

South Downs Way Management Plan 2015 – 2020

Introduction

The purpose of this Plan

This plan has been produced to guide the South Downs Way Trail partnership in its management of this National Trail. It will set out the direction of travel and highlight the key areas of delivery over the next 5 years. It is designed to give more bespoke and focused information than that contained in broader policy documentation such as the South Downs Partnership Management Plan.

This plan is intended for all those whose work impacts or contributes to the delivery of this first class long distance trail.

Background and policy context.

In order to keep this document light and concise general background information and supporting evidence has been kept separate in supporting documents.

Information about the current administrative arrangements and the SDW Trail Partnership can be found in supporting Document “SDW Delivery framework”.

The structure of this Plan

The first part of this plan simply identifies what the key assets are that we are seeking to retain or increase, followed by the key issues that need addressing. This is the starting point. This is what the trail is like today.

The second part of this plan describes how we intend to make the most of our assets and address our issues. It is broken into 5 broad areas.

- Managing the Trail and its infrastructure.
- Improving the corridor.
- The information Trail.
- A shared Asset.
- Connected facilities.

Under each of these areas there are one or more outcomes. A simple statement describing where we want to be in 2020.

Under each Outcome there is one or more policies. These policies will help to deliver the desired outcomes. To help monitor the progress towards achieving the outcomes each policy has a measurable performance indicator, or target that the SDW Partnership aims to meet.

Key assets

These are the special qualities of the South Downs Way that make it a world class Trail. They are the qualities or assets that the Trail Partnership seeks to retain, encourage or improve. These assets have been derived from the Trail partners and users feedback which is collated in Appendix II.

1. High quality trail corridor

The landscape and wildlife rank as the highest reasons people visit the SDW. It is no good having a well maintained trail if people don't want to visit the area. The trail corridor is home to most of the internationally important chalk grassland habitat, passes through or adjacent to numerous SSSI sites and 5 National Nature Reserves.

2. Easy to follow signage

The less time people have to worry about where they are and getting lost the more time they can just enjoy their surroundings. It is also vital to have clear signage to encourage those less confident about exploring our countryside.

3. Multi user route

Few routes are able to offer such a long unbroken off road multi user route. Although differing needs and uses can lead to tensions, many users state how nice it is to be able to share the space with walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

4. Easily accessible

Having good public transport links along the trail and being close to large centres of population makes the SDW easily accessible to a wide section of the population. This is especially the case in the eastern end of the trail. This allows people to do linear walks or rides, essential to complete a long distance trail.

5. Few steps or stiles

Being a long distance bridleway means there are very few steps, stiles or other obstacles along the route. This makes it a very popular destination for the more adventurous less abled users that may need an aid to walk or use off road capable wheelchairs. It is also popular with young families using buggies.

6. Good quality information

Many visitors appreciate having one place on-line to find all the information they need to plan a visit. It is also key to have a single point of contact for the public and landowners alike to call and discuss any issues.

Identified issues

These are issues that have been identified by users and stakeholders that have a negative impact on the SDW or its use and which the Trail Partnership should seek to address or influence. They are not in any order of importance. The users responses collected from on-line feedback can be read in full in appendix II.

1. Temporary routes

Despite being a mature trail there are still sections of the SDW where a long term permanent route has not been agreed and temporary or compromised routes exist.

2. Accessing the Trail

Good access and transport links near the trail has been identified as a Key asset, but there are still difficulties in linking people from some transport hubs to the trail. Users of larger vehicles such as horse boxes or school mini-buses also have problems with restricted access. Busy road also cut some user off from the trail.

3. Accommodation

There is a good variety and spread of accommodation along the SDW but a lack of provision in some areas is causing problems for visitors and holiday operators. Some strategic over night stops have insufficient beds and some sections of the Trail do not have any near camping facilities.

4. Start end points

Completing a long distance trail is an achievement of a life time for some people. They want a focal point at start and end points to help record their achievement. The lack of good end points is often quoted as an anti climax to an otherwise great experience. This is one of the most frequent comments from user feedback.

5. Large events

Large organised events are common and extremely popular along the SDW. The route lends itself perfectly to this type of challenge or endurance event. It's long enough to be challenging but short enough to be achievable. However 1000's of people using the trail at once does cause tensions with other users and landowners.

6. Road crossings

Although predominantly off road and tranquil the SDW does have to cross a number of busy A and B roads. These crossings can be very difficult to cross, especially on horse-back or with a young family.

7. On-trail information

Some users have requested more distances to key locations along the trail be displayed on signposts and more information available about points of interest along the route.

Future Direction

The Vision for the South Downs Way

The South Downs Way National Trail will be a 'flagship trail'. It will be easy to plan a trip, and once there, will be an easy to use and easy to follow, predominantly off-road trail for walkers, horseriders and cyclists. The South Downs Way will provide the best possible views through a biodiverse and culturally rich, working landscape for both long and short distance users. The South Downs Way will be a valued destination for both visitors and local people and will be an important asset for local business.

The trail will mean different things to different people, it will be an escape from urban living, the local gym, a wildlife reserve, a journey through time, an adrenaline rush, a work place, a classroom, and a gallery to name a few. Most of all it will be an inspiration, to cherish and enjoy this landscape and its wildlife and to protect it in any way they can.

General SDW Policies

Policy 1:	Maintain a representative and functioning Trail Partnership to oversee the management of the South Downs Way.
Indicator 1:	A Trail Partnership (as described in the SDW Delivery Framework) meets at least 4 times a year.
Policy 2:	Work towards achieving a constantly improving trail quality as defined in the National Trail Quality Standards in England April 2013 and measured by Natural England Key Performance indicators. (See Appendix I)
Indicator 2:	See all indicators 3 – 20 below.
Policy 3:	Investigate sources of new and innovative additional funding streams to help improve the South Downs Way and utilise opportunistic funding when available. Including but not limited to Visitor Giving, merchandise, non government grants, crowd funding, charitable trusts etc.
Indicator 3:	Increase value of non-government contributions to the SDW Trail Partnership. [2014-15 Baseline - £2500]

Managing the Trail and its infrastructure

Outcome 1: The SDW is well maintained, with easy to follow directional signage (with distances at key locations), easy to use infrastructure, and suitable surface conditions for year round multi user use.

These policies will help to deliver outcome 1

Policy 4:	In Partnership with Local Highway Authorities maintain and improve the condition of rights of way and maintainable roads that make up the SDW.
Indicator 4:	Total number of links with unresolved 'terrain' or 'vegetation' issues reduced from April15 baseline. [April 15 baseline- 15]
Policy 5:	Ensure the SDW is appropriately signed featuring the National Trail Acorn at each path / track junction. Including trail end markers and bespoke destination / distance markers at appropriate locations.
Indicator 5:	Less than 20% of all waymark and fingerposts have unresolved issues recorded by the end of 2020 [April 2014 baseline = 29%]
Policy 6:	Maintain an accurate and up to date database of the condition of the trail infrastructure.
Indicator 6:	Reports of all outstanding issues can be presented to the Trail Partnership quarterly

Outcome 2: The temporary and missing sections of SDW have been completed and the trail is on the best available line, giving users the best views and habitat quality whilst being on tranquil traffic free routes.

These policies will help to deliver Outcome 2

Policy 7:	Seek to find permanent solutions with landowners and stakeholders to all existing temporary routes and where possible take advantage of opportunistic circumstances to improve the route of the SDW.
Indicator 7:	Aim to submit 4 Variation Reports by the end of 2020.
Policy 8:	Seek to find appropriate solutions to improve safety at all the remaining 'at grade' road crossings and highway sections of the trail. Where possible implement agreed schemes.
Indicator 8:	All road crossings have had a safety audit and list of recommendations produced by the end of 2020.

Improving the Corridor

Outcome 3: The SDW corridor passes through well managed land with high wildlife and cultural heritage value that helps to deliver essential ecosystem services. The corridor is part of a well linked ecologically functioning landscape, free from damaging and inappropriate development.

These policies will help to deliver outcome 3.

Policy 9:	Work with partners to ensure land management opportunities along the SDW corridor are maximised, especially through agri-environment schemes.
Indicator 9:	Number of land holdings along the SDW within current agri-environment schemes
Policy 10:	Seek where possible to add value to landscape, habitat and historic environment work of partners. Focusing on works outside the remit statutory obligations and existing agri-environment agreements.
Indicator 10:	500 volunteer days or greater is achieved annually delivering National Park Purpose 1 projects along the SDW Corridor. [2014-15 baseline 875 man-days (achieved during NIA project)]

The information trail

Outcome 4: Users of the SDW have easy access to all the necessary information they require to plan a trip on the SDW. There is a single point of contact for trail information and high level of awareness about how to feed back comments and report issues.

This policy will help to deliver outcome 4.

Policy 11: Work with Walk Unlimited or any successor, to provide a high quality, up to date website as the focal point of SDW information provision.

Indicator 11: At least 2 new itineraries or circular walks / ride and 12 new news items are added to the National Trail web pages annually

Outcome 5: Points of interest, key links to facilities off the trail and distances to key access points along the trail are highlighted with unobtrusive but informative information and signage.

This policy will help to deliver outcome 5

Policy 12: Develop and help implement with partners a clear and appropriate signage and interpretation strategy for the SDW

Indicator 12: An agreed signage and interpretation strategy is published by end of 2016 with implementation between 2016 – 2020.

Outcome 6: The SDW enjoys a high profile locally, nationally and internationally, with widespread understanding and recognition of National Trails.

This policy will help to deliver outcome 6

Policy 13: Support media and PR colleagues from all Trail Partners and Walk unlimited to promote and raise awareness of the SDW

Indicator 13: Aim to achieve 5000 Twitter followers by the end of 2020 (Baseline April 2014 1325 followers)

A shared asset

Outcome 7: Local communities feel a sense of ownership of the SDW and work to promote and protect the trail.

These policies will help to deliver outcome 7.

Policy 14:	Ensure the SDW is identified in developing Local and Neighbourhood Plans and is reflected in health and tourism strategies.
Indicator 14:	Number of communities featuring the SDW within their neighbourhood plans
Policy 15:	Maintain and develop volunteering capacity and opportunities that help to deliver the SDW management Plan outcomes.
Indicator 15:	At least 350 volunteer days achieved carrying out trail maintenance along the SDW annually. [2014-15 baseline – 400 volunteer days]

Outcome 8: Different user types understand and appreciate their differing requirements and are all able to enjoy the SDW to the full. Negative behaviours are addressed and reduced.

These policies will help to deliver outcome 8.

Policy 16:	With land managers where feasible aim to make the SDW as least restrictive as possible.
Indicator 16:	Reduce the number of non avoidable steps or motorbike traps remaining on the bridleway section of the SDW by the end of 2020. [2014-15 Baseline 7]
Policy 17:	Promote the notion of ‘shared space’ and responsible countryside use.
Indicator 17:	At least 10 mass participation event organisers are signed up to the SDW Events Guidelines by the end of 2020.

Connected facilities

Outcome 9: The SDW is easily accessible for all users and easy to find from transport stops.

These policies will help to deliver outcomes 9.

Policy 18:	Work with local communities, local authorities, user groups and landowners to provide supporting facilities and sign clear and safe routes from key public transport stops to the SDW.
Indicator 18:	At least 12 free to use drinking water points and 4 bike repair stations are available along the SDW. (Baseline, April 2014 = 10 water taps and 0 bike repair stations.)
Policy 19:	Develop innovative solutions with landowners to allow horse riders, and other legitimate users with larger vehicles access to key parking areas on or near the SDW.
Indicator 19:	At least 12 access points remain available to horse boxes / mini buses along the SDW. (Baseline April 2014 = 10)

Outcome 10: The SDW has adequate facilities for all users to be able to enjoy the trail either on day visits or longer overnight trips maximising the local economic benefit of the Trail.

These policies will help deliver outcome 10.

Policy 20:	Seek to facilitate collaboration between trail service providers to improve the visitor offer and joined up delivery.
Indicator 20:	Number of collaborations that deliver SDW 'packages' to users.
Policy 21:	Encourage businesses to promote their accommodation or services through the National trail website.
Indicator 21:	At least 280 accommodation providers and 15 holiday businesses are promoted on the National Trail website by the end of 2020, with all listings 'owned' and updated by the business managers.

Policy No.	Policy	Helps improve Key Assets ¹	Helps address identified issues ²	Delivers NTQS ³	Supports PMP Policies ⁴
General polices					
1	Maintain a representative and functioning Trail Partnership to oversee the management of the South Downs Way	All	All	Engagement 1-6	28 – 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 48, 49
2	Work towards achieving a constantly improving trail quality as defined in the National Trail Quality Standards in England April 2013 and measured by Natural England Key Performance indicators.	All	All	All	28 – 34, 41 - 43
3	Investigate sources of new and innovative additional funding streams to help improve the South Downs Way and utilise opportunistic funding when available. Including but not limited to Visitor Giving, merchandise, non government grants, crowd funding, charitable trusts etc	All	All	All	28 – 34, 35, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 48, 49

¹ See Key assets on page 2

² See Identified Issues on page 3

³ See National Trail Quality Standards for England (April 2013), Appendix I

⁴ Refer to South Downs Partnership Management Plan 2014 – 2019.

Policy No.	Policy	Helps improve Key Assets	Helps address identified issues	Delivers NTQS	Supports PMP Policies
Managing the Trail and it's infrastructure					
4	In Partnership with Local Highway Authorities maintain and improve the condition of rights of way and maintainable roads that make up the SDW.	3		Experience 1, 2 Enhancement 1, 2, 3	28 -34
5	Ensure the SDW is appropriately signed featuring the National Trail Acorn at each path / track junction. Including trail end markers and bespoke destination / distance markers at appropriate locations.	2	4,7	Experience 1, 2 Enhancement 2, 4 Economy 2	28
6	Maintain an accurate and up to date database of the condition of the trail infrastructure.	2		Enhancement 2	28
7	Seek to find permanent solutions with landowners and stakeholders to all existing temporary routes and where possible take advantage of opportunistic circumstances to improve the route of the SDW.	1,3	1	Experience 1, 2, 3, 6 Enhancement 1, 3	28
8	Seek to find appropriate solutions to improve safety at all the remaining 'at grade' road crossings.		6	Enhancement 2	37, 40
Improving the corridor					
9	Work with partners to ensure land management opportunities along the SDW corridor are maximised, especially through agri-environment schemes	1		Experience 3 Enhancement 5 Engagement 2	11 - 13
10	Seek where possible to add value to landscape, habitat and historic environment work of partners. Focusing on works outside the remit statutory obligations and existing agri-environment agreements	1		Experience 3 Enhancement 5 Engagement 2, 5 Economy 4	1, 4, 5, 9, 10

Policy No.	Policy	Helps improve Key Assets	Helps address identified issues	Delivers NTQS	Supports PMP Policies
The information trail					
11	Work with Walk Unlimited or any successor, to provide a high quality, up to date website as the focal point of SDW information provision.	6		Experience 4 Enhancement 6 Economy 2	31, 41 - 43
12	Support media and PR colleagues from all Trail Partners and Walk unlimited to promote and raise awareness of the SDW.	6		Experience 4 Enhancement 6 Economy 2	31, 41
13	Develop and help implement with partners a clear and appropriate communications and interpretation strategy for the SDW	6	7	Experience 2 Enhancement 6 Economy 2, 4	31, 41 - 43
A shared asset					
14	Ensure the SDW is identified in developing Local and Neighbourhood Plans and is reflected in health and tourism strategies.		2, 3	Engagement 3, 4, 6 Economy 3	34, 48, 49, 55
15	Maintain and develop volunteering capacity and opportunities that help to deliver the SDW management Plan outcomes.	2		Engagement 3, 4, 5	33, 47
16	With land managers where feasible aim to make the SDW as least restrictive as possible	5		Experience 2 Enhancement 1 Engagement 2	28, 29, 30
17	Promote the notion of 'shared space' and responsible countryside use	6	5	Engagement 3, 4, 6	41

Policy No.	Policy	Helps improve Key Assets	Helps address identified issues	Delivers NTQS	Supports PMP Policies
Connected facilities					
18	Work with local communities, local authorities and user groups to sign & maintain clear and safe routes from key communities / public transport stops to the SDW.	4	2	Experience 2, 6 Enhancement 1, 2, 3, 4 Engagement 3, 4, 5	48, 49, 55
19	Develop innovative solutions with landowners to allow horse riders, and other legitimate users with larger vehicles access to key parking areas on or near the SDW		2	Experience 1, 2 Engagement 2, 3, 4	39
20	Seek to facilitate collaboration between trail service providers to improve the visitor offer and joined up delivery		3	Engagement 4, 5 6 Economy 1, 2, 3, 4	42, 48, 55
21	Encourage businesses to promote their accommodation or services through the National trail website.		3	Experience 4, 5 Engagement 3 Economy 2, 3	43

Appendix I. National Trail Quality Standards in England

	Experience	Enhancement	Engagement	Economy
Management Principles	Enable as many people as possible to enjoy a wide variety of walking and riding experiences along National Trails and through the English landscape	Make constant improvement to the Trail and its associated routes. Contribute to the enhancement of the landscape, nature and historic features within the trail corridor.	Build and sustain a community of interest in caring for the Trail and the landscape through which it passes.	Creates opportunities for local businesses to benefit from the use of Trails.
1	Continuous, long distance routes that can be completed as a journey or in stages.	Development of the Trail that enhances experiences and ensures condition of route matches with types and levels of use.	Consistently high quality of delivery up and down the trail through collaboration between local delivery partners.	Encourages use of local contractors and materials.
2	Easily accessible routes. Routes matched to terrain and landscape.	A high quality of path infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structures are always safe, comfortable, easy and convenient to use. - Consistent high quality design, style and use of materials to suit the character of the local landscape with historical features maintained where possible. - Route is easy to follow with consistent, accurate, unobtrusive way marking and destination signage. - Surfaces in good condition and appropriate to the geology and soils over which the trail passes. - Readily passable routes free from undergrowth and overhanging vegetation. - Safe road and rail crossings 	Land managers/ owners that host the route consider it to be well managed	Easy to find out about and access a range of relevant local businesses and facilities.
3	Connection of the trail with the landscape, nature and history	Presumption of routes being traffic free.	Sense of local pride and ownership achieved through local community participation and connections	Local businesses consider the trail to be well managed and cite its presence as beneficial to their business.
4	Friendly website with accurate and up to date information to help with planning and providing feedback	Supporting local services (e.g. ferry crossings, transport links, taps) are available and information is up to date and accurate.	Trail partnership has involvement of users and local community	Diverse and exciting programme of initiatives as Trail is seen as an attractive prospect for investment.
5	Good range of accommodation in type and price	Conservation measures within the trail corridor that protect and/or improve habitats or historic features	A range of opportunities for people to get involved with trail management	
6	Route design and development of associated routes is responsive to changes in use and to new uses	Variety of high quality short and circular walks and rides	Active and thriving user association/friends group for the trail	

Appendix II. SDW user feedback responses

The following comments were all received from SDW users via the on-line feedback questionnaire. They are a good source of evidence about user expectation and the condition of the trail and have therefore been used to help inform the Key assets and Identified issues in the SDW management plan 2015 – 2020.

No.	Comment	Date received
1	I like it a lot and it is one of my favourite trails but I'm biased as I live close to it and can dip in and out as I choose	Jan 1, 2015 10:15 AM
2	Nothing constructive but I would like to say that it was one of the most enjoyable holidays I've ever had! A very uplifting 9 days!	Dec 29, 2014 12:50 PM
3	I loved this walk, especially the ready availability of public transport to get me to and from my accommodation. I had a great time.	Dec 14, 2014 10:25 AM
4	Adding distances to more signposts	Dec 10, 2014 2:40 PM
5	Would be nice to have a few more mileage indicators on the acorn signposts to advise on how far places are / or how far we had travelled from the last place	Dec 2, 2014 4:41 PM
6	All good for me thanks...	Nov 20, 2014 7:46 PM
7	Not the easiest trail to park vehicle and use public transport	Nov 17, 2014 10:51 PM
8	Some of the chalky down hill routes are very slippery and have been eroded / washed away by the rains.	Nov 10, 2014 9:13 PM
9	Mountain biking is great on SDW - I just love it!	Nov 10, 2014 7:01 PM
10	Thank you for a beautiful walk. I did it in 4 stages. The waymarking was fantastic (I didn't really need my maps at all) and the path was well maintained. This was my first long distance footpath and I thoroughly enjoyed it and plan to do more. I'll definitely be back to the South Downs for some day trips to revisit areas I wanted to explore further.	Nov 7, 2014 3:04 PM
11	My partner says walking the South Downs Way is one of the most memorable achievements of his life. He absolutely loves it. I have loved walking it with him and the wonderful, warm and friendly people we have met along the way. Wouldn't have missed it for the world.	Oct 30, 2014 7:25 AM
12	As above, the section from Exton to the top of Old Winchester Hill is an absolute disgrace and detracts from an otherwise delightful experience.	Oct 22, 2014 1:58 PM

13	It was a fantastic experience and I really enjoyed the walk	Oct 19, 2014 3:05 PM
14	Apart from more information about public transport, then I think it is fine	Oct 2, 2014 4:57 PM
15	<p>A very minor point is tht no one seems to know exactly where the South Downs Way starts in Winchester. I asked in the Tourist Information and the lady told me that some people said it started at the Cathedral, some at King Alfred's statue and others where the first sign for the South Downs Way is at East Hill. To make sure we had completed the whole trail we went to the Cathedral, walked to king Alfred's statue and then made our way to East Hill where we saw the first sign and continued onwards from there.</p> <p>All in all we were very impressed with the signage and none of us had any experience of walking long distance trails before and the fact we only went wrong once is amazing!</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work in making this such an easy experience for us.</p>	Oct 2, 2014 4:52 PM
16	It would be nice if there were someway to mark the occasion upon completion.	Oct 2, 2014 4:23 PM
17	On the whole, the trail was very good (I would say a little better than the previous year. It was good to see new signage, although it is still a little lacking or ambiguous around the QE country park. There were also a few water taps not working.	Sep 29, 2014 9:37 AM
18	<p>It was excellent!</p> <p>Could the farmers, who insisted on putting young bullocks and bulls in the fields we needed to cross, be encouraged not to? As it was slightly terrifying!</p>	Sep 25, 2014 7:35 AM
19	The complete lack of signage in Winchester made starting very difficult.	Sep 24, 2014 7:28 PM
20	Some areas are only single track which make it quite difficult for all the types of access and amount of users.	Sep 24, 2014 3:52 PM
21	<p>More seats (or at least things that can be used as seats - eg logs) along the way. A few sections have more than enough seats (such as the last section from Alfriston to Eastbourne) but many sections have none. I realise much of the Way is farmland, but would hope something could be provided.</p> <p>Also crossings/bridges at main roads - there aren't many, but those that there are are very difficult and dangerous to cross (eg at Pyecombe)</p>	Sep 23, 2014 6:18 PM
22	More maps of the Trail along the way with you are here so you can appreciate how far you have come and how far you still have to go.	Sep 23, 2014 7:32 AM
23	It is a very pretty and interesting walk, and more of a challenge than I expected, due largely to the frequent up and down and flint component of the surface. Loved the history and wildlife. Great variety of interesting dogs too. Very friendly fellow walkers and lodging/food providers.	Sep 19, 2014 6:17 PM
24	Possibly one or two water stops between Winchester and QE Country Park.	Sep 17, 2014 1:10 PM

25	Can you put names on some of hills.....	Sep 16, 2014 6:22 AM
26	Update the NT website. Too many spelling mistakes, most noticeably the River Osue. More accurate directions to the WWII tank at Kitson hill would be nice. Better info on links to railway stations (like the North Downs Way Aurum guide).	Sep 10, 2014 11:42 PM
27	We would do it again in a heartbeat.	Sep 9, 2014 6:22 AM
28	No	Sep 6, 2014 8:57 PM
29	A very enjoyable 6 days spent walking and camping. In respect to camping/back packing if ever more stopping places became available this would be very welcome. This feedback form did not work especially well for me as I had problems progressing beyond the transport page.	Sep 6, 2014 2:36 PM
30	Getting water was difficult. There are long stretches without any especially on the western end. And there would be nice to have an official end in Winchester. I took it as the king Alfred statue as couldn't find the youth hostel	Sep 5, 2014 11:08 PM
31	It is great that walkers, bikers and horses can share and enjoy the outdoors.	Aug 27, 2014 9:12 PM
32	I really like the new cycling approach in to Eastbourne, much better than the old one. Great to finish in the same place as the walkers.	Aug 26, 2014 11:23 AM
33	Great to journey along a route that has a variety of landscapes and views. Water taps locations and conditions were welcome and easy to find.	Aug 23, 2014 9:07 PM
34	An excellent trail which I walked in ten non-consecutive days over the past few months. .Signage was very good. Fine weather on every occasion certainly added to my enjoyment of the trip. I look forward to walking one of the other trails in the not too distant future.	Aug 18, 2014 3:02 PM
35	Maybe some accurate information about distance to drinking water throughout the route would be good, there are some sections that do this but it's not clear until you find a tap that they are available.	Aug 17, 2014 4:31 PM
36	Perhaps consider more signs to the villages close to the trail, with distances, so people know they can find a meal or place to stay nearby. Consider information boards with numbers for B&B or pub information to promote those businesses.	Aug 14, 2014 10:15 AM
37	I was cycling with a friend who knew the South Downs Way, if I had been on my own there were several parts of the ride that I could have gone the wrong way on, or missed the signs as they are not always easy to see.	Aug 11, 2014 10:34 AM
38	Badges please. Something you can buy to say you have used the trach	Aug 10, 2014 7:38 PM
39	We walked, with my husband and sister, from Winchester to Eastbourne as my 70th Birthday challenge. in 2011 and 2013. I have just finished making an album of the Walk and it has brought back fantastic memories. The scenery and the countryside were amazing. Our best walk was on the last day from Cuckmere to Eastbourne....it was just very uplifting. We walked the whole Way in 16 walks...the first year in 2 outings of 4 days each of 6 mile walks p day. making half the Way. In 2013 we were older so had to do 4x 2 day walks of 6 miles each ending in Eastbourne.Staying in b/bs and taking transport to and from the beginning when we could, mixing with the car.	Aug 9, 2014 4:19 PM

40	More water taps on the first 35 miles from Winchester if possible,	Aug 5, 2014 9:13 PM
41	Clearer signage in the Winchester area which appears always to be awkward at the starting point due to the road network otherwise making sure the signs are clear of growing vegetation which is difficult this year due to the excessive rainfall.	Aug 5, 2014 7:00 PM
42	A very beautiful walk, the downs are harder than the ups!	Aug 2, 2014 9:30 PM
43	Maybe a few more water taps!	Aug 1, 2014 8:25 AM
44	Considering the number of people that use the South Downs way there was an impressive lack of litter. I hope this is a reflection of peoples good nature, if not I commend the litter pickers.	Jul 20, 2014 7:46 PM
45	This was a trip of a life time. Memories my family will cherish. Loved loved loved it!	Jul 19, 2014 9:40 PM
46	Accommodation: I was cycling it having decided the night before, unsure of my pace, so did not book any accommodation. Because it was dark and miles short of my plan of Truleigh Hill (from Winchester), I just slept on the ground in the woods between Cocking and Amberly. I would love there to be a greater network of turn-up-and-stay accommodation signposted from the trail.	Jul 18, 2014 11:34 AM
47	I found the signage very good indeed: there was hardly any need for a map. A few more seats would be appreciated!!	Jul 16, 2014 3:25 PM
48	Signage is mainly good but sometimes it just disappears.	Jul 15, 2014 6:59 PM
49	Some litter bins near roads or car parks would be useful.	Jul 15, 2014 8:56 AM
50	Great walk and some very interesting historical features	Jul 10, 2014 10:27 PM
51	Great views Well maintained routes Only thing that let's you down is the signage Could do with more places to stop for refreshments The tea stop at Newtimber is so expensive it's ripping people off £3:50 for a tea and minute cake We ride every week end and this place is by far twice the price of every other stop	Jul 10, 2014 9:19 PM