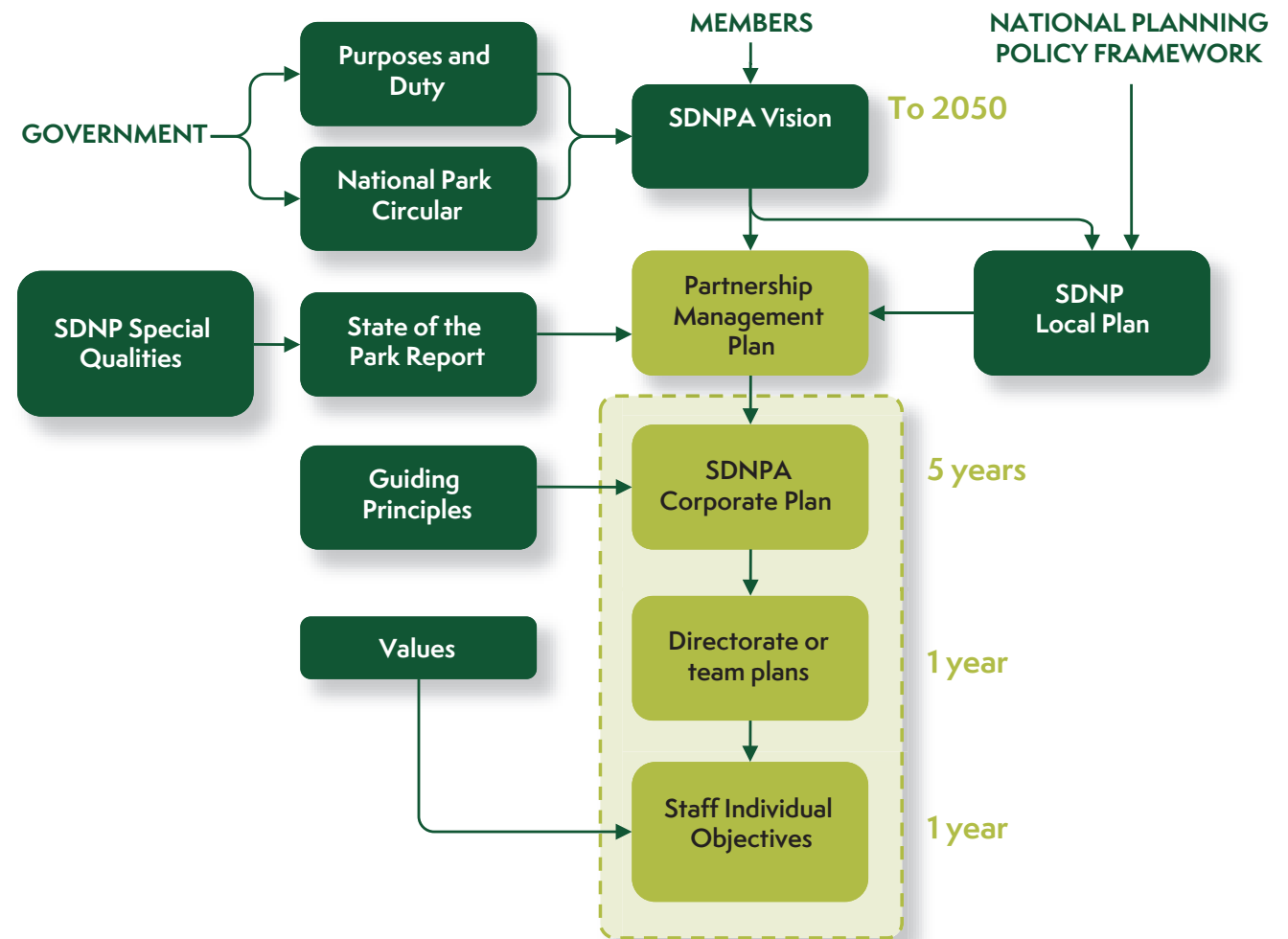


THE CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH WE WORK

The South Downs National Park Authority's Corporate Plan sets out how we will deliver those elements of the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan (PMP) for which we are responsible. All relate back to the 10 outcomes in the PMP.

The Corporate Plan is one of our key management tools to ensure delivery of our Purposes and Duty.

Progress towards demonstrating that we have delivered the success measures will be monitored by the South Downs National Park Authority annually and published in the **Annual Review**.

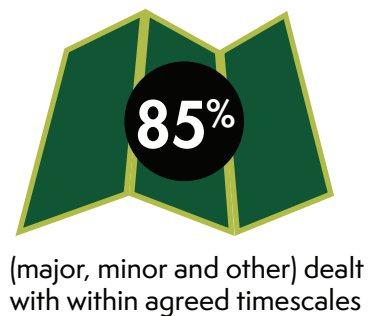


SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2020/21

Over 10,000 trees delivered to 26 different sites



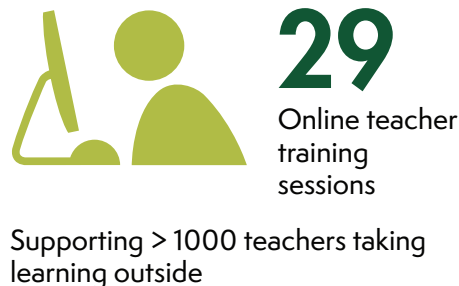
PLANNING APPLICATIONS



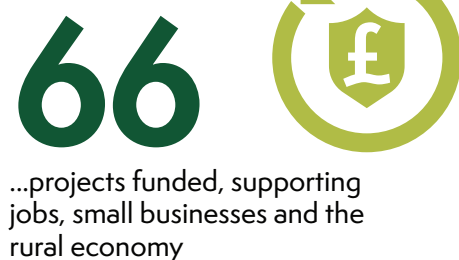
WOODLAND



OUTSIDE LEARNING



COVID-19 RECOVERY FUND



ALONG THE SOUTH DOWNS WAY

>38 maintenance issues were resolved, including:



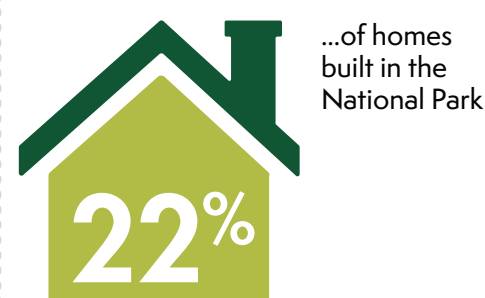
318

sign-ups for John Muir Award e-newsletters

**JOHN
MUIR
AWARD**



AFFORDABLE HOUSING



SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



57,455

Total social media followers up 46%

WEBSITE VISITORS

1.5million

unique visits up 208%

8,078

E-NEWSLETTER SIGNUPS TO DATE

3 VIRTUAL EVENTS

(Wild Chalk, Secrets of the Heath and Dark Skies Festival) with a reach of more than...

500,000

RURAL ECONOMY

452

...entries on new 'Connecting our Communities' map



CASE STUDY: A DIFFICULT YEAR: HOW THE AUTHORITY RESPONDED TO COVID-19

In early 2020, it became clear that local organisations and businesses would be severely affected by the pandemic and National lockdown restrictions. As a direct response, the South Downs National Park Authority launched a 'recovery' fund that was open to application from those seeking support to modify their offering to improve overall financial resilience, or to fund important work during this unprecedented time.

The funding was split into five priority themes: landscape and biodiversity, cultural heritage, sustainable access, connecting people and communities, and economy and tourism, with an additional, smaller amount going towards engaging more people with the National Park.

Applications were welcome for projects that would use the money to benefit those within or visiting the National Park.

In total, 66 projects received funding from a variety of organisations from different sectors, though all were based within the National Park. The total funding amount awarded was £295,699.75. The main themes supported were health & wellbeing, cultural heritage, access, outreach, education sustainable economy & tourism plus landscape and biodiversity.

Some examples of recently completed projects that received funding include:

LORICA TRUST

Lorica Trust works with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, (aged 5-18) who are at risk of exclusion or struggling with mainstream education or the effects of lockdown.

In a land-based context, alongside livestock, horticulture and bushcraft opportunities, Lorica



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Trust helps young people to build confidence, self-esteem, employment skills and well-being.

Many more young people needed support this year, especially 5-12 year olds, many of whom required 1:1 intervention support.

Many also presented with multiple challenges and suffered from significantly increased anxiety and unwillingness to engage with the outside world. This heightened more so through the Covid 19 pandemic.

CEO Jean Rolfe Lorica Trust:

"Thank you so much to the SDNP – your contribution has helped us create additional safe and secure land-based spaces for very vulnerable and disadvantaged young people – you have helped us support greater numbers of young people safely whilst at the same time facilitating the creation of new, exciting and vibrant learning spaces – thank you for having the confidence in us and in helping us to make such a difference to those that need it most"

WILDWOOD

WildWood make charcoal for BBQs and Artists using coppiced wood and forestry thinning using a machine called an 'Exeter Retort'. The equipment was old and faulty and no longer able to produce charcoal so in order for WildWood to continue trading, existing machinery needed to be replaced. The funding helped to purchase a new Exeter retort in order to ensure the survival and future growth of the business. Sales of charcoal during 2020 skyrocketed due to good weather paired with Covid-19 restrictions on travel resulting in people spending more time at home and taking part in artistic hobbies.



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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

Enhance

Develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects that deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: **to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage**. Outcomes 1-4 in the Partnership Management Plan 2020-25

Despite an extremely challenging year, we have continued to work with a variety of partners to deliver key outcomes which conserve and enhance the landscape, biodiversity and heritage assets in the South Downs National Park (SDNP). We are also managing the impacts of large-scale and cumulative small-scale developments. Progress against some of our key priorities as laid out in the Corporate Plan are summarised below:

WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO IN OUR CORPORATE PLAN	WHAT WE HAVE DONE
Develop and agree the Climate Change Action Plan with the National Park Authority and partners	Three projects in the Climate Change Action Plan were started in 2020/21: The Community Energy Pathway (will complete in 2021/22), Carbon Baseline for the National Park Area (this is now completed), and the Parish Level Carbon Budget work (will complete in 2021/22)
Publish the South Downs Green Infrastructure (GI) Framework, now known as the People and Nature Network (PANN), and implement a programme of work	A clear programme of work is now in place for Nature Recovery (NR), being led by the Nature Recovery Working Group. This includes: developing a vision for NR in the National Park; assessing scope for NR by Landscape Character Assessment (LCA); understanding and defining the Authority's role with respect to Delivery Mechanisms; developing the South Downs Biological Monitoring Framework and developing a Campaign.
Roll out the 'Footsteps App'	Progress on this project was severely impacted by Covid-19, however we have identified organisations who may benefit from inclusion on the app platform and are developing additional content. The app will be launched in Spring 2021 at Pallant House Gallery and Gilbert White House.

OUTCOME 1: LANDSCAPE & NATURAL BEAUTY CASE STUDY

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (LCA)

As a landscape designation, an understanding of the landscape character of the National Park is central to our work. Landscapes are not static and can see significant changes in land use or land management practices over time. In some cases, the nature of that change has the potential to adversely affect the National Park and its special qualities. It is important that we are able to manage this change and maintain the unique characteristics that define the landscapes of the South Downs.

Having an up-to-date Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is the primary means to achieve this.

It provides a consistent way to identify, map and describe distinctive landscape character areas. It also describes key characteristics and sensitivities to change that may exist within these specific character areas. It is an important tool to support decision making, particularly in terms of planning and development control.

The previous LCA for the National Park was produced in 2006. Though 'state of the art' at the time, the format had become very dated. It pre-dated the routine use of GIS mapping and the move towards on-line mapping information. This was a significant limitation in terms of making it available to a wider audience. We wanted to make the LCA more accessible, interactive and readily and easily used by everyone.

Working with Land Use Consultants (LUC) we updated the assessment, and developed an on-line platform. This was based on a 'story-map' approach that is both interactive and easy to use. It makes a wealth of detail available – with new descriptive content and imagery to illustrate key landscape characteristics and sensitivities.

The new platform went live in October 2020 – and extra elements have been added since. We have recently included a new web-link to our previous work on iconic and important views in and around the National Park – the Viewshed Study. This includes the ability to access panoramic views at key locations across the Park.

Link to the LCA landing page is [here](#):



OUTCOME 2: INCREASING RESILIENCE CASE STUDY

BIODIVERSITY AND WATER

The decline in Biodiversity is now high on the National agenda. In the Defra '25 Year Plan', there are targets to achieve a growing and resilient network that is richer in plants and wildlife and the emerging environment bill has a major emphasis on nature recovery. National Parks will be the backbone for a national nature network.

Linked to this is the water environment, wetland habitats and the importance of rivers as blue/ green corridors. Defra have a target to return at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state, this will involve the restoration of natural river systems and improved water quality.

There are also clear links between biodiversity and the water environment and other priority areas such as nature based solutions in support of climate change adaptation and networks for people and nature.

SUCCESSES

- The work of both The Aquifer Partnership (TAP) and Channel Payments for Ecosystem Services (CPES) projects, which continue to trial new approaches to land management such as regenerative farming, bring benefits through reduction in nitrates and pesticides and increased carbon storage in soils.
- The development of a biodiversity monitoring framework for the South Downs and emerging work on a delivery plan for wildlife.
- The production of a guide to Natural Flood Management, which offers advice to land managers with interventions that, will benefit communities and create more natural wetland systems.

CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge for any organisation in these work areas is resources, the dedicated resource for developing and implementing work on the ground and the finance to facilitate this.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Partnerships are vital to delivering these important areas of work. The catchment partnerships have representation from a wide range of organisations including water companies and the Environment Agency. Whilst Nature recovery involves many organisations from Local Nature Partnerships to land managers.

NEXT STEPS

- Finalising the Wildlife delivery plan for the South Downs.
- Implementing the recommendations for monitoring of biodiversity.
- In partnership to develop clear strategies for restoration of the river catchments within and flowing through the National Park
- Implementing projects such as the restoration of dewponds and chalk stream headwaters.



OUTCOME 3: HABITATS AND SPECIES CASE STUDY

WOODLAND

As the most wooded National Park in England and Wales with 23% coverage, the South Downs has a rich and diverse mix of woodland types. Half of this is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland.

Unfortunately, tree disease, such as Dutch Elm Disease and Ash Dieback, are having a huge impact by changing the treescape of the National Park. Climate change is also bringing a new set of challenges.

SUCCESSSES

- Bob Epsom, Woodland Officer, engaged with 28 new landowners, covering 1,100 hectares of woodland.
- As part of those site visits 100ha of Plantation on Ancient Woodland sites (PAVVS) were visited and assessed last year, totalling 292 hectares for the whole project (target is 500ha before June 2023).
- 400 metres of hedge was planted to the south of Kingley Vale National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- Use of Covid Recovery to help woodland owners achieve their goals by funding three Ancient Woodland Restoration Plans and three Woodland Management Plans.
- Trees for the Downs – very successful first year with 10,040 trees delivered to 26 different sites.

CHALLENGES

Covid restrictions impacted the delivery of work programmes, mainly on those sites planned for volunteer work parties. Recruitment process also slowed. Strategy lead departed in April 2020 and new post joined at the end of November 2020. Also deliveries changed after restrictions lifted for Trees

for the Downs. The adaptability, flexibility and commitment of staff were the key to the successful completion of the first campaign.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The Conservation Partnership (now extended to June 2023) aims to bring more woodlands into active management to improve their biodiversity and secure their future within the National Park landscape. Particular emphasis is placed on the sustainable management of ancient woodland, restoring the ecological value of PAVVS, and the recording and protection of veteran trees in the South Downs.

NEXT STEPS

- Reengage with the South Downs Forestry Champions Partnership to support the delivery of its Action Plan. New partner members have been contacted. England Tree Strategy launched in May 2021 and we will be discussing with the Forestry Champions the meaning of the Strategy for the South Downs.
- The Trees for the Downs campaign is ongoing. We will be supporting the project, incorporating Bringing Elms Back to the Downs to provide efficiencies.
- Demand for Dutch Elm Disease (DED) resistant trees has been high, and during its first year, the project helped to stimulate the supply chain of disease resistant elms. Funding has been confirmed for a further two years.
- Formalise local agreement with Forestry Commission and Forestry England to meet the shared ambition, priorities and objectives set on the National Accord between Forestry Commission (England) and National Parks England signed April 2018.



OUTCOME 4: ARTS AND HERITAGE CASE STUDY

CULTURAL HERITAGE

COLLECTIONS AT RISK

The National Park Authority provided funding to support a Collections At Risk grants scheme to support museums and galleries in addressing critical issues arising as a result of Covid19, from compromised collections care, building security and insurance issues. Ten grants benefited 14 National Park museums and heritage organisations:

"We are impressed with the speed with which South Downs National Park Authority was able to approve and action the funding agreement. In terms of the partnership, we believe the liaison between the two organisations has gone well and we hope to have further opportunities to collaborate in the future."

Carolyn Chinn (Programme Manager) South East Museum Development

MAKING SENSE: CREATIVE KIT BAGS WITH TOWNER EASTBOURNE

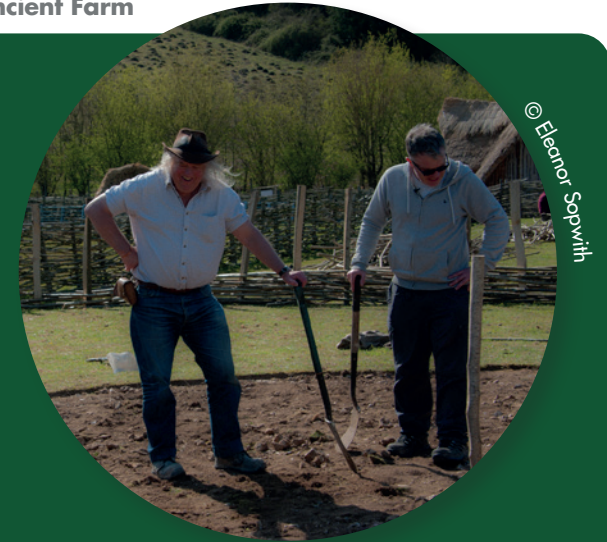
The National Park Authority offered a funding contribution to Towner Eastbourne to support their programme of Creative Kit Bags, which provide households most impacted by the pandemic access to high quality creative experiences and opportunities to engage with the natural environment.

"The art bags from Towner are absolutely amazing. Watercolour paint palette and paper and a box of charcoal with art projects to attempt. Such beautiful quality. We will have hours of creative pleasure, tree rubbing and leaf rubbing and hopefully go out to the shoal to paint cliffs. We are thrilled. So generous. Million thanks for always thinking about us." **Waves, Seaford Family**

BUTSER ANCIENT FARM

Butser Ancient Farm have launched an innovative partnership with Operation Nightingale to construct a Bronze Age roundhouse, an initiative that uses archaeology to support the recovery of wounded, injured and sick military personnel and veterans. Ensuring that as many people as possible can benefit from the project, the partnership also includes Step Together, a charity that works with people often facing social exclusion and reduced opportunity due to a variety of factors:

"We are very grateful for the support provided by the South Downs National Park Authority to enable this exciting project to take place. Not only will it help us better tell the story of this special landscape, but also to work with some brilliant partner organisations to engage new volunteers and audiences with our heritage." **Maureen Page (Director) Butser Ancient Farm**



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: ENHANCE

CREATING NEW HABITATS FOR BIRDS AND INSECTS

Dew ponds are oases for wildlife and a key driver for nature recovery.

The South Downs National Park Authority partnered with the Norfolk Estate on an inspiring project to reinstate a dew pond at Peppering, near Arundel.

These beautiful ponds are synonymous with the chalk grassland of the South Downs, historically being dug by farmers as a watering hole for livestock and some dating back at least a couple of hundred years. Teeming with wildlife, they provide drinking and bathing water for birds, and a home for dragonflies and other aquatic wildlife.

In fact, dewponds typically support around 70% of all freshwater species found in lowland landscapes. The wildlife value of ponds is also considerably enhanced where you have a network of them, making it easier for species to move between them, meaning populations are more resilient to local climate change. Plans are now afoot for the Authority to work with partners at creating a network of ponds in the area.

It's a great example of partnership working to give a real boost to nature. With biodiversity under threat across the world, these kind of grassroots initiatives, creating new habitat and stronger ecosystems, will make such a



© SDNPA

difference as part of a network of nature recovery projects.

TREE-MENDOUS EFFORT TO RESTORE OUR TREES

More than 10,000 trees were planted over the winter as part of the inspiring Trees for the Downs initiative, boosting our treescape and improving ecosystem resilience.

It followed a major fundraising campaign by the South Downs National Park Trust to raise £61,500. The public's response was beyond all expectations – meaning that thousands of iconic British tree saplings could be planted across the South Downs region and are now growing stronger by the day.

The initiative is aiming to restore trees that have been lost over the past few decades to pests and diseases, including Ash Dieback and Dutch Elm Disease. At the heart of the campaign is to restore trees that form part of people's lives – whether it be next to a popular walking route or in a school's grounds.

Able assisted by the National Park Authority's woodlands team, almost 4,000 trees were planted in the Adur and Worthing area, with 2,000 trees at Lancing Ring, 1,300 trees planted at Sheepcombe Hanger in Findon Valley and around 650 trees now in the ground at Gallops in Findon Valley.

The Trust has now set its sights on even bigger goals – raising £260,000 to plant 100,000 trees across the National Park over the next five years.



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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

Connect

Develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: **to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events.** Outcomes 5-8 in the Partnership Management Plan 2020-25.

Although much of our work was heavily impacted by Covid-19, we have continued to promote opportunities for awareness, learning and engagement, seeking to ensure quality access management and accessibility, and supporting the development of sustainable tourism. Progress against some of our key priorities as laid out in the Corporate Plan are summarised below:

WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO IN OUR CORPORATE PLAN	WHAT WE HAVE DONE
Identify Protected Landscape issues within strategic transport policies and planning in Transport for South East (TfSE) region	Examples of work undertaken this year included: feeding into TfSE Transport Strategy, Forum and Studies; joining the working groups of two TfSE studies (Future Mobility and Outer Orbital Area); responding to consultations (Rampion 2, Petworth 20mph); advising on pre-app designs for Exceat Bridge at Seven Sisters Country Park, and progressing the Communities in the South Downs (CitSD) project
Develop the 'Our South Downs' Learning Network	Due to Covid-19 our focus with schools changed to online support for teachers and education professionals. We ran a series of very well attended online teacher training courses for teachers and education professionals during Autumn Term 2020 and Spring Term 2021, supported by partners in 'Our South Downs' Learning Network.
Deliver the John Muir Award (JMA) Families Inclusion Award	This was a hugely successful initiative despite the impact of Covid-19. The team worked with the John Muir Trust to agree a revised virtual JMA programme for families. We successfully engaged 65 families in Q1, and 230 families signed up in Q4 for our Wild Winter JMA. We have adapted the JMA project longer-term to engage family groups in taster activities and JMA days rather than an entire JMA as this is a softer reintroduction to engagement and experiencing the National Park.

OUTCOME 5: OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES

CASE STUDY

SUSTAINABLE ACCESS

The delivery of infrastructure to enable more opportunities for sustainable access to and around the National Park is a priority in the Partnership Management Plan and a key area of work for the Access Team. While the promotion of public transport as a means to access the National Park was necessarily paused during the pandemic, work to progress key walking and cycling routes has continued.

SUCCESSSES

The year saw several opportunities to seek external funds to support the development of routes. A notable success came via a relatively new relationship with Highways England staff for Sussex and we were invited to bid for funds for the Egrets Way path between Lewes and Newhaven. We prepared an Economic Case in line with Department for Transport (DfT) and Highways England guidance and secured £600k for Phase 6 which we hope to complete in 2022. We also completed an Economic Case for the Centurion Way and began detailed feasibility work for a section of the Rother Valley Way.

CHALLENGES

Planned face-to-face engagement and negotiations with landowners along the Phase 5 alignment of the Egrets Way was paused during the first half of the year due to Covid restrictions inevitably affecting the delivery of this project. The eventual easing of restrictions led to an intense period of engagement and preparation of agreements and detailed documents to enable work on the ground to commence in 2021/22.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Many partner organisations have shown incredible resourcefulness and resilience in the face of the pandemic and its impact on their operating practices, finances and relationships with others.

We have been pleased to support Charleston Trust as they sought funding to improve sustainable access to the estate and we have been encouraged by members of the Rother Valley Way stakeholder-working group who have supported the feasibility work by carrying out route audits in the local area and supplying results to our consultants.

NEXT STEPS

The coming year will see the:

- Construction of Egrets Way Phase 5,
- Commencement of the next phase of the Centurion Way and
- Progression of the Rother Valley Way feasibility work.
- Resumption of activities encouraging visitors to explore the National Park by bus and train.



OUTCOME 6: OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES CASE STUDY

LEARNING, OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEERING

The Learning, Outreach and Volunteering team work with an extensive network of partners through the Learning and Volunteering Networks. We also directly engage with schools, colleges, voluntary groups and community organisations, and coordinate and deliver many outward facing projects including the Families Inclusion project. This public-facing approach brings fantastic engagement but the restrictions of the pandemic hit our sector extremely hard.

SUCCESSSES

Twenty-nine online teacher-training sessions were delivered through the SDNP Learning Network throughout the autumn and spring terms supporting teachers in taking learning outside in direct response to the challenges of Covid. These diverse and engaging sessions reached over 1,000 teachers through live sessions and views of the recorded sessions hosted on our website.

CHALLENGES

Group volunteering was severely impacted this year. A safety first approach was adopted following government and SDNPA guidance linked to public restrictions at each stage. This meant that sadly group volunteering was paused for a significant part of this year. Individual and paired volunteers were able to participate in volunteer activities for a significantly greater amount of time and microvolunteering really came to the forefront this year.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The strength of our local networks came into its own this year and enabled sharing of best practice, innovative solutions and creative ideas across the sector. This included:

1. Working with the SDNP Learning Network to survey schools and learning providers, identifying key interventions, setting up the Online Teacher training programme, sharing experiences and best practice
2. Working with the SDNP Volunteer Network to share best practice, government guidance and provide peer to peer support as well as delivering practical support and guidance to many smaller organisations on the network

NEXT STEPS

With lockdown easing we are raring to go with some exciting new initiatives to connect people with the SDNP:

- **Generation Green** – connecting young people from urban and coastal communities with the SDNP
- **Garden Classroom** – supporting a Hackney based Primary School in transition activities within the SDNP
- **South Downs Youth Action** – expanding our targeted volunteering programme for 16–25 year olds
- **Youth Voice** – expanding our Youth Ambassador volunteer numbers
- **Families Inclusion** – delivering John Muir Award taster days this summer
- **Microvolunteering** – launching the NPUK iNaturalist project here in the SDNP



OUTCOME 7: HEALTH AND WELLBEING CASE STUDY

Our aim at South Downs National Park is that the Park is a well-used and recognised asset for sustaining mental and physical health and wellbeing. We aim to achieve our work by supporting our partners to deliver against this outcome as well as promoting the Authority via our website, social media channels and through our digital content. Our focus is to empower new audiences, within and in a 10km radius of the National Park, to experience the National Park through in a variety of ways; walking, arts, cycling, connecting to nature etc.

SUCCESSSES

In 2020-21 we successfully published our Health and Well-being (HWB) strategy, which will inform our work over the next 5 years. We have also been busy making and promoting our virtual and digital content on our social media and You Tube channels. We have also supported 11 partners to deliver projects or support with health and wellbeing through our COVID Recovery Fund.

CHALLENGES

Health and Wellbeing is people relying contact with people, however due to COVID we have had limited opportunities to undertake direct face-to-face delivery hence our virtual and digital offer.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

We have worked closely with a number of partners over the last year and supported a number of projects.

Moulsecomb Forest Garden & Wildlife Project, MIND in Brighton & Hove and South Downs National Park is an example of excellent partnership working. Together the three organisations delivered a 'Connecting in Nature' programme aligned to the seasons in Autumn, Winter and Spring. Three

6-week eco therapy courses supported small groups of people, connecting with each other and nature in the beautiful wildlife garden at Moulsecomb, with a focus on personal resilience, physical and mental well-being.

'Thanks for running the group, it felt really good to be a part of and did me a lot of good to come along to. Such a lovely bunch of people and Moulsecomb Forest Garden. Thank you'

NEXT STEPS

During 2021-22 we are working in partnership with Artscape to support new audiences through our social prescribing colleagues to access the National Park through arts, heritage and green spaces. This project will focus on traditional artisan techniques and is based in West Sussex and Hampshire.

We will be focusing on our HWB webpage to promote our work as well as that of our partners.

Finally, we will be offering HWB taster sessions across the National Park to support attracting new audiences.



OUTCOME 8: OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES

CASE STUDY

THE YEAR OF VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

The National Park Authority has always prided itself on strong engagement with its local communities – a core element of delivering our purposes and duty. The 2020 pandemic presented a new and significant challenge – how do you deliver engagement and events during a national lockdown when people are being told to stay at home?

Our engagement has always had an element of virtual delivery, but now this would be the sole method of delivery. With the National Park 10th anniversary events unable to take place, we ran a month-long online interactive quiz throughout April 2020 and more than 800 people took part. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with many commenting that the quiz gave a much needed uplift during a very testing time.

The next mountain to climb was steep: delivering an alternative to Wild Chalk – a summer festival celebrating our chalk grassland habitat that had previously attracted several hundred people to a leafy park in Brighton.

Innovation across the Authority was required and, with this creative collaboration, **Virtual Wild Chalk** was born.

Using basic mobile phone technology for delivery, we devised an action-packed programme of virtual events over six days including five interactive Facebook lives covering “meet the sheep”, bee talks, exploring flower-rich meadows, Stone Age encounters, as well as two Instagram live colouring sessions. There were daily storytelling sessions with tales of past and present about the South Downs and a visit to a bespoke nursery specialising in growing chalk grassland flowers.

The first online festival of its kind for UK National Parks, Wild Chalk 2020 had a content reach of over 177,000, providing a welcome escape from the pandemic and inspiring people to care for this unique habitat.

With winter looming and more national lockdowns expected, the Authority had to pivot to deliver the **Dark Skies Festival** – perhaps our most popular annual event that normally attracts thousands to community venues across the National Park.

The event schedule was vast. Perhaps the most popular was our astrophotography competition. Stunning images were shared throughout the festival on social media and, such was the breathtaking quality of the imagery, that the competition went viral in the media, reaching well over 10 million people, with more than 225 pieces of coverage locally, nationally and internationally.

Our assortment of pre-recorded videos and Facebook and Instagram lives were thoroughly embraced by the public. The content included planetarium shows, nocturnal wildlife walks with rangers, interviews with authors of Dark Skies books, and downloadable craft activities. Our online videos attracted over 55,000 unique views, with people across the South East, and beyond, tuning in to find out more about our amazing Dark Skies.

2020 was the year where the power of virtual engagement came to the fore. None of these learnings will be lost post-pandemic as we embrace blended events – recognising the merits of both face-to-face and virtual engagement.



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: CONNECT

INTRICATE SCULPTURE TRAIL IS UNVEILED

Intricate pieces of art that tell the story of the history, wildlife and people of heathlands were unveiled and provided a new experience for walkers.

The Heathlands Sculpture Trail which includes a **downloadable leaflet**, is inspired by stories from communities and draws upon sources as diverse as the poet Tennyson and a 391-year-old local map. The educational trail links seven precious heathland sites in the National Park to encourage people to visit and explore heaths in the area.

The beautiful sandstone carvings tell the story of why heaths are so important – as common land enjoyed by local people throughout the centuries and as a rich haven for biodiversity, including rare insects, birds and all 12 of Britain's native reptiles and amphibians.

The project was spearheaded by the lottery-funded Heathlands Reunited Team, working alongside the RSPB, National Trust, Hampshire County Council and Sussex Wildlife Trust.



© SDNPA

INSPIRATIONAL ART EXHIBITION LAUNCHES A YEAR ON FROM LOCKDOWN

A colourful and emotive exhibition was installed at Worthing Pier to celebrate the nourishing nature of the South Downs National Park during the pandemic.

Coinciding with the start of the first lockdown on 23 March last year, the poignant display at Worthing Pier explores people's varied relationships with the South Downs and the landscape's ability to help boost both physical and mental health.

The free exhibition, called **"The nourishing nature of the South Downs"**, was spearheaded by Creative Waves – a community arts organisation based in Worthing and Adur – which received a grant from the National Park Authority's Covid Recovery Fund.

The exhibition will be in place at Worthing Pier throughout the summer of 2021.



© SDNPA/Anne Purkiss

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

Thrive

Develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the Duty of National Parks: **to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism**. Outcomes 9-10 in the Partnership Management Plan 2020-25

We are continuing to provide information and support to help communities better understand their environment and the impact of their actions on it, as well as making sure they are engaged in the design and development of their local surroundings. We are supporting the growth of sustainable local businesses. Progress against some of our key priorities as laid out in the Corporate Plan is summarised below:

WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO IN OUR CORPORATE PLAN	WHAT WE HAVE DONE
Participate in the development of the Petersfield Place Making Strategy	The Petersfield Place Making Strategy Board was set up and received the East Hampshire Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Petersfield Cycling Group Active Travel report. These documents informed the development of the Petersfield Place Making Action Plan. The Action Plan prioritised a series of projects to be progressed in the near future as a first step in delivering the place making strategy.
Effectively and efficiently operate all processes and systems for incoming and outgoing monies related to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 legal agreements	We opened the 'call for projects' for the 2020/21 CIL spend (closing date was 31 Jan 2021). £61,064.75 of CIL funding was paid directly to 13 Parishes. Over 400 projects are being assessed for inclusion on the 2021 IBP (i.e. spending of 2020/21 CIL Receipts). We collected £216,741.31 of Section 106 money and spent £143,436.92 on 11 projects. Examples of the projects funded by S106 monies include affordable housing, road and footpath improvements and improvements to a skate park.
Develop the Sustainable Economy and Tourism Engagement Strategic Approach	The Sustainable Economy and Tourism Theme Programme Board gave approval for the creation of the South Downs Enterprise Partnership (SDEP). Since securing funding in Q3, the following tasks have been carried out: 18 businesses signed up to sit on SDEP; business case and delivery plan created; scoping work for SDEP platforms (Website, Network, CRM) 90% complete with ITT due for release in April/May 2021; scoping work for SDEP Branding & Logo 90% complete with ITQ due for release in April 2021.

OUTCOME 9: GREAT PLACES TO LIVE CASE STUDY

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES UPDATE

The South Downs National Park is home to more than 117,000 people, living in the 176 towns and villages across the National Park. A key priority for the Partnership Management Plan is to support these communities to create sustainable places where people can access vital community services and facilities and enable the delivery of affordable housing.

SUCCESSES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The South Downs Affordable Housing grant provides funding to not-for-profit organisations to support the costs of providing affordable housing in the National Park. In the past year funding of £60k has been made to Midhurst Community Land Trust to provide two new affordable homes in Midhurst. The National Park Authority's affordable housing grant will support two more Community Land Trust projects over the next year enabling the delivering of a further nine dwellings.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Officers have worked closely with communities across the National Park to support the provision of community facilities.

In Lewes, Section 106 funding has been used to refurbish the Play Area at Timberyard Lane in Lewes, responding directly to an aspiration in the Lewes Neighbourhood Plan to improve the provision of children's play areas in the town.

Section 106 Funding has also seen improvements to the Heath Pond in Petersfield, supported the provision of leisure facilities in Liss and make improvements to the Public Rights of Way network in Binsted.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Many of our partner organisations have continued to support local communities where they can through the pandemic. In Petersfield the Authority is working closely with all tiers of Local Government to progress the aspirations of the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan, through the Petersfield Place Making project. The project will address a number of dangerous junctions as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan and create a more welcoming environment for cyclists and pedestrians. Funding has been provided to improve signage in the town, to ensure visitors can access all the Town has to offer.

NEXT STEPS

Support for Community Action to provide access to services and facilities in the local area, as well as an appropriate provision of open space and access to the countryside.



OUTCOME 10: GREAT PLACES TO WORK CASE STUDY

RURAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM

Our overall objective is to promote a diverse, sustainable and dynamic economy that is positively linked to the special qualities of the National Park. The priority sectors for National Park engagement are: the Visitor Economy, Land-based industry, Food & Drink, Advanced Manufacturing and the Knowledge Economy.

SUCCESSSES

Development has commenced on the creation of a thriving business community network for like-minded businesses who positively contribute, or aspire to contribute, to the South Downs National Park.

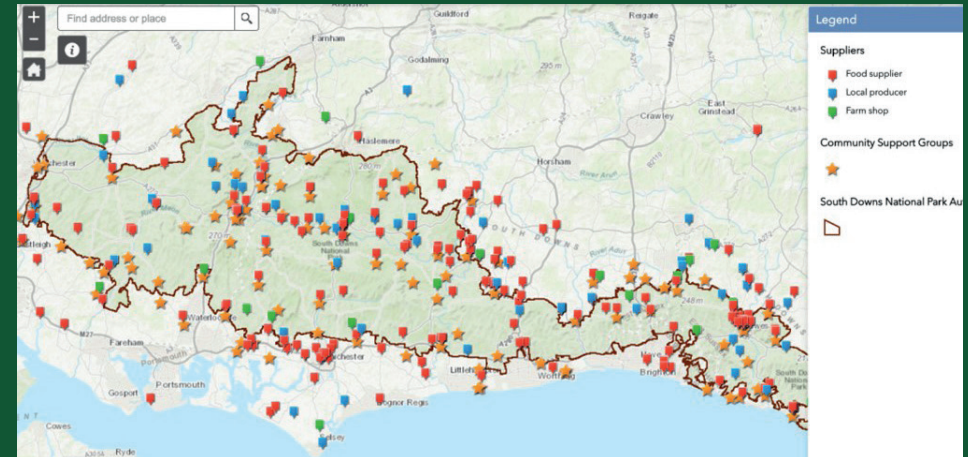
- Created and established a monthly B2B newsletter with 519 subscribers'
- Started a National Park business sustainable certification – to contribute to our Net Zero targets and develop greater social responsibility.
- Endorsed the Eastbourne Downland Whole Estate Plan (WEP), bringing the total number of WEP's endorsed in the National Park to six.

CHALLENGES

Data from the 2020 Covid-19 Business Survey showed an increase in demand from businesses for advice and support, an increase from 20% in 2019 to 54% in 2020. In response, we launched a suite of Covid Recovery Projects, complementing the work of our traditional partners, targeting our priority sectors in an attempt to help businesses survive, revive and thrive.

RECOVERY PROJECTS:

- Horticulture Pilot Project in partnership with West Sussex Growers, Rural West Sussex Partnership, Sussex Innovation Centre.



- Creation of a **SDNP Connecting our Communities Map**, with 344 business and 108 community groups, with live information on the availability of food, drink and essentials in their areas.
- Small grants were given to 22 National Park businesses totalling £32,070.00. Recovery grants given to Stansted Farm Shop and Chalk Pit Forge totalling £13,180.00.
- Working in partnership with Sussex Innovation Centre to provide IT based support to businesses within the National Park visitor economy.
- Continued alliance with Rural West Sussex Partnership.
- Delivery of a series of tourism webinars
- National Park Experiences collection (alongside 9 other English National Parks).

NEXT STEPS

The continued development of a business community and network to form a strategic framework for future engagement.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FUND (SCF) CASE STUDY

THE LIVING COAST UNDERSEA EXPERIENCE

The Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an intertidal & near-shore MCZ, between Brighton Marina & Beachy Head. It contains some of the best examples of chalk reef habitat, with specialised communities of animals & seaweeds, including the rare short-snouted seahorse.

The MCZ sits across the boundary of the South Downs National Park (SDNP), including the Heritage Coast and part of the Seven Sisters Voluntary Marine Conservation Area and is part of The Living Coast UNESCO World Biosphere Region (TLC). SDNP & TLC's key objectives include facilitating public awareness, education & understanding to promote & encourage pro conservation behaviour to facilitate sustainable development.

In a highly populated & visited area, the MCZ offers excellent opportunities for people to engage with marine nature. However, public awareness of the MCZ status & its unique marine environment is low, due to its inaccessibility & very low profile – a Google search yields little media coverage. Public use is primarily along concrete under-cliff pathways and whilst diving is possible, costs are restrictive and waters cloudy for much of the year.

TLC Undersea Experience is **an interactive, 360 degree, Virtual Reality educational experience** enabling people to access & understand the MCZ marine environment. Users follow their curiosity to explore & learn about the environment, discovering habitats, sea creatures & underwater archaeology. They will develop a powerful, kinaesthetic understanding of the impact of tides & human behaviours, & the kinds of things everyone can do to conserve & enhance the area's natural beauty, wildlife & heritage.

Grant aided by



South Downs
National Park Authority

Sustainable Communities Fund



Brighton & Lewes Downs
UNESCO World Biosphere Region

The Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) was pleased to support this project with an initial £7,000 grant towards equipment to pilot the community education and outreach aspect of the project with a further £2,000 towards developing the schools programme.

The Virtual Reality installation and 360degree film have been presented in a variety of arts, community, conservation and educational settings including stand-alone events (at Seven Sisters Visitors Centre, for instance), part of an event (Artpod, for example), as an attraction at a venue (National Marine Aquarium, etc.), ticketed events and schools.

The experience is 5 minutes long so 11-12 users can experience The Living Coast Undersea Experience with one headset per hour

For more information **visit**



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: THRIVE

PLANNING TO HELP BUSINESSES

The Authority published a key Planning Position Statement aimed at helping local businesses during the pandemic.

We identified the following sectors of the National Park to be at greatest risk under the pandemic and we will prioritise micro (fewer than 10 employees) and small (10 to 49 employees) businesses operating in these three sectors:

- Land-based industries including agriculture, forestry and fishing
- The visitor economy including visitor attractions and visitor accommodation
- The knowledge sector

The package of measures also include free pre-application advice (one meeting followed up with written advice) and, exceptionally, the waiving of monitoring fees for Section 106 legal agreements

Click [here](#) to read the Planning Position Statement in full.



© Anne Katrin Purkiss

BOOST OF OVER £1.9M FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

New cycling and walking routes, safe pedestrian crossings and a new community running track were among the community projects to benefit from a funding boost.

A raft of initiatives across the National Park benefitted from funds set up and administered by the SDNPA called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and Section 106 agreements which are paid by developers to support local infrastructure and projects.

Herne Junior School in Petersfield has installed a new all-weather 500 metre track – providing year-round opportunities for walking, jogging and running.

The facility, completed last September, has been possible thanks to £71,000 of Section 106 funding attached to the Barratt David Wilson development on land south east of The Causeway.



© SDNPA

ON THE GROUND AND GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

Relationships are fostered and developed daily between the National Park Authority and the local councils. Many of the meetings this year were held virtually as special meetings or workshops with officers joining the 176 Town and Parish councils by Zoom across the National Park. Even in these different circumstances, numerous projects were initiated together 'on the ground'. Here are just a few highlights from 2020/21:

COOKSBRIDGE AND LEWES – RAIL TO RAMBLE

Initiated through discussion between the Eastern Area ranger team, Cooksbridge Parish Council, the Access team and the Community Rail Network, two new circular walks were developed around Cooksbridge in celebration of the reinstatement of their Saturday rail service. The starting point could be either Cooksbridge or Lewes railway stations, allowing walkers to enjoy Downland views and the winding River Ouse or to discover the historic market town of Lewes. The walking loops were designed so that they could either be completed independently or merged to form one longer route of approximately 10 miles.



© SDNPA/Charlie Hellewell

CONNECTING WITH NATURE

The landowner at Clare's Copse, near Hambledon in Hampshire, is setting up a social enterprise to host activities and outdoor experiences for adults and children allowing them to spend time in the natural environment and connect with nature: www.re-wild.co.uk

SDNPA Western Rangers have funded and supported this project through the creation of a woodland glade, producing a useful open space to accommodate a range of activities. Tree thinning was completed along a newly established track and ash trees were cut along their length, allowing more light in, and to prevent them from becoming hazardous. The landowner will improve the ground flora by planting seed and managing the existing ivy. The impact of the work was immediate; a rewarding contribution to a local community project in the making!



Clare's Copse © Rabekah Smith

PEARL BORDERED FRITILLARY EXPLOSION AT REWELL WOOD

The Pearl Bordered Fritillary is one of many butterfly species, which have seriously declined during the second half of the 20th century. The colony at Rewell Wood near Arundel is one of four left in Sussex. Thanks to the combined efforts of the landowner, Norfolk Estate and Central Downs rangers guided by Neil Hulme's expert advice 2020 saw the highest daily count of the butterfly, 914 compared to a highest count in 2015 of 29. Coppicing and creating bare ground where the butterflies' foodplant, violet can grow is vital if the butterfly is to thrive and colonise other woodlands nearby. The resurgence of this nationally important population demonstrates how conservation and commercial forestry can complement each other where there is the will, knowledge and key partnerships



© Simon Mockford / SDNPA

RINGMER CHURCH WILDFLOWERS

Following the success of Wildflower Lewes – a community group in Lewes that plant, manage and survey road verges around Lewes as well as other community planting, we were contacted by Wildflower Ringmer, who wanted to do the same.

It's a great opportunity to help. Anne Duke has set up Wildflower Ringmer to help create pollinator habitat in Ringmer and is inspiring the rest of the village to join her. National Park ranger Jan has been supporting her and the rest of the group to get the mowing regime changed, survey the green spaces they have and see where they can make positive changes.



© Jan Knowlson / SDNPA

SEAFORD COLLEGE CHALK GRASSLAND CREATION

By creating one hectare of new species-rich chalk grassland, this project has made a valuable contribution to nature recovery, provided a stepping-stone for species like the endangered Duke of Burgundy butterfly already present at the nearby Graffham Down wildlife reserves, and adding to the South Downs dwindling chalk grassland resource – which currently only covers 4% of the National Park.

The project will also provide a valuable learning resource for the school, with plans to use the meadow for educational



© Charles Winchester / SDNPA

activities. Surveys to monitor the success of the grassland's establishment will be carried out in summer 2021, and the intention is to engage the students with this work, inspiring them to value and conserve a critical habitat of the South Downs National Park.

This initial chalk grassland creation project will hopefully be a catalyst for further habitat creation work on the school grounds, with the potential to create a network of habitat all the way from Duncton on the eastern side of the site, to Graffham in the west – an area that would total more than 10ha of species-rich grassland.

MOVING FILM TELLS THE STORY OF BLACK TRAIL RUNNERS

The National Park Authority helped to facilitate the production of a moving film that aims to increase the inclusion, participation and representation of black people in trail running.

Filmed at Seven Sisters Country Park, the film features Simbarashe Mugomba and Rachel Dench – two key members of the Black Trail Runners and a force of inspiration for a growing number of people in black and ethnically-diverse communities who want to connect with the outdoors.



© SDNPA

HOW THE AUTHORITY IS FUNDED

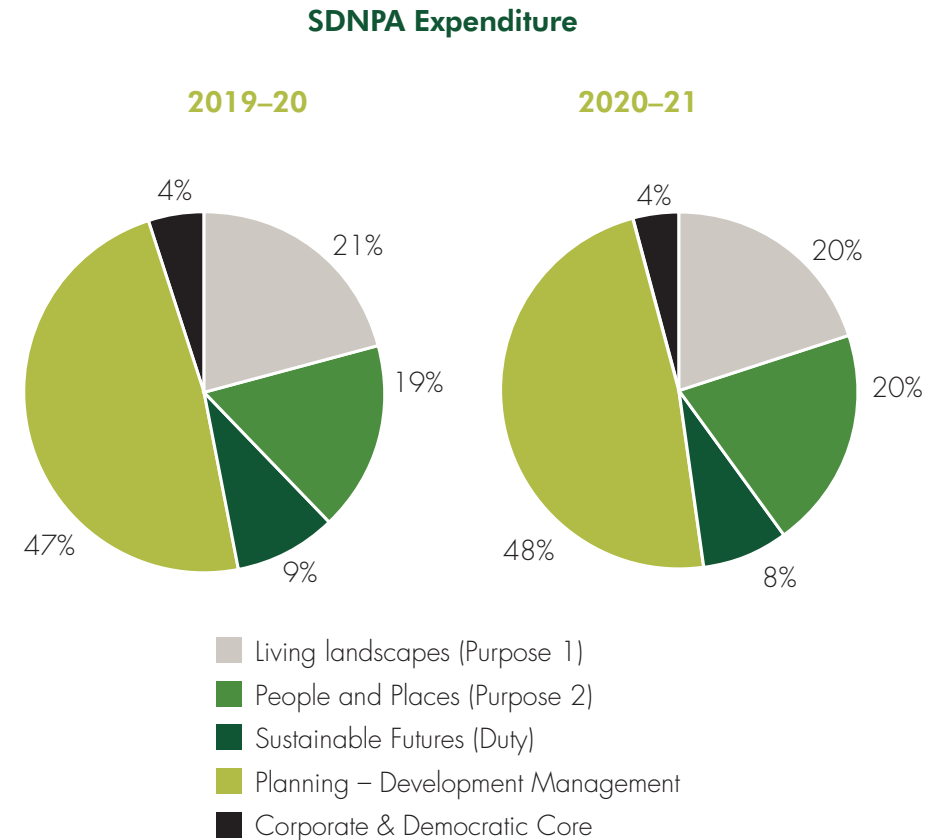
The main source of funding, for all National Park Authorities, is a National Park Grant from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). In 2020/21 the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) received a grant totalling around £10.5 million.

As the Planning Authority for the National Park, a significant part of our budget is dedicated to processing and determining planning applications for development. In 2020/21 the SDNPA received income of just over **£2.7 million** through planning activities (including Community Infrastructure Levy).

The SDNPA was also successful in attracting significant funding for projects to deliver the Partnership Management Plan. During 2020/21 the SDNPA received **£1.6 million** of income through specific grants and contributions in addition to funds secured by other partners to deliver work in the National Park.

In total the income received by the SDNPA in 2020/21 was **£14.9 million**.

As well as the statutory duty to act as planning authority for the National Park, and the need to provide proper governance by supporting the roles of Members, Audits etc., the SDNPA spends the funds it has available in pursuit of the purposes and duty. The allocation of how those funds are spent is illustrated in the following chart:



HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

In 2020/21 **£61,064.75** of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding was paid directly to 13 Parishes. Over 400 projects are being assessed for inclusion on the 2021 Infrastructure Business Plan (IBP) – i.e. spending of 2020/21 CIL Receipts.

Also **£216,741.31** of Section 106 money was collected in 2020/21 and **£143,436.92** was spent on 11 projects.

For more details about CIL and Section 106 grants in the South Downs National Park visit: southdowns.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy

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.

For more information on how we and our partners are delivering this vision please have a look at the following documents:

- **Partnership Management Plan 2020–2025**
- **Corporate Plan 2020–2025 (Year 2 Action Plan 2021–22)**



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

South Downs Centre
North Street
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9DH

T: 01730 814810
W: southdowns.gov.uk

For your guide to everything there is to
see and do in the National Park visit
southdowns.gov.uk/discovery-map

Item 9 Appendix 2: Corporate Plan five year measures of success year 1 progress report (2020/21)				
Corporate Plan 2020-25 measure	Achieved	Yr 1 target	RAG	Commentary
Increase our average unique monthly web visitors from @36,000 to 54,000 by 2025	129,563	39,000		We achieved higher than anticipated monthly website traffic as a result of increased reach on social media and an interest in discovering green spaces, probably as a result of Covid
Increase our social media following from @37,000 to 50,000 across all platforms by 2025	57,455	39,000		We achieved higher than anticipated reach on social media largely as a result of our content strategy - incorporating virtual events and live walks with rangers - and an interest in discovering green spaces, probably as a result of Covid.
% of contractors satisfied with SDNPA as a client	100%	80%		Based on feedback from 5 contractors, all of whom were satisfied with SDNPA as a client
% of contractors fulfilling their obligations as set out in their tender to quality, time and budget	89%	80%		Based on 9 contractors, 8 of whom fulfilled their obligations, one of whom did not
% of major applications determined within 13 weeks	85%	70%		In 2020/21 SDNPA maintained the 85% applications determined in time achieved in 2019/20. This is despite the pandemic and the Authority dealing with the highest number of major applications that it has ever dealt with. We have also far exceeded the government target of 60% and our target of 70%. 54 major application decisions were issued in 2020/21 with 46 determined within 13 weeks (85%).
% of minor and other planning applications determined within 8 weeks	85%	80%		Similar performance, despite the pandemic, to 2019/20 when 80% of these applications were determined in time. We have exceeded the government target of 70% and our target of 80%. 1,977 minor and other application decisions were made in 2020/21, with 1,679 determined within 8 weeks (85%).
% of people aware of the South Downs National Park in a YouGov poll	61%	60%		Survey undertaken in October 2020. Results based on 2,080 YouGov pollsters residing in the UK. New survey due to take place in October 2021
Create two new gateways to the National Park between 2020 and 2025	1	1		We are on track to open a gateway at Seven Sisters Country Park in 2021/22 when we take over ownership of the site. The target was for one gateway between 2020 and 2022

% of new projects brought forward that have delivery plans	22%	100%		22 new projects started up in 2020-2021 (excluding all COVID ones). Of these only 5 had project delivery plans which is 22%. This is due to a combination of factors including COVID, but a refresh of the project management process is needed, and we have also made an efficiency going forward to remove the project brief and instead complete the project delivery plan at approval stage which clarifies the documents and reduces repetition.
Develop at least 3 Health and Wellbeing Hubs across the National Park by 2025	0	3		There have been some challenges around creating hubs, not least due to the impact of Covid 19. This has meant that we have not been able to have relevant discussions, as partners have been focused on managing their responses to the pandemic. We have been more focused on helping organisations support their communities and vulnerable groups. We are still confident we will reach our target of 3 health and well-being hubs created by 2025. The first of which will be at Seven Sisters Country Park where we will use it to test out what works and learn from that experience
Increase from the baseline in the 2018 Volunteer Development Strategy in the number of young people participating in volunteering opportunities led by the SDNPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	Due to Covid, very few activities were able to take place in 2020/21. Therefore we will start measuring these targets in 2021/22
Increase from the baseline in the 2018 Volunteer Development Strategy in the number of BAME people participating in volunteering opportunities led by the SDNPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	Due to Covid, very few activities were able to take place in 2020/21. Therefore we will start measuring these targets in 2021/22
Increase from the baseline in the 2018 Volunteer Development Strategy in the number of people with disabilities participating in volunteering opportunities led by the SDNPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	Due to Covid, very few activities were able to take place in 2020/21. Therefore we will start measuring these targets in 2021/22
CP-2.2d: Increase from the baseline in the 2018 Volunteer Development Strategy in the number of females participating in volunteering opportunities led by the SDNPA	N/A	N/A	N/A	Due to Covid, very few activities were able to take place in 2020/21. Therefore we will start measuring these targets in 2021/22
Your National Park' campaign launched and reaching 20,000 by 2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	Covid delays pushed back the filming and subsequent launch of 'Your National Park'. We have most of the films but there are still delays on delivering the final two. We will therefore start measuring this target in 2021/22

Item 9 Appendix 3: Corporate Performance Report Year-End round-up (1st April 2020-31st March 2021)							
Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
Strategic priority 1: Enhance We will develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the first Purpose of National Parks: to conserve wildlife, the natural beauty of the landscape and cultural heritage	Deliver the strategic approach to spatial elements of the People and Nature Network	1) Continue to develop local projects in key areas including Winchester and Truleigh Hill	1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
		2) Pilot the GI National standards working with Natural England	1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects 1.2 Improve green and blue infrastructure to deliver nature recovery networks and connect people to nature within and around the SDNP		Due to capacity (member of staff going on secondment), after some initial early input SDNPA has had to pull out of the pilot. We remain in contact with the consultants/Natural England and have requested to see the outputs.		Next steps: no longer involved with the pilot, but requested to see the outputs following some early input.
	Lead the Authority's response to: i) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Proposals (NSIPs) ii) Major and strategic planning applications iii) Other ad hoc major projects as required	Respond in a timely and appropriate fashion to NSIPs and major planning applications which may impact the National Park	1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects	85% of major planning applications determined in time (Government target is 60%)	Speed of determination of major planning applications remain in excess of Government targets. All NSIP deadlines met.		Next steps: The Secretary of State for Business and Energy is due to make a decision on whether to grant Development Consent for the Aquind Interconnector by 8 June 2021.
	Provide high quality specialist advice in Design, Conservation and Landscape, predominantly within the Planning directorate but also across the organisation as required	Provide specialist advice as and when required	1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects		Specialist advice has been provided throughout the financial year.		Next steps: Site visits by specialists to the outside of buildings are taking place, where social distancing can be observed
	Implement Local Plan Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Technical Advice Notes (TANs)	Create further guidance on Local Plan policies for Trees (SPD) and Biodiversity Net Gain (SPD)	1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects		Work was delayed on the Trees SPD as we prioritised urgent work on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) TAN . This has now been completed and the Trees SPD will go to Planning Committee in April 2021. Work is underway on the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) SPD , but this cannot be completed until the Environment Bill is enacted later this year, which will make BNG mandatory in the British planning system.		Next steps: The Trees SPD will go to Planning Committee April 2021. We are awaiting the enactment of the Environment Bill to start work on the Biodiversity SPD. In the interim we will produce a guidance note on Biodiversity Net Gain in Q1 2021/22.

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	Environmental land management (ELM) system	Work with other organisations to develop their tests and trials and continue to build relationships through farm clusters	1.3 Maximise environmental, cultural and economic benefits of agri-environment and forestry schemes across the National Park	<p>4 Farm Clusters, including 20 farmers, involved in our Farm Cluster/Land App T&T</p> <p>6 Farm Clusters included in Defra Green Recovery Fund bid</p> <p>58 SDNP farmers attended the NAAONB ELM update meeting</p>	We developed our Farm Cluster/Land App ELM Test & Trial, alongside four farm clusters (Winchester Downs, Selborne, Rother Valley and Eastern Downs). This was finished and submitted to Defra in Q2. In Q3, all six farm clusters were consulted and included in the EOI for Defra's Green Recovery Fund submitted by the South Downs Trust. Throughout Q4 we were involved in the NAAONB ELM Advocacy Project, a Defra funded initiative through the English Protected Landscape network to promote the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and update farmers on ELM development. We attended update meetings for Protected Landscape staff and promoted a range of events run to update farmers on the changes ahead, of which 58 farmers from the SDNP attended. Working alongside the Farm Carbon Toolkit (FCT), South West Farm Consultants and Stephen Woodley Crop Services, a fully costed three year Farm Carbon Project has been developed to work with farmers and farmer clusters in the SDNP. The project will use soil analysis data and FCT carbon audits from 25 farms to review and develop measures that farmers can adopt to reduce the carbon footprint on their farms and contribute to the SDNPA Climate Action Plan.		<p>Next steps: Although due to start in April, full details on the Farming in Protected Landscape (FiPL) scheme have yet to be released by Defra. It is anticipated that it will now begin sometime in the summer 2021. In light of this, the annual SDNPA farmer breakfast/supper meetings have been postponed until such time that we are able to update attendees on full details of the FiPL scheme. Take SDNP Farm Carbon Project to the Landscape and Biodiversity Theme Programme Board to seek funding.</p> <p>Potential risks: Details on FiPL are further delayed. Unable to secure sufficient funding for the SDNP Farm Carbon Project.</p>
	Develop SDNPA projects as part of the National Trust led HLF funded Changing Chalk initiative	Development Phase: 1) Grazing project officer in post 2) Undertake dew ponds baseline survey	2.1 Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
	Reduce nitrates into groundwater as part of Brighton ChAMP Phase 2 (TAP)	Continuation and rolling out of CHaMP Phase 1 with farmers and with communities on rain gardens	2.1 Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats				
	Develop nature recovery/nature based solutions as part of the climate change action plan	Develop and agree the climate change action plan with NPA and partners	2.1 Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats	3X projects in the Climate Change Action Plan are now successfully underway: The Community Energy Pathway, Carbon Baseline for the National Park Area , and the Parish Level Carbon Budget work.	Community Energy South (who are delivering the Community Energy Pathway project) delivered workshop events for interested Parishes and Community Groups in Q4. A shortlist of 5 Parishes and Community Groups was agreed. Further support being provided to assist them to develop their proposals and funding bids. Work to calculate Parish carbon footprints now completed. Slight delay with the contract to produce the carbon budget for the National Park. This will now be delivered in June 2021		<p>Next steps: Further work required to consider how we roll out and use the Parish carbon data. The Planning Policy Team are also doing follow up work on developing guidance around Community Based Renewables in the National Park as joint-work with sector partners.</p>
	Support the South Downs Forestry Champions Partnership and its action plan	1) Deliver Woodland Trust partnership project (extended by 3 years) 2) Investigate & confirm other woodland initiatives	2.2 Improve the resilience and quality and quantity of trees and woodlands in the National Park and ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place	<p>Additional funding of £30k awarded to act as a 'fighting fund' for small scale woodland enhancement issues that aren't covered by other mechanisms. Ancient Woodland Restoration Plans and 3 Woodland Management Plans were commissioned using the fighting fund</p> <p>Woodland Trust funding of £120k received to continue the partnership</p> <p>Trees for the Downs - 10,440 trees delivered to 26 different sites and planted. 25 different species; good mixture of project types: woodland restoration, hedgerows, roadside trees and tree clumps.</p> <p>Woodland Advisory Service provided to woodland owners, covering 1100 ha of woodland</p> <p>Engaged with 7 woodland landowners previously not engaged with before across the SDNP</p>	Draft case study of partnership produced. New MOU and three year agreement signed. A considerable amount of the Woodland Officer's time was used to support 'Trees for the South Downs' South Downs Trust project with the fund reaching its target. Trees for the Downs project allocated funding under Bob Epsom's guidance from the applications received. Absence of a Strategy Lead for Woodlands between April and November 2020 added pressure to the Woodland Officer's workload. We continued to provide advice to landowners previously engaged with as well as SDNPA staff. Limited amount of engagement this year with the farm clusters due to Covid restrictions.		<p>Next steps: Trees for the Downs 21/22 campaign ready to be launched (working on final guidance and species list). Bob Epsom to focus his time in target areas agreed with the Woodland Trust. Strategy Lead for Woodland to reactivate the Forestry Champion Partnership. New members have been approached</p> <p>Potential risks: Covid-19 might still have an impact on working patterns / practices if another wave of the pandemic sweeps the country.</p>
	Complete Heathlands Reunited and secure ongoing commitments to heathland recovery and public engagement	1) Complete current project	3.1 Create, restore and improve areas of priority habitat to be more, bigger, better, and joined up at a landscape scale	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
		2) Define objectives & funding of Phase 2 looking at entire Wealden Heaths network	3.1 Create, restore and improve areas of priority habitat to be more, bigger, better, and joined up at a landscape scale				
				Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) of 5 sites	An agreement has been reached with East Hants District Council (EHDC) for Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) of 5 sites. Successful recruitment took place and the contract is being delivered.		<p>Next Steps: Contract for 2022 onwards to be brought forward by EHDC and we will liaise on how to proceed</p>

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	Develop and implement a Nature Recovery Strategy and a wider campaign, working with regional partners	1) Define vision & create a Nature Recovery Strategy 2) Define the Nature Recovery Networks 3) Adopt & apply Natural Capital Investment Strategy (NCIS) 4) Create guidance for net gain - including guidance for planners	3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases		A clear programme of work is now in place for Nature Recovery (NR), being led by the Nature Recovery Working Group. This includes: developing a vision for NR in the SDNP; assessing scope for NR by Landscape Character Assessment (LCA); understanding and defining the SDNPA role with respect to Delivery Mechanisms; developing the South Downs Biological Monitoring Framework and developing a Campaign. Nature Recovery Network (NRN) development continues through the County Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs), South East Nature Partnership (SENP), and South East Protected Landscapes (SEEPL). The possibility of a regional project/initiative to develop a South East Nature recovery Network (NRN) Framework is currently being explored with SENP & SEEPL. A Sussex LNP NRN Sub Group has been established and SDNPA are currently chairing the group. The first South Downs Nature Recovery Bulletin was produced and issued in March. The Infrastructure and Environment Strategy Lead secondment to National Parks England (NPE) continues.		Next steps: Continue to develop the key work/outputs from the NR Work Programme: Launch the SD Biological Monitoring Framework; further develop the NR by LCA work. Future NR Bulletins to be issued during 2021. Plan a Member workshop session on 15-July. Develop concept for a SE Regional NRN Framework with SENP & SEEPL. Potential risks: The development of the wider NRN could be significantly impacted as it is partnership collaboration. Hope to progress with partners, but dependant on partner capacity post Covid-19. Other risks are linked to national guidance or defined/confirmed by the Environment Bill which has been further delayed. Some SD development work could be impacted by a smaller L&B TPB budget for 2021/22. Staff time is pulled away from NR development work.
		5) Continue to develop satellite monitoring capability	3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases		Report for the Earth Observation 'follow on' work was completed during Q1. An initial format for annual reporting has been agreed, and a contract to support this is in place. We are now looking at how the capabilities we have developed can be applied in terms of key programmes and projects - such a monitoring and spatial targeting. The SDNPA have also been invited to participate in a National Programme to benefit from the development of new approaches. (UK Catapult - Exeter University). Further high quality images and data were obtained over the Summer 2020 due to the prolonged period of good weather. They were added to the data archive and formed the basis of the project report in November (during Q3). The Earth Observation project produced its first summary report based on a full year's data. We trialled a few new ways of measuring and reporting on land cover and landscape change. We were able to use some of this to inform the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report for the first time. This is something we will refine and build on for subsequent reporting.		Next steps: Further work to trial use of Earth Observation for monitoring projects and habitat improvement work in the future is planned for Summer 2021.
	Set up and administer Biodiversity/Natural Capital Challenge Fund	1) Investigate feasibility, define criteria & launch concept 2) Seek external funding to pump-prime	3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases		The Agency "Tilt" has been awarded the contract for the Nature Recovery Fund and Campaign and have started to develop concepts for the Campaign. Concepts been shared with the Nature Recovery Working Group (NRWG). Designs for the campaign will be used to brand all South Downs Nature Recovery outputs, and will be used for the NR Bulletin		Next steps: Communications and Engagement Manager to share initial animation with NRWG. Aiming for a May/June launch. Continue to be open with partners that we are developing a campaign. Potential risks: SDNPA budget is too small to develop an impactful Campaign. Timing of launch. Inter-dependencies between difference outputs of the NR Work Programme
	Produce a Landscape Management Plan (LMP) for Seven Sisters Country Park	1) Undertake biodiversity baseline survey 2) Start drafting the Landscape Management Plan	3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases		The Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP) Landscape Working Group is meeting monthly to develop the Landscape Management Plan (LMP). The draft SSCP LMP has been sent to key partners (Natural England (NE), Environment Agency (EA), Water Level Management Board (WLMB), National Trust (NT), Forestry Commission (FC) & South East Water) for information and comments. An overview of the Draft LMP was presented to the Parishes at the update meeting on 25-March, and the draft Objectives subsequently shared. Invitation to Tender (ITT) for a grazing licence has been issued.		Next steps: A version of the LMP will be submitted to the Project Board on 22-April for approval as a document that forms the basis for further wider engagement. Set up dates for a wider stakeholder engagement event at Exceat (May/June?). Develop a summary version of the LMP. Award the grazing licence and start summer grazing of the wetland areas Potential risks: Further delay in the transfer of ownership could impact the registration of the BPS entitlements which needs to be done by 15-May. Staff capacity to complete the LMP and engagement process as consultancy contract ends at end April. Ability to undertake meaningful engagement with wider stakeholders. Timeline to give notice and receive consent from NE. Lack of budget to undertake land management

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	Create and undertake a Scheduled Monument Monitoring project	Develop project, seek funding, and liaise with partner organisations and colleagues	4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
	Commission and oversee Archaeology On The Edge (Stage 2) project	Develop project, seek funding, and liaise with partner organisations and colleagues	4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage				
	Roll out the Footsteps App	1) Identify organisations that may benefit from use of the App 2) Tender for package of content - secure content development (scripting, filming etc.)	4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage		We identified organisations who may benefit from inclusion on the app platform, and approached ATS Heritage for a quote to cover costs for additional app content development, recording and production. The Cultural Heritage Lead worked on a framework to create an application process for partners to the app platform. This was identified as a potential way of addressing lessons learned from the pilot around partner engagement and buy in. The progress with this project was severely impacted by Covid-19. Agreed to launch App in Spring 2021 with existing 3 partners from East Sussex and additional partner we hope to work with between November 2020 and May 2021 from East Hants or West Sussex . SDNPA Comms team managed launch and promotional plan. Brief with application form submitted to partners with a closing date for EOIs of 4 December. Three submissions returned from Pallant House Gallery, Butser Ancient Farm and Gilbert White House. Two partners selected - Pallant House Gallery and Gilbert White House. Contracts agreed and signed off with ATS Heritage and heritage partners. Kick off meetings held with both partner organisations. ATS Heritage have circulated timelines to both partners for agreement, marking critical deadlines for content production		Next steps: Continue to support heritage partners in delivering the project - providing editing and feedback on content, and liaising between ATS Heritage and partner organisations where required Potential risks: slippage in delivery timetable. Contracts have made clear that slippage may result in charges, which the partner organisations will be expected to meet. Both cultural partners are still utilising flexi furlough so not fully staffed, and likely to face distractions from sector reopening (which will be business critical priorities) from 17 May 2021
	Create and Install 'Meet the Archaeologist' NFC plaques	1) Work with historic environment county and district specialists to identify key sites and relevant archaeological expertise 2) Liaise with Historic England re. locations and walking routes linked to Scheduled Monuments / areas of archaeological interest 3) Liaise with rangers re landowner permission for NFC tag signage installation	4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage		Identified Cissbury as first site to run project. Secured permission and interest from the National Trust in collaborating on this. Progress stalled due to Covid-19. Meetings with RSPB, National Trust and Historic England revived in August 2020. Partners agreed to commission research work to support a funding bid to Historic England for a Building Capacity Grant. Wessex Archaeology commissioned to deliver the work. Contracts with videographer signed off. Scripts drafted, finalised and agreed. On site filming delayed due to December lockdown, but filming completed in April 2021. During delays, audio recording took place to support post-production work. Site walk over confirmed plaque locations.		Next steps: Film editing work and design and production of plaques. Potential risks: Some potential risks around film editing - film will need to strike a balance between SDNPA and National Trust (as landowner) on use of branding etc. and visuals. Contract with videographer was used to outline some mutually agreed T&C for visuals including use of logos / Shared Identity, in order to reduce issues during editing stage. Videographer will edit one film first and get agreement across all partners on house style, logo use, visuals etc before applying criteria across all films. Editing to take place throughout May.
Strategic priority 2: Connect We will develop strategies and support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the second Purpose of National Parks: to promote understanding and enjoyment and improve health and well-being through	Increase our digital reach and engagement	Relaunch the website	5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion	Visits to our website in 2020/21 increased by more than 30% compared to 2019/20 Throughout 2020/21, our website received visits from 158,1865 unique users, with March 2021 being our busiest month yet, with 142,097 unique visitors.	Popular pages include 'Get active' walking pages, South Downs Way info pages & the Covid info page.		
	Deliver 10th Anniversary programme of celebration	Deliver programme of celebration as set out in the Comms Plan	5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion	2,829 people took part in our Advent Calendar quiz We reached 140,000 people with our Dark Skies Festival in Q4, with over 10 million people being reached by coverage of our very first astrophotography competition	With Covid putting a halt to the physical delivery of our 10th anniversary we focused on bringing the National Park to people. During 2020/21, we issued more proactive press releases than in 2019/20 and greatly increased our sign ups to our newsletter - we now have over 8,500 subscribers		

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
volunteering & learning, high quality access management and providing information and events	Manufacture and install 30 new entry signs inside the National Park	Successfully manufacture and install the entry signs by end 2021/22	5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
	Deliver Centurion Way Phase 2 from Singleton to Cocking	Undertake ecological/tunnel surveys for Centurion Way Phase II	5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways		Surveys have now been suspended until Summer 2021 (at the earliest). In October the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) released a recommendation from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bat Specialist Group (BSG) that researchers only undertake / prioritise activities that are essential to bat conservation, animal health or public health and consider options to delay non-essential activities. The reasoning is that this will substantially reduce the risk of human-to-bat transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes Covid-19) through environmental exposure: sharing enclosed, poorly ventilated spaces with bats, where the virus may persist in the air or on surfaces. While bat monitoring surveys are necessary for considering options to potentially open up all three tunnels as part of the Centurion Way, it cannot be considered an essential activity for either public health, animal health or bat conservation.		Next steps: Surveys to commence in summer 2021. Potential risks: Due to continuing IUCN recommendation surveys are unable to commence in summer 2021 (landowners will not give consent until IUCN recommendation changes and BCT gives approval for bat monitoring surveys to recommence nationally).
	Provide funding for permissive paths as a stop gap between expiring existing agri-environment schemes and the start of the new ELMs scheme	Ensure pilot agreements are in place with relevant landowners	5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
	Complete Egrets Way Phase V	Complete scheme design for Phase V, secure permissions and commence scheme construction	5.3 Encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park, encouraging the retention and expansion of rural transport services	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
	Identify Protected Landscape issues within strategic transport policies and planning in Transport for South East region	Identify issues in partnership with the South East Protected Landscapes group and develop actions to deliver recommendations	5.3 Encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park, encouraging the retention and expansion of rural transport services		Examples of work undertaken this year included feeding into Transport for South East (TfSE) Transport Strategy, Forum and Studies. Agreeing with the South East Protected Landscapes (SEPL) group for the chair of the SDNPA to remain the representative on Transport for the South East's (TfSE) Board; joining the working groups of two TfSE studies (Future Mobility and Outer Orbital Area); responding to consultations (Rampion 2, Petworth 20mph); advising on pre-app designs for Exeat Bridge; progressing the Communities in the South Downs (CitSD) project		Next steps: Continue work on TfSE steering groups, continue to advise Chair ahead of Partnership Board meetings. Arrange catch up meeting for SEPL members to arrange which ones attend area studies. Progress with NSIP consultation. Potential risks: Conflict with Local Highways Authorities (LHAs) in regards to objectives of CitSD, too many working groups could monopolise the officer's time.
	Create a new cycle way along the Rother Valley	Complete scheme feasibility and outline design work for Phase 1 (Petersfield to Nyewood)	5.3 Encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park, encouraging the retention and expansion of rural transport services	Projects are reported on in the Tableau Dashboard showing project performance			
	Develop the 'Our South Downs' Learning Network	1) Pilot the ambassador schools programme with Bury Primary School and Droxford Junior School 2) Research the potential for a schools eco grant	6.1 Provide high-quality outdoor learning opportunities as part of a locally relevant curriculum		Bury and Droxford Schools were recruited as Ambassador Schools. The School Eco-Grant was established with the SDNP Trust but was put on hold during the pandemic. School residentials are unable to take place until May 2021 and so the hosting of the schools elements of the Ambassador School programme is still paused. Work continues behind the scenes in creating outdoor learning spaces and resources to support pupils at these schools.		Next steps: the Ambassador Schools programme will continue with the broader programme of engagement in September 2021. The School Eco-Grant remains ready to launch – hopefully during the Summer term.

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	Develop our Health and Wellbeing work programme by developing our partnerships	Support the delivery of the Southern National Parks and Public Health England social prescribing conference	7.1 Develop initiatives which enable local communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing		The Health and Wellbeing strategy has been signed off and will be ready to launch in Q1 2021/22. The East Sussex Healthy Weight Plan held by East Sussex Public Health Team has also been signed off and which SDNPA contributed to around health and wellbeing and access to green spaces. Covid Recovery funded projects have been supporting local communities to improved their health and wellbeing in and around the National Park. These include Creative Waves and 'Health and wellbeing on the South Downs', Moulsecroomb Forest Garden 'Connecting to Nature', Chichester Forest Garden 'Forest Bathing', Railway Land Wildlife Trust who provided digital content on careers in the environmental field for young people, and Tuppenny Barn who adjusted their facilities to support carers to access their premises during COVID.		Next steps: Other projects are still waiting to deliver as they require face to face contact with vulnerable people Potential risks: Continuing impact of Covid restricts what we and, more significantly, partner organisations, are able to do. Much front facing delivery has had to stop and some organisations are facing the prospect of not being able to continue.
	Deliver the John Muir Award (JMA) Families Inclusion Award	Deliver year 1	7.1 Develop initiatives which enable local communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing	65 families signed up in Q1 Over 230 families signed up in Q3	Due to Covid-19, the team worked with the John Muir Trust to agree a revised virtual John Muir Award (JMA) programme for families- we successfully engaged 65 families in Q1. Resource development continued with canvases and downloadable resources created for future engagement. Face to face activity resumed in Q2, with the first families session delivered in a Covid-secure way at QECF with EnableAbility. During Q3 we hosted two face to face sessions with EnableAbility, working with families of young people with disabilities. The introduction of Lockdown 3 meant a reversion to online engagement only. We built on the successful summer 2020 online families JMA pilot and launched a Wild Winter JMA. Over 230 families signed up for this award. Many community organisations have had an extremely challenging year, with families severely impacted. We have therefore adapted the project to engage these groups in taster activities and JMA days rather than an entire JMA as this is a softer reintroduction to engagement and experiencing the SDNP.		Next steps: Face to face activity is planned to resume as soon as possible with small family groups. This will be extended as restrictions ease further, in line with SDNPA policy and national guidance. Potential risks: Project completes in October 2021. The original project targets of face to face engagement and completed JMAs will not have been met due to the restrictions enforced through the pandemic. Despite the excellent alternative engagement that has taken place, the use of this project to test the JMA as a tool to engage our more vulnerable families has not been fully realised. Extension funding is being sought to enable this element of the project to be completed.
	Develop our youth engagement programme	1) Review the youth ambassador pilot and extend the role to other National Park areas 2) Extend the South Downs youth action programme to Easter and summer 2020 involving wider partners in a park-wide offer 3) Identify next steps for incorporating the Youth Voice across the SDNP	8.1 Increase and diversify volunteering opportunities that support the National Park	£17,000 of funding secured through a partnership with Clarion Housing	We were successful in securing an additional £17,000 of funding through a partnership with Clarion Housing and the #iwill fund, which will allow the creation of a SDYA Youth Action grant in collaboration with the SDNP Trust. The South Downs Youth Action (SDYA) Tender ITQ is now live with a closing date of 12 April, after being postponed due to Covid-19. The Lead Youth Ambassador volunteer role profile has been drafted in conjunction with the two current Youth Ambassadors.		Next steps: SDYA activity is planned from May - October 2021. The SDYA grant will be launched in Q1 2021/22. Potential risks: if a contractor is not appointed to deliver the SDYA activity this will present a significant challenge to the delivery of the SDYA project and will impact on Generation Green delivery too.
Strategic priority 3: Thrive We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver the Duty of National Parks: to build sustainable communities which are engaged and shaping their environment and supporting sustainable businesses and tourism	Develop an annual challenge fund to support the development of community facility enhancements that contribute to multiple PMP outcomes	1) Launch the concept and define the criteria 2) Seek external funding to create the fund	9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park		There has been no further progress with this project due to a lack of funds to establish the challenge fund. Alternative funding avenues will be explored in 2021/22. This includes consideration of CIL funding and other external funding opportunities, such as the South Downs Trust. The intention is to identify possible sources of funding to create a challenge fund and seek expressions of interest in 2021/22		Next steps: Officers will explore external funding opportunities, and funding opportunities available through the South Downs Trust in 2021/22
	Participate in the development of the Petersfield place making strategy	Set up governance and identify enhancements	9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park	Attended 3 x Petersfield Officer Group (POG) meetings. Attended 2 x Petersfield Strategy Group meetings.	The Petersfield Place Making Strategy Board was set up and received the East Hampshire Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the Petersfield Cycling Group Active Travel report. These documents informed the development of the Petersfield Place Making Action Plan. The Action Plan prioritised a series of projects to be progressed in the near future as a first step in delivering the place making strategy. The Place Making Board approved the commissioning of Hampshire Traded services to prepare pre-feasibility studies for each project and have fed into the development of each brief. In addition to the development of Pre-Feasibility work the group have been developing an overall master plan to identify how projects are identified and prioritised.		Next steps: Input into project briefs being prepared on the remaining projects. Key SDNPA officers to attend stakeholder workshops to input into the options available for each project area to ensure any future works reflect the National Park purposes and Duty and contribute to the Partnership Management Plan outcomes

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	Review and update the Local Plan, including evidence gathering and engagement	Incorporate learning from the establishment of the first Local Plan	9.1 Increase affordable housing stock in the National Park, with focus on exemplary design and using local sustainable materials.		This is an ongoing process. Monitoring is ongoing through the AMR. Issues with the implementation of certain policies are being addressed through PSMT and training. Affordable housing was a particular focus in Q4 with varying success on appeal decisions.		
	Implement Local Plan Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Technical Advice Notes (TANs)	Create further guidance on Local Plan policies for Parking (SPD), Construction (SDP) and Viticulture (TAN)	9.1 Increase affordable housing stock in the National Park, with focus on exemplary design and using local sustainable materials. 9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park		We adopted the Parking SPD and the Viticulture TAN in April 2021. We ran a consultation on the Camping & Glamping which we will adopt Q1 2021-22.		Next steps: New TANs now underway on a Renewable Energy TAN in line with our Climate Change Action Plan and a Health & Wellbeing TAN
	Effectively and efficiently operate all processes and systems for incoming and outgoing monies related to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 legal agreements	Continue to develop the Infrastructure Business Plan (IBP) as a mechanism to direct CIL money to National Park priorities	9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park	CIL: we opened the 'call for projects' for the 2020/21 CIL spend (closing date was 31st Jan 2021). £61,064.75 of CIL funding was paid directly to 13 Parishes. Over 400 projects are being assessed for inclusion on the 2021 IBP (i.e. spending of 2020/21 CIL Receipts). S106 data: we collected £216,741.31 and £143,436.92 spent on 11 projects.	Examples of 11 projects funded by S106 monies include affordable housing, road and footpath improvements and improvements to a skate park. Closing date for submitting CIL bids was 31st Jan 2021.		
	Develop the Sustainable Economy and Tourism Engagement Strategic Approach	1) Develop and launch a businesses network - including sustainable tourism 2) Create the South Downs Enterprise Partnership 3) Deliver recommendations highlighted in the 2018 Economic Profile	10.1 Strengthen and support sustainably managed land-based industries and local enterprise	The Business Survey focussed on 5 priority sectors following the recommendations of the 2018 Economic Profile £80,000 of Sustainable Economy and Tourism (SET) Theme Programme Board funds allocated to developing the South Downs Enterprise Partnership (SDEP)	After months of data gathering, surveying and analysis, the Sustainable Economy and Tourism Theme Programme Board gave approval for the creation of the South Downs Enterprise Partnership (SDEP). This will be a significant area of focus for the Thrive team over coming years. Since securing funding in Q3, the following tasks have been carried out: identification of prospective SDNP Business Focus Group and release invitations; 18 businesses signed up to sit on SDNP Business Focus Group; 1st Round of questions created and submitted to SDNP Business Focus Group; business case and delivery plan created; scoping work for SDEP platforms (Website, Network, CRM) 90% complete with ITT due for release in April/May 2021; scoping work for SDEP Branding & Logo 90% complete with ITQ due for release in April 2021.		Next Steps: Q1 2021/22. Take SDEP to P&R Committee on 29th April and seek endorsement to continue the development of the South Downs Enterprise Partnership.
	Enhance the South Downs public realm	Develop designs and contribute to schemes to enhance the public realm on and around highways	9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park		Work has continued to develop the roadside verge cutting project to enhance biodiversity. Communities in the South Downs (CitSD) project progressing well to give a suite of measures and actions that can benefit the communities impacted by highways		Next steps: WSCC are purchasing grass cutting vehicle and we will appoint surveyors once EOI approved
	Deliver the extended National Park Experience Collection (ENPEC), including roll out of Ranger Experiences	Deliver the Discover England Fund 2 (DEF2) project with UK National Parks	10.2 Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit	South Downs includes 2 new businesses and 10 experiences in total.	Attended steering meetings and supported central programme team. Attended business workshop with Beyonk and Orchid Marketing. Launched National Park Experiences in March 2021 https://experiences.nationalparks.uk/uk/things-to-do?page=1&location=50.9167,0.3333		Next steps: Continue to support businesses and marketing collection. KB to sit on steering group for legacy. Potential risks: Need to keep up marketing outside of project funding period.
	Assist in the development of the Sussex Heritage Coast Visitor Management Plan	Commission the development of a Visitor Management Plan with Heritage Coast Partners	10.2 Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit	Attended 2 Sussex Heritage Coast workshops and fed in visitor management issues with partners.	This piece of work has been put on hold as we are developing the Sussex Heritage Coast Strategy first before embarking on the visitor management plan. The strategy is required to provide the framework for this work and will lay out where the strategic priorities lie for visitor management.		Next steps: Feed into development of the SHC strategy and await adoption by partners. Potential risks: Stakeholders want change more quickly.

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	Develop and launch the SDNP Dark Skies Welcome scheme	Develop criteria and branding	10.2 Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit		Development meetings held with Dan Oakley, Luke Walter and consultant. Delivery plans agreed and a presentation to the Parish Councils will be delivered on the 21st April 2021. All development work undertaken with the view to launch scheme on the 10th May 2021 - to allow for easing of Covid restrictions.		Next steps: Launch in place for 10th May 2021.
	Complete Phase 1 & Phase 2 scope of works at Seven Sisters Country Park	1) Complete Phase 1: refurbishment of buildings (starting Sep 2020). Construction underway 2) Feed Phase 2 design into the overall masterplan	10.3 Establish the South Downs as an exemplar in sustainable tourism	Sevens Sisters is reported on separately			
	Work towards building Seven Sisters Country Park into a world class visitor attraction	1) Develop Seven Sisters Country Park holiday accommodation offering 2) Achieve Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service (VAQAS) baseline accreditation	10.3 Establish the South Downs as an exemplar in sustainable tourism	Sevens Sisters is reported on separately			
Organisational priorities We will develop strategies, support or lead strategic overarching partnerships and projects which deliver our organisational objective: to be a confident and secure organisation exercising effective influence; providing excellent customer service, and value for money and generating income to support our work	Set up a trading company for Seven Sisters Country Park	Form a trading company and commence operations (subject to Authority approval)	Core work		The preparatory work in relation to the trading company has been completed and the company will be incorporated during June		
	Maintain a robust and well performing host authority development management system	Monitor service and deliver continued improvements	Core work	Approximately 80% of all planning decisions taken in the National Park are taken by the 5 host authorities	Host Authority performance through the pandemic has generally been good with speed of decision making maintained at pre pandemic levels and with good support for our planning decisions at appeal.		
	Complete Soft Sand Single Issue Review	Submit for examination and adopt	Core work		Adopted Q4 2021-22		Work complete
	Provide Local Plan training for officers, members and agents	Train officers, Members and agents on the Local Plan	Core work		Successful training with SDNPA and host authority members and officers focusing on landscape led design and our new SPDs and TANs		Next steps: Next tranche of training Q3 2021-22 focusing on Biodiversity Net Gain and linked to the enactment of the Environment Bill
	Deliver a robust and well performing development management and Minerals & Waste service	Exceed the performance indicators for issue of decisions whilst adding value	Core work	See year end Corporate Plan measures of success for the figures for major, minor and others	The Authority continued to issue decisions in a timely manner in spite of the ongoing challenges presented by the current pandemic.		
	Deliver a robust and well performing development management service in terms of Appeals performance	Respond swiftly to appeals and measure the rate of dismissals	Core work	The Authority has an appeal success rate of 67% over the period Q1-Q4	Details of all appeal decisions are reported to Members on a quarterly basis with a commentary on each decision, highlighting salient points in the Inspector's report.		
	Deliver a robust and well performing enforcement service	1) Undertake investigations within agreed timetables 2) Ensure swift resolution and conclusion of investigations	Core work		The Enforcement Team have had an increasingly greater number of investigations and despite the challenges presented by the 3rd lockdown, have continued to deal with the investigations in a timely manner. This has been despite some particularly difficult cases taking up significant time and resources to bring to a suitable conclusion.		

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	Deliver ongoing process and procedure improvements as set out in the Development Management Improvement Plan	Introduce a new Pre-application Service Charging Schedule	Core work		A number of work streams have been progressing well. The pre-app charging service schedule is 'parked' whilst other workstreams have come to the fore, including a review of the Committee Report Templates.		
	Set up thematic research networks with academics and sector specialists based on research requirements highlighted through strategic reviews and in the PMP	Identify themes and potential partners	Core work		We have defined three subject areas for the first thematic research groups. These are Health and Welbeing, Soil Health, and Climate Change. An internal invitation has been sent out to build on the concept and bring together ideas for delivery and which partners to invite to join the thematic networks. This work will be progressed fully in the Autumn when the new Research and Evidence Officer starts in post.		Next Steps: Hold initial internal meetings to hone research questions we want to address
	Undertake a systematic assessment of the way the organisation acquires, stores and maintains its spatial and generic data	Assess current data holding and produce plan for solution implementation	Core work		Plan produced; needs to be shared with IT and an action plan created		Next steps: Share plan with IT and create action plan.
	Progress the Citizens Panel beyond the pilot phase	1) Award new three year contract 2) Revise the Panel membership	Core work		Successful recruitment campaign has boosted the panel to nearly 700 people. Particular success recruiting people via Facebook and our SDNP e-newsletter. Aim is to increase it up to 1,000 over the next few months. Autumn survey achieved our best response to date (64%). Spring survey on track to achieve similar high response rate.		Next steps: undertake recruitment campaign over the Summer 2021 with a particular focus on increasing the number of young people on the panel.
	Improve performance and project reporting information on the SDNPA website	Provide accessible information for stakeholders on our website	Core work		We have reviewed the content on our website and where there are gaps. Project information has been updated with good links to our performance information.		
	Establish, manage and monitor an evaluation framework tasked to carry out external evaluations of SDNPA corporate and project work	Establish the framework and procure evaluations.	Core work		The Evaluation Framework has been well used across the organisation, with Heritage Insider undertaking a review of our PMP and revising the Sussex Heritage Coast Strategy and action plan. LUC have undertaken a review of our endorsed Whole Estate Plans, which we will bring to P&R in September 2021.		Next steps: Heritage Insider to cost for a review of Theme Programme Boards in 2021/22 and develop training around outcome and impact monitoring.
	Continue to review opportunities to secure suitable long term accommodation for our area offices that meets the aspirations of the Authority	Relocate the Weald and Downland (Central) area team to new suitable accommodation	Core work		Heads of Terns and Lease Agreed		Next steps: ICT installed, transfer arranged for May 2021
	Commission a new Staff Survey and create an action plan	Plan the survey ready for commission and implementation the following year	Core work		An internal survey was sent to staff in August focussing on health & wellbeing and working arrangements. The implementation of a full Staff Survey will be put on hold due to the effects of the pandemic on the way that the organisation is currently operating. It is likely that it will be postponed to 2021/22. A further internal health and wellbeing survey was sent out to all staff in February. The results are being fed into the review of new ways of working.		
	Aim to achieve Climate neutrality for the SDNPA	1) Carry out a carbon audit 2) Agree and implement a climate change action plan	Core work		Carbon Audit now being carried out internally by Dan Oakley through Sustainability Group		

Corporate Plan Objective	Key priorities	In year 1 of our Corporate Plan we will:	PMP outcome(s) delivering against	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)
	SDNPA to continue to support the Trust	To continue ongoing support, incl. financial support [subject to Authority budgetary approval]	Core work	£539k secured by the Trust. During this period the Trust made grants of £402k, including £367k of grants to the SDNPA which included support for the Egrets Way, School Travel Grant and "Meet the Farmer" amongst others. £1,150,000 was secured through Statutory Funds	Many positives should be taken from continued growth in our fundrasing, both through statutory sources and our partnership with the South Downs Trust.		

Compliments, Comments and Complaints Summary

Compliments

The Compliments, Comments and Complaints (CCC) panel have high standards of expectation in relation to reviewing submitted compliments. The data for compliments received is filtered at a high level and those compliments which are counted as part of the recorded data set reflect services provided above and beyond what is expected within the normal function of an Officers' role. In all cases, line managers and Officers are informed of any positive feedback received.

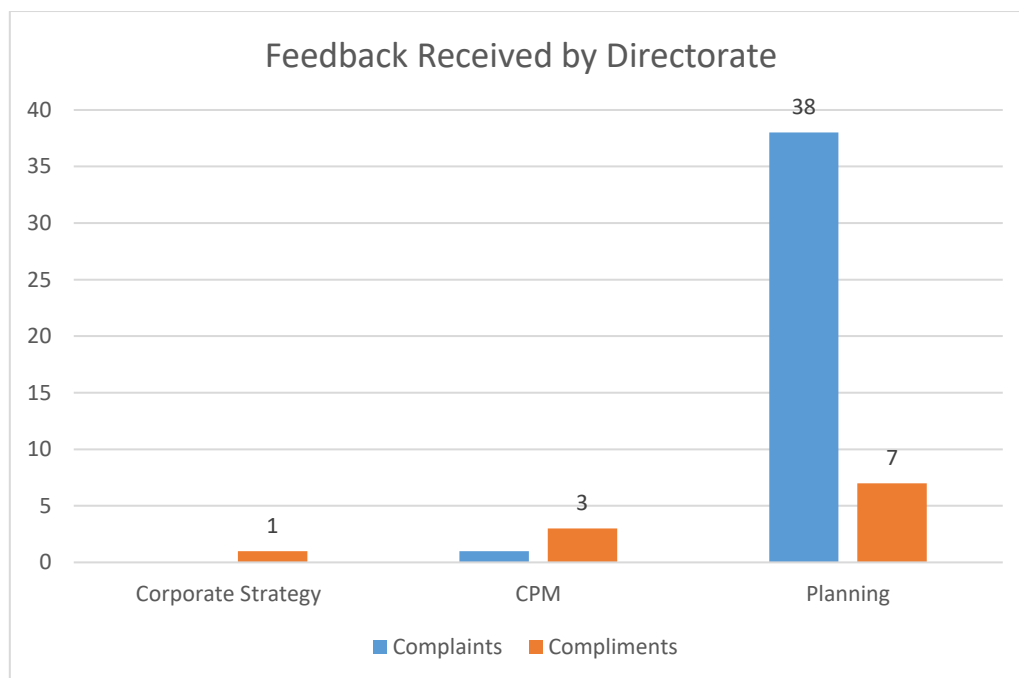
Complaints

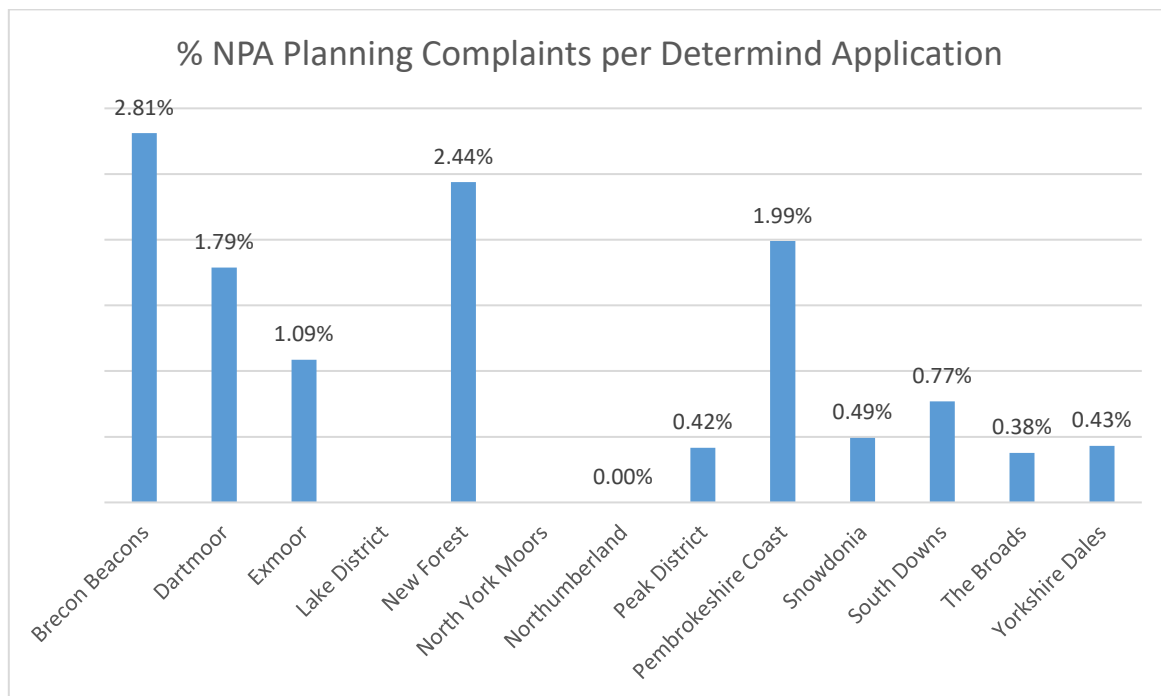
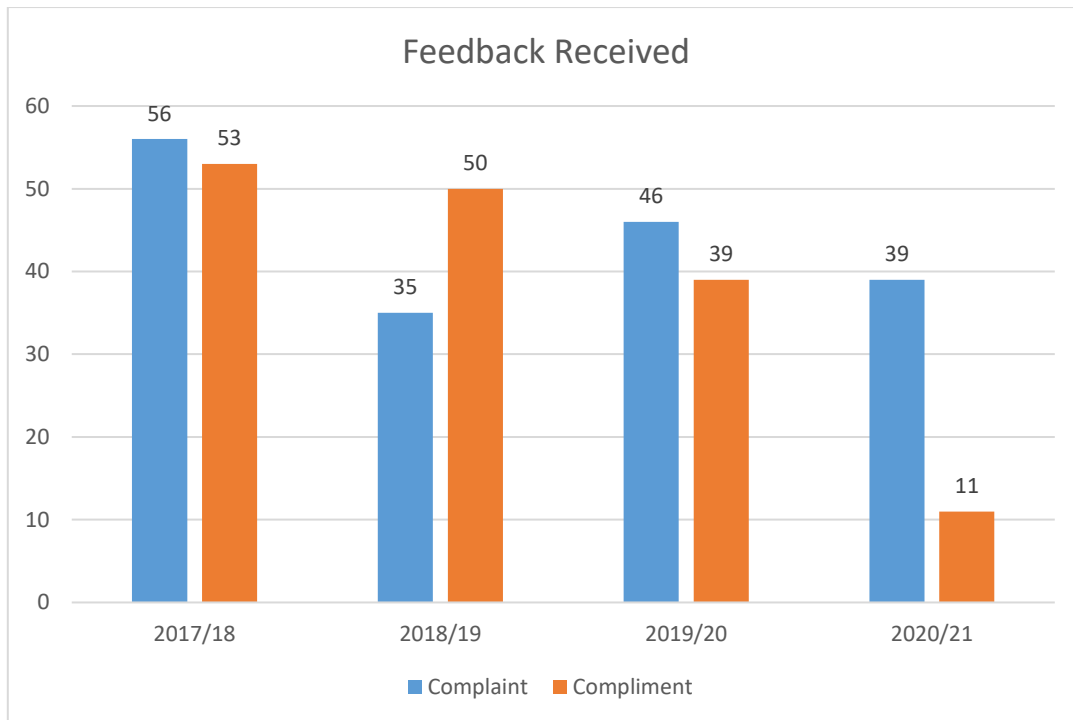
The number of complaints received this year has shown a slight downturn on the 2019-20 data; (46 complaints 2019-20, 39 for 2020-21) with all but one relating to Planning. The total number of complaints continues to represent a very small percentage of the business transacted by the planning team, it is worth noting that the Planning team also received the greatest number of compliments during this period.

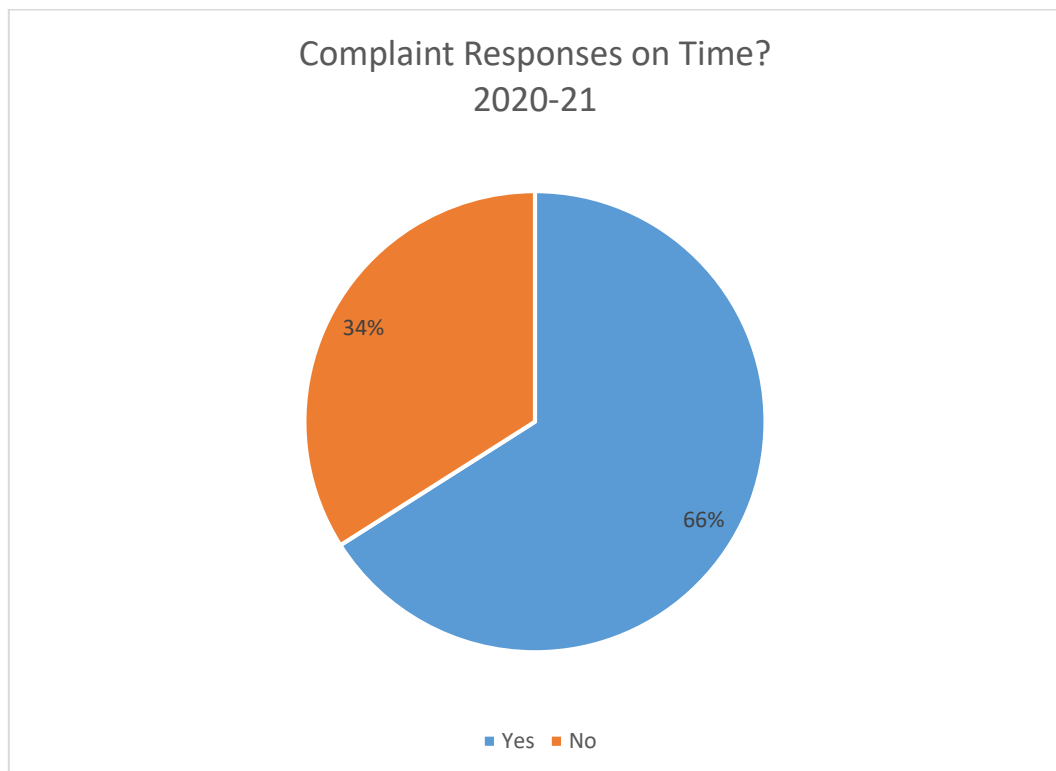
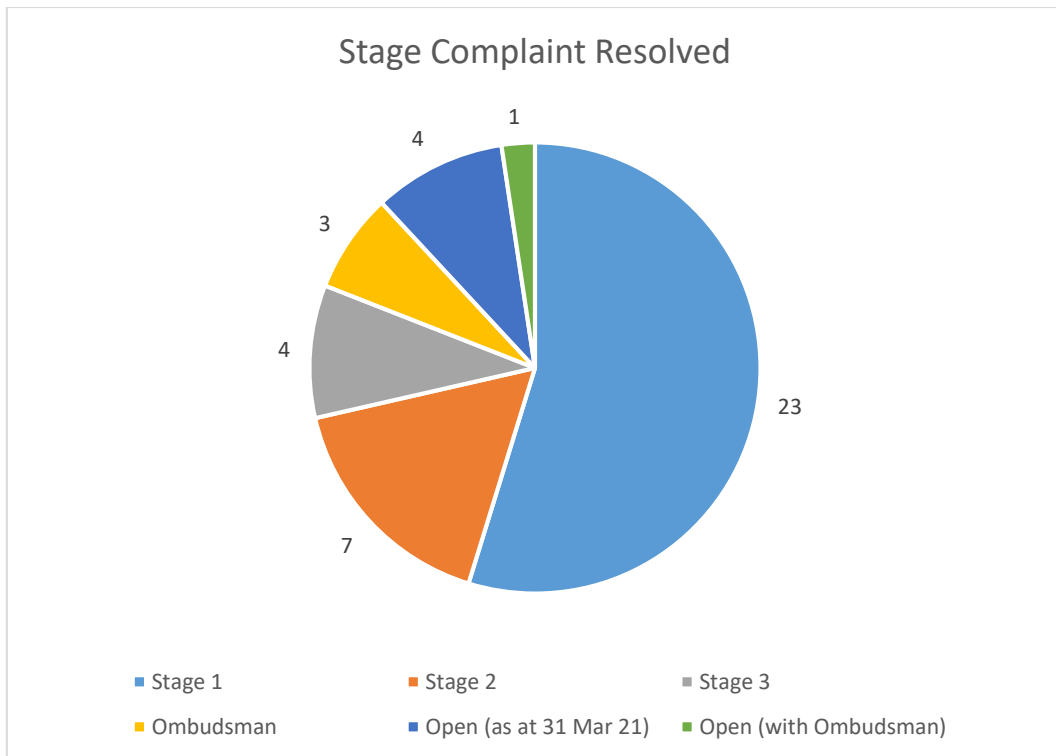
The global pandemic has, it appears, had an impact on complaints and compliments received, specifically in regard to the complexity and level of detail included for individual complaints with many complaints being difficult to resolve to the complainant's satisfaction in the early stages of the process. There has been an upturn in the number of complaints directed to the planning function, where, in some cases, the remit of the complaint lay outside planning's jurisdiction.

The number of complaints per determined planning application continues to be strong when compared with data received from other National Parks at 0.77 complaints per 100 applications.

For the 2020-21 year 66% of complaint responses were within time, a downturn on the previous reporting year (77% 2019-20) which can be attributed in part to the level of detail and number of documents to be reviewed in order to fully appraise complaints and ensure responses are researched thoroughly prior to responding.







SDNPA Complaints - Ombudsman Decisions		
Ombudsman Reference	Ombudsman Decision	Decision
20 005 566	Mrs X complained about the Authority's decision to approve a planning application for development on land behind her property. The investigation was ended as it was unlikely to be able to decide the outcome would have been any different.	Not Upheld 26 March 2021
<p>Ombudsman's Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representations were made by other residents. It was noted that the Authority is not obliged to ensure notification letters are received, only that they are sent. The Authority took account of parking and highway access issues. Mrs X would have preferred for a Highways Officer to have visited the site, however the decision to visit is at the discretion of the officer. The Authority were aware of residents' concerns and took account of relevant planning issues. The Ombudsman concluded that it would be unlikely that their decision would be different to the outcome of the planning decision or that the planning decision caused injustice to Mrs X or others so the investigation was concluded. The complaint was not upheld. 		
Ombudsman Reference	Ombudsman Decision	Decision
19 007 329	Mr X complained about the Authority's approval of a planning application for development near to a village church. The Ombudsman found no evidence of fault in the way the Authority considered these matters and has completed their investigation.	Not Upheld 7 September 2020
<p>Ombudsman's Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority had considered the application and addressed the key points raised by Mr X's complaint, the Authority followed the expected process and no administrative fault was found. The Authority carried out the proper consultations and followed the publicity requirements laid down in planning law. The Authority had consulted with statutory consultees and made residents aware of the proposal. The planning case officer visited the site and prepared a planning report which covered the points raised by Mr X's complaint. Webcam footage of the meeting confirmed that Members had visited the site and were therefore fully aware of the listed buildings and heritage assets. The Committee listened to comments from public speakers and fully considered the proposal, the comments of public speakers and the officer's report. In making its decision the Authority considered objections made via consultation and enabled the participation of public speakers at the Committee meeting. The investigation was completed as there was no evidence of fault in the process by which the Authority made its decision. 		

Ombudsman Reference	Ombudsman Decision	Decision
19 0014 233	Mr X complained that the Authority did not properly consider the impact on his amenity when granting planning permission for an extension to a building near his home. As a result he would suffer from noise and disturbance. The Authority was not at fault.	Not Upheld 14 July 2020
<p>Ombudsman's Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Authority considered the impact of the proposal on the tranquillity of the area and whether the S106 agreement was a material consideration. No fault identified. • The Authority was correct to say the ownership of the strip of land would not affect the planning decision. A planning authority is not required to check the applicant owns the land when considering the application. • Consideration of the location of the balcony and noise impact on neighbours and how it could be limited was discussed by the planning committee. The addition of a condition limiting hours of use and preventing the use of loudspeakers or amplified music was agreed by the committee. The committee also considered the question of residents' amenity and issues of noise. No fault was found in the decision making process. • Responsibility for errors in the application documents does not lie with the Authority who took appropriate action when errors in application documents were found. There was no warrant for formal finding of fault and it did not cause any injustice. Appropriate measures have been taken to avoid a recurrence of the issue. • The Authority followed its process for enabling public speakers to address the Planning Committee and in its process in preventing Mr X from speaking privately to the chair. There was no evidence of fault. • Two members declared an interest which were considered to be non-prejudicial, any concerns regarding this consideration should be raised as a complaint about the member code of conduct. • The Authority's Sustainable Communities Fund is administered separately from planning applications. The Authority's scheme of delegation confirms decisions should be made by the planning committee where there is a conflict of interest such as applications for its own developments. The Authority followed this process and there is no evidence of fault. • The Authority has responded to the key concerns raised by Mr X and was not at fault. 		

Full transcripts of the Ombudsman's reports are available at <https://www.lgo.org.uk/>

Item 9 Appendix 5: Partnership Management Plan 2020-25 performance indicators progress report (2020/21)

Outcome	Indicator	2020/21 data	Target	RAG	Comment
OUTCOME 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty 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.	Percentage of the National Park that is relatively tranquil for its area	86%	80%		This calculation takes the total figure in hectares for those areas of high tranquillity, intermediate tranquillity, vulnerability and low tranquillity as reported in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The high, intermediate and vulnerable totals are then divided by the overall total and multiplied by 100 to reach the final percentage. This figure is unchanged with updates expected in the next couple of years
	Percentage area considered to have a dark night sky	69%	69%		66% of the SDNP has dark skies sufficient to qualify for dark skies Bronze level status, and 3% at the Silver level. On 10th May 2016 it was announced that the South Downs National Park had been awarded DNS reserve status. New data was collected over winter 2019/20, this is currently in the process of being analysed and new figures will be available for 2021/22 reporting
	Percentage of farmland that is managed under agri-environment or other schemes	69.7%	70.4%		This figure is inclusive of all schemes including HLS/ELS and Countryside Stewardship (CS) and is the percentage of Useable Agricultural Area covered by a scheme. Although we saw a large drop during the original transition between schemes (from 80-70% coverage), coverage has now stabilised at around 70% as CS increases at the same rate that HLS/ELS agreements decrease - this data comes from MEOPL (Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes). This is data collected by Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Forestry Commission and cut to English National Park boundaries. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset
	Percentage of woodland area that is managed under agri-environment or other schemes	67%	66%		Data from the Forestry Commission in March 2019 revealed that 67% of woodland is considered under management - this data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset
	PMP-4: Percentage of designated or notified Geological / Geomorphological Sites managed in better condition	20%	No target set yet as this is our baseline figure	No target set yet as this is our baseline figure	There are 61 geological sites within the National Park. It is broken down into 51 Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGGS) and 10 Geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). SDNPA do not have any involvement in their management as they are most often privately owned and in many cases do not have public access to them. The RIGGS were last surveyed in 2013 by volunteers from the Sussex Geodiversity Group to get a sense of whether they still existed, or had been lost. We are not aware of any sites that are actively being 'managed' for their geological features other than the SSSIs. We will liaise with the Sussex Geodiversity Group regarding re-surveying these sites. It is anticipated that this will take place in 2023/24 or 2024/25
	Changes in character of the landscape, including historic elements is maintained	N/A as is not a measure	N/A as is not a measure	N/A as is not a measure	In 2020/21 LUC reviewed and updated the existing South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (SDILCA), originally produced in 2005 and the refresh carried out in 2011. This has provided us and our partners with a practical tool, readily available in a more accessible and interactive form, which can be used to inform and guide positive landscape change. We have established a method of monitoring change at Landscape Character Type (LCT) level – and have a baseline for this now going back to 2015 (effectively one PMP cycle). We have also been using an Urban Greening Index which can measure trends in 'greening' within the urban areas as a result of Planning Policies/Green Infrastructure delivery.
OUTCOME 2: There is increased resilience within the landscape for its natural resources, habitats and species to adapt to the impacts of climate change and other pressures	PMP-8: Percentage of rivers and groundwater bodies with water available for abstraction	no figure reported in 2019/20			We were unable to source this data from the Environment Agency last year - this data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset
	Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland that is in a favourable condition	81%	80%		2406/2966 ha of SSSI are in favourable condition. This is consistent with 2017 as only three units have been surveyed since 2017 all of which were already favourable condition - this data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset
	Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of calcareous grassland that is in a favourable condition -	43%	41%		1348/3103 ha of SSSI are in favourable condition. This a slight increase from 42% in 2017 - this data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset

OUTCOME 3: A thriving and connected network of habitats and increased population and distribution of priority species now exist in the National Park	Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of lowland heath that is in a favourable condition	29%	27%		432 of 1488 ha of SSSI are in favourable condition. This is a significant increase compared to 10% in favourable condition in 2017. This increase is due to the resurvey of several SSSI units in Woolmer Forest resulting in a reclassification from Unfavourable Recovering to Favourable condition. This is a key Heathlands Reunited site - this data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset
	Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of neutral grassland that is in a favourable condition	34%	33%		479/1417 ha of SSSI is in favourable condition. This is a slight increase on 32% reported in 2017 - this data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset <i>Note that the National Park is currently working with Natural England's mapping team on a habitat network map. This maps current and potential habitat parcels taking into account opportunities for increased connectivity. It is intended for this work to be the starting evidence base for the development of the Nature Recovery Network. In addition we are awaiting final details from the Environment 25 Year Plan monitoring document on a national methodology for measuring and monitoring connectivity.</i>
	Population and distribution of target priority species				The South Downs Farmland Bird Initiative is currently in its 7th year of data collection. It is standard practice to collect at least 7 years of data before trends are calculated so early results will be available later in 2021/22 and will be reported at year end 2021/22. In addition to farmland birds the Biodiversity Monitoring group have highlighted five national recording schemes they are looking to adopt and implement locally, discussions have begun looking at Butterfly survey and National Plant Monitoring scheme data cut to the National Park boundary.
	Distributions of target invasive non-native invasive species (INNS)				Area teams are currently monitoring invasive species specific to their areas including American mink in the Western Area and Himalayan Balsam in the Wealden area. In addition 2 catchment partnerships have set up INNS projects (for the Itchen and the Ouse Rivers)
	Percentage of water bodies achieving 'good' or 'high' status or potential	22%	20%		70km of 314km is considered to have 'good' ecological status - this data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset
OUTCOME 4: Cultural heritage of the National Park is enhanced and widely understood and enjoyed	Percentage of heritage assets 'at risk'	0.9%	1.0%		This is the overall figure from all heritage assets. This data comes from MEOPL. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as we have still not received the most up to date dataset
	Number of day visits to museums and heritage sites				To date we have not been able to reliably collect this information from museums. We are now in discussion with the South East Museum Development Group in order to gain access to their data sets and explore whether this resource can be cut to the SDNP.
OUTCOME 5: Outstanding experiences for communities and visitors are supported by high quality access and sustainable transport networks	Percentage of visitors who felt very satisfied with the visitor experience	98%	99%		Collected in the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey 2018, showing a very slight reduction from 99% in the 2015 survey. Note that the next Visitor Survey is due to take place during the Summer 2021. We will report an updated figure in 2021/22
	Percentage of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that is 'easy to use' or in good condition	93%	79%		Note that we are reporting the figure from 2019/20 as no surveys were undertaken by the South Downs Society in 2020/21 due to Covid-19. The 93% figure is an increase on 2018/19 where we reported 79% of PRoW were 'easy to use' or 'in good condition'. However, the figure each year is based on a 5% random sample of the entire PRoW route; as such there will be some fluctuation. As we build up a long term trend of sample data we will use rolling averages to smooth out these variations and create a more robust picture of the state of the PRoW network.
	Proportion of visits by public transport	11%	11%		Collected in the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey 2018, showing a slight fall of 0.3% from the previous survey in 2015. More interestingly there was movement within public transport types; bus use <i>increased</i> from 6.6% in 2015 to 8.2% in 2018 while train use <i>fell</i> from 5% in 2015 to 3.1% in 2018. Note that the next visitor survey is due to take place during the Summer 2021. We will report an updated figure in 2021/22
	PMP-21: Number of routes promoted as accessible	N/A as is not a measure	N/A as is not a measure	N/A as is not a measure	We will report on case studies from 2021/22
OUTCOME 6: There is widespread understanding of the	Percentage of people who are aware of why the National Park is a special place	96.5%	95%		Collected in the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey 2018. 1151 of 1193 people surveyed noted that at least one of the seven special qualities was a contributing factor to their enjoyment. This compares to a figure of 95% in the 2015 Visitor Survey. Note that the next visitor survey is due to take place during the Summer 2021. We will report an updated figure in 2021/22

special qualities of the National Park and the benefits it provides	Percentage of schools within a 10km radius of the boundary using the National Park for learning outside of the classroom experiences at least once a year	69%	58%		The figure for this indicator is obtained through a contracted out piece of research. Learning outside the classroom (LOC) is defined as any learning activity that takes place within the SDNP. The latest survey was undertaken in 2017 and saw an increase from the baseline of 58% to 69% of schools using the SDNP for LOC. T he next survey is due to take place in the Summer term 2022. We will report an updated figure in 2022/23
Outcome 7 The National Park is a well-used and recognised asset for sustaining mental and physical health and wellbeing	Three new indicators currently being defined				
OUTCOME 8: More responsibility and action is taken by visitors, residents and businesses to conserve and enhance the special qualities and use resources more wisely.	Total number of volunteer days spent on activity relating to the special qualities	95,120	91,000		This information was taken from a survey of volunteering organisations who were asked to provide information for 2015/16. This is an increase on 91,000 as calculated from the first Volunteering Audit in 2011. An updated Volunteering Audit is due to take place in summer 2022. We will report an updated figure in 2022/23.
	Number and proportion of community led plans that are adopted and/or endorsed by the National Park Authority	0	33		No communtiy led plans were adopted or endorsed in 2020/21
OUTCOME 9: Communities in the National Park are more sustainable with an appropriate provision of housing to meet local needs and improved access to essential services and facilities.	Percentage of communities with access to natural greenspace	90%	85%		According to the 2014 Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) Study, 90% of households within the National Park boundary were located within 2km of a 20ha site of ANG. This study will be refreshed over the next few years
	Percentage of communities with access to key facilities.	56.8%	46.6%		Communities are classed as the 176 parishes with at least 33% of their boundary in the NP. Key facilities are classed as cashpoint, GP, primary school, pub, supermarket and post office. Of the 176 parishes in the NP, 100 have access to at least one of the above mentioned key facilities (56.8%). This information is calculated from Points of Interest data which we can now obtain cut to the National Park boundary. This is the first time we have been able to accurately report on this figure since 2013/14 when we reported 46.6%.
	Proportion of new homes built that are 'affordable housing'	22%	19%		Note that this information is based on the 2019/20 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), so we will always be reporting a year behind. In 2019/20, 282 new homes were built. This compares with 314 in 2018/19. Of these, 62 are affordable dwellings (this compares to 59 in the previous year) - his equates to 22% of total dwellings.
	Area of National Park with broadband connection (at or above national average speed)	95%	99%		This figure is defined as the percentage of properties able to receive greater than 10 Mbps/s Data derived from the Office for Communications Fixed Output Area Coverage for their Connected Nations Update. Our target is 99% - the performance at National level
OUTCOME 10: A diverse sustainable, dynamic economy which is positively linked to the special qualities of the National Park	Spend per visitor per day in the National Park	£12.31	£9.97		Collected in the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey 2018.The average expenditure per person on non-accommodation costs <i>increased</i> from £9.97 in 2015 to £12.31 in 2018. However, this average increase seems to be from a larger number of outliers or 'big spenders', as median expenditure has remained static at £6.67. Note that the next visitor survey is due to take place during the Summer 2021. We will report an updated figure in 2021/22.
	Average length of visitor stay in the National park	4.1 nights	4.3 nights		Collected in the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey 2018. The average length of stay of overnight visitors staying within the National Park boundary showed a marginal <i>decrease</i> from 4.3 nights in the 2015 survey. Note that the next visitor survey is due to take place during the Summer 2021. We will report an updated figure in 2021/22
	PMP-40: Number and diversity of business types that exist in the National Park.	8115	N/A	N/A	Data from the Office for National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). Cut to best fit at Output Area geography using a population weighted centroid method. We are unable to report a RAG on this figure as we have not reported the data in this way before. We are unable to provide information on the type of business alongside the number of each type. Note that this data is from 2019/20 as we have been unable to obtain an updated dataset for 2020/21

Outcome	Priority programmes
Purpose 1 - Enhance	
Outcome 1 The landscape character of the South Downs, its special qualities, natural beauty and local distinctiveness have been conserved and enhanced by avoiding or mitigating the negative impacts of development and cumulative change	<i>1.1 Protect and enhance the natural beauty and character of the SDNP and seek environmental net-gain from any infrastructure projects</i> <i>1.2 Improve green and blue infrastructure to deliver nature recovery networks and connect people to nature within and around the SDNP</i> <i>1.3 Maximise environmental, cultural and economic benefits of agri-environment and forestry schemes across the National Park</i>
Outcome 2 There is increased resilience within the landscape for its natural resources, habitats and species to adapt to the impacts of climate change and other pressures	<i>2.1 Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats</i> <i>2.2 Improve the resilience and quality and quantity of trees and woodlands in the National Park and ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place</i>
Outcome 3 A thriving and connected network of habitats and increased population and distribution of priority species now exist in the National Park	<i>3.1 Create, restore and improve areas of priority habitat to be more, bigger, better, and joined up at a landscape scale</i> <i>3.2 Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases</i>
Outcome 4 Cultural heritage of the National Park is enhanced and widely understood and enjoyed	<i>4.1 Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage</i> <i>4.2 Promote creativity and understanding of the landscape and traditions of the South Downs through contemporary arts and crafts</i>
Purpose 2 - Experience	
Outcome 5 Outstanding experiences for communities and visitors are supported by high quality access and sustainable transport networks	<i>5.1 Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion</i> <i>5.2 Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways</i> <i>5.3 Encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park, encouraging the retention and expansion of rural transport services</i>
Outcome 6 Widespread understanding of the special qualities of the National Park and the benefits it provides	<i>6.1 Provide high-quality outdoor learning opportunities as part of a locally relevant curriculum</i>
Outcome 7 The South Downs National Park is a well-used and recognised asset for sustaining mental and physical health and wellbeing	<i>7.1 Develop initiatives which enable local communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing</i>
Outcome 8 More responsibility and action is taken by visitors, communities and businesses to conserve and enhance the special qualities and use resources more wisely	<i>8.1 Increase and diversify volunteering opportunities that support the National Park</i>
Duty – Thrive	
Outcome 9 Communities in the National Park are more sustainable with an appropriate provision of housing to address local needs and improved access to essential services and facilities	<i>9.1 Increase affordable housing stock in the National Park, with focus on exemplary design and using local sustainable materials.</i> <i>9.2 Support community-led initiatives which enhance the towns, villages and landscapes of the National Park</i> <i>9.3 Support improvement in digital infrastructure, speed and coverage throughout the South Downs National Park</i>
Outcome 10 A diverse, sustainable, dynamic economy which is positively linked to the special qualities of the National Park	<i>10.1 Strengthen and support sustainably managed land-based industries and local enterprise</i> <i>10.2 Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit</i> <i>10.3 Establish the South Downs as an exemplar in sustainable tourism</i>

SDNPA Projects in Delivery by end Q4 2020-21

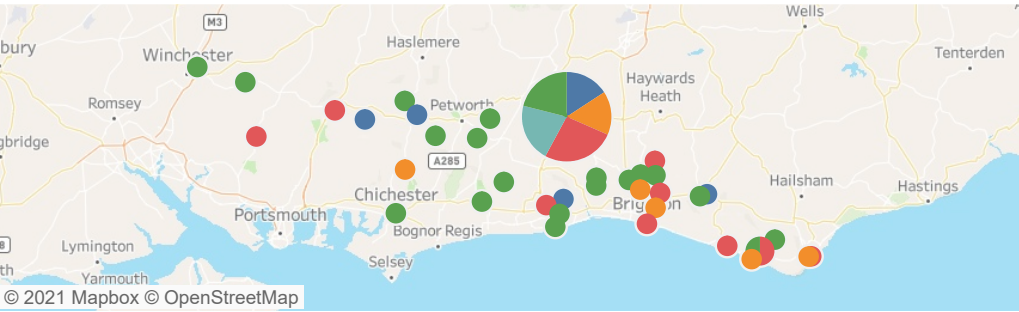
Number of Projects in Delivery

60

Team Areas

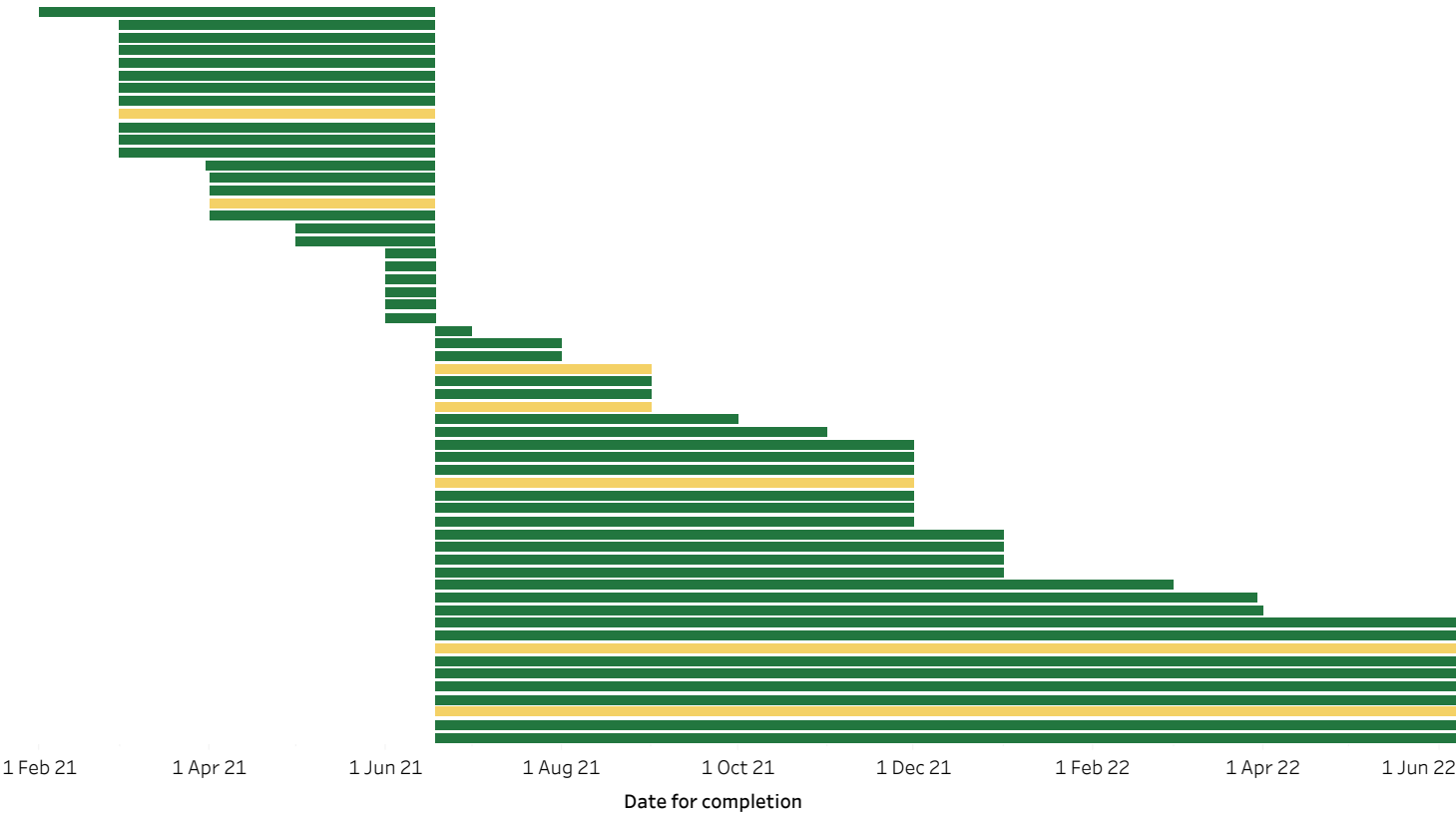


Project Location by RAG



RAG status project time line

Deep Time	01/04/2020	01/02/2021
Beat the Street	01/04/2020	01/03/2021
Discover England (an..	01/01/2018	01/03/2021
Grafton Woodland...	01/09/2020	01/03/2021
Mouslebrook Forest...	01/10/2020	01/03/2021
Pennerind New Ponds	01/04/2020	01/03/2021
Permissive Paths	01/04/2020	01/03/2021
Rother Valley Way	01/04/2020	01/03/2021
Stanmer Park Penni	01/01/2019	01/03/2021
Sussex Modern	01/01/2019	01/03/2021
Tulleigh Hill Habitat	01/01/2020	01/03/2021
Westland Farm Mead	01/01/2020	01/03/2021
Cluster Development	01/03/2018	01/03/2021
Kindley Vale Interpre...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Scherfield Monumen	01/12/2018	01/03/2021
Winchester Stridy	01/11/2020	01/03/2021
Workforce Support	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Cockshut Stream Red...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Friends of SDW Gates	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Cherry Square - the full...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Cissbury Digital Inter...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Community Energy P...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Footsteps App	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Midhurst Greenway	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Towner Art Parks	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Forests Way Phase 5	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Environmental Sum...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Stop a minute	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Active Access	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Beggars Bush Walk F...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Heathlands Reinter...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Tide Mills: A Living Hi...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Arin Vision	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Coppicing for Londa...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
ArtScene 2	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Bringing back the FL...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Petersfield Museum	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Phase 2 Sennage	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Pump it Up	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Shifting the Gaze - Mi...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
South Downs Fether...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Changing Chalk - Dew...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Changing Chalk - Gra...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Downland Man	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Poetry for Wellbeing	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Generation Green (w...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Miles without a f...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Channel Payments fo...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Floodplain Meadows	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Artist in Residence S...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
SLDs for Schools	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Seven Sisters	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Watercress and Wint...	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Cut and collect	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Greenspaces	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Lullington Heath	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Lap	01/01/2021	01/03/2021
Rampion Monitoring	01/01/2021	01/03/2021



Phase 2 Potential Signage Locations



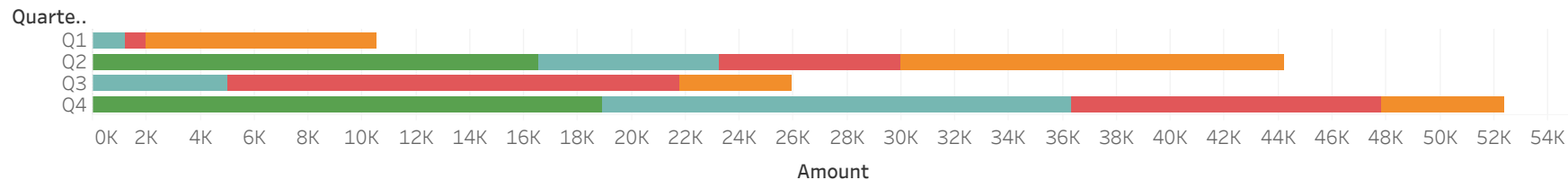
Grass Roots and Open Access Ranger Projects in 2020-2021

Area Team1
 Central Downs
 Eastern Downs
 Wealden Heath
 Western Dow..

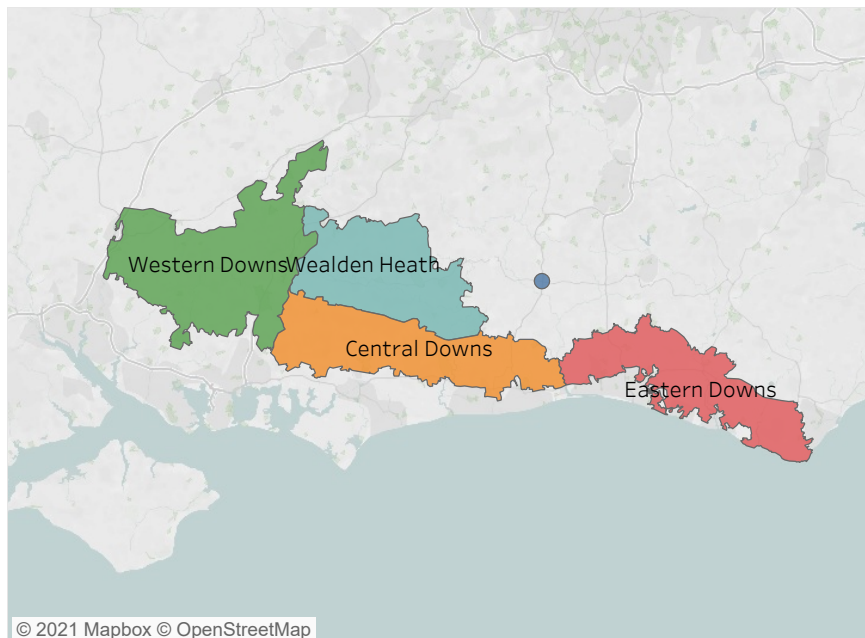
Total Amount Spent: £133,073

Number of Grassroots and Open Access projects: 105

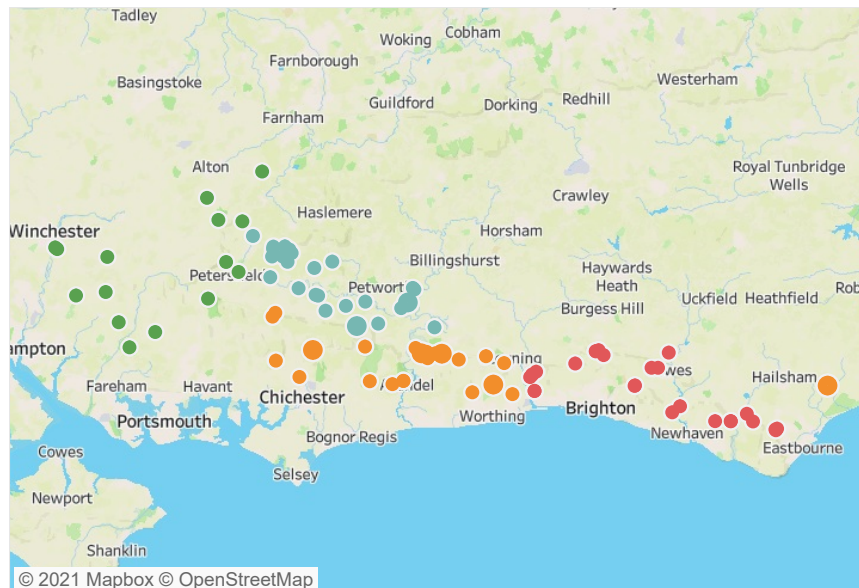
Quarter Breakdown



Team Areas



Grass Roots and Open Access Project Locations in 2020-2021



SDNPA KEY COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS 2020/21

VIRTUAL FESTIVALS

3 VIRTUAL FESTIVALS HELD
WITH A TOTAL CONTENT REACH OF...
502k

SPLIT BETWEEN...

178k WILD CHALK
84k SECRETS OF THE HEATH
240k DARK SKIES FESTIVAL

11 VIRTUAL WALKS
55,924 VIEWS

121,544 SHORT FILM VIEWS

MEDIA

40m PEOPLE REACHED
60 PROACTIVE PRESS RELEASES issued
1,103 EARNED MEDIA COVERAGE (from press releases alone)
5,500 MENTIONS in the media (inc. in UK nationals)
£8m PR VALUE

WEBSITE

208% VISITS INCREASED (to > 1.6m unique visits)

SDNPA DISCOVERY MAP ANNUAL USERS

59,976

SHARED IDENTITY

12 KEY INTERPRETATION PROJECTS

MEDIA STORY OF THE YEAR

Astrophotography competition
225 ...pieces of coverage (local, regional, national and international).
£10m PR VALUE

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

46% **13.9m** **1.05m**

57,455 TOTAL FOLLOWERS on social media channels

TOTAL REACH on social media channels

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT on social media channels

FOLLOWERS

26%

63%

51%

>60 PROJECTS SUPPORTED

8,078 E-NEWSLETTER subscribers to date

2,351 VIEWRANGER number of route downloads

646,710 TAKE THE LEAD messaging reach

4,180 COMPETITIONS ENTRIES TO 5 COMPETITIONS