

Report to	South Downs Policy & Resources Committee
Date	25 November 2021
By	Countryside & Policy Manager – Eastern Downs
Title of Report (Note)	Stanmer Park Restoration Project – End of Project Report

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the completion of the SDNPA funded elements of the Stanmer Park “Parks for People” Restoration Project.

1. Summary and Background

- 1.1 Stanmer Park is an important heritage asset owned by Brighton and Hove City Council. The Grade II registered Park and Garden has been on the Historic England “At Risk” register for many years and its improvement is one of the projects in the Memorandum of Understanding between the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC). Stanmer Park is also in a strategic location as an important gateway to the South Downs National Park as well as an important area of natural greenspace for communities on the urban-fringe of Brighton. **Appendix 3** shows the location of Stanmer Park in the context of the wider SDNP.
- 1.2 In July 2014 the then SDNPA Policy and Programme Committee received a report outlining opportunities for a partnership approach and approved joint working on the project. This was for two elements – one focussed on the historic landscape which was grant-aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). However, the second element, focussed on the Home Farm complex, was not successful at HLF. The project then returned to the SDNPA Policy and Programme Committee in July 2016 with a recommendation to:
- Approve the continuation of partnership working with Brighton and Hove City Council for the Stanmer Park “Parks for People” project, subject to the award of the Stage 2 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
 - Authorise the Chief Executive to proceed utilising £53,000 from the Estate Management Reserve as a grant to Brighton and Hove City Council for the Stanmer Park “Parks for People” project towards the Green Drive, subject to the award of the Stage 2 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 1.3 In January 2017 BHCC was awarded £3.75m by the HLF and Big Lottery Fund “Parks for People” scheme for the part restoration of the Park and Estate. The successfully funded elements include the restoration of the Walled Garden and 18th Century landscape, together with improvements to access, interpretation and management which were all proposals in the original BHCC masterplan for Stanmer Park produced in 2013 (following extensive public consultation). These elements were part of a planning and listed building consent application considered and approved by Planning Committee in 2016. An activity plan also forms part of the project delivery, embracing a wide variety of local stakeholders, community and local audiences.

- 1.4 In addition to BHCC, the project partners include Plumpton College and SDNPA. As a funding partner SDNPA contributed £53,000 specifically for access, signage and interpretation improvements. (see 2.2 below). Officer time was also given to the Project Steering Group and some advice specifically for the development of the Activity Plan. Throughout the project the Eastern Downs Area Team, as BHCC tenants at the Stanmer Workshop & Office, were kept informed of progress due to the potential for disruption caused by the capital works.
- 1.5 Following the tendering process, pre-project set-up and awarding the main construction contract, capital works started in summer 2019 in the Walled Garden <https://youtu.be/2iimVVssGXg>
- 1.6 The capital works were all finished by early 2021 and the Park was launched with an oral history event at Easter 2021. May 2021 was the official opening and saw Plumpton College opening the walled garden: Brighton One Garden. The Activity Plan remains the last element of the project to be completed as this element, including engagement, was hardest hit by the pandemic. HLF have granted an extension to the project until March 2023 to allow the engagement programme to be delivered.
- 1.7 The future governance model for Stanmer Park is currently being reviewed by BHCC. Whilst there is now a small dedicated team, the multitude of stakeholders means there is a complex set of interests and voices which input into the future of the Park.

2. Policy Context.

- 2.1 This project delivers on a wide range of Partnership Management Plan 2014-2019 outcomes and SDNPA priorities (namely outcomes 1, 4, 5 and 11) and continues to contribute towards outcomes set out in the updated South Downs Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025.
- 2.2 The SDNPA contribution of £53,000 to the project was specifically towards the creation of the Green Drive – connecting the Lower Lodges to Stanmer House as a safe off road all-ability surfaced route, and the creation of new signage and interpretation for Stanmer Park. The SDNPA Communications Team was involved in the detail design of the signage and interpretation with the Shared Identity being a requirement. **Appendix 1** shows the locations of signage and **Appendix 2** shows an example of the interpretation boards content .

Issues for consideration

- 2.3 The SDNPA funded elements of the project have now been successfully delivered.





2.4 The SDNP Shared Identity has been used in the following ways on the site interpretation and signage:

- 3 x orientation panels each including map of SDNP with location marker. The white logotype is also used alongside partner logos at the bottom
- 1 x main entrance ladder board with shared identity lines along bottom rung and single-line logotype
- Interpretation panels (unclear how many are intended) – again, white logotype is proposed but no Shared ID lines or art

2.5 Additional elements include 10 x fingerposts, 50 x way marking bollards, Highway signs, A number of on-site traffic signs and Internal ladder boards

2.6 The delivery of the project has been impacted by both a very wet autumn in 2019 which slowed down the capital works significantly, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic/ lockdown impacted the project steering group, the site contractors and has delayed the delivery of the activity plan.

3. Next steps

3.1 The Stanmer Park Project has now been closed from the perspective of SDNPA being a funding partner. A case study will be produced and added to the website in due course.

3.2 In terms of lessons learnt this project demonstrated the need to have continuity of staff involvement, or a clear handover process in the advent of a member of staff leaving, particularly when it comes to large complex projects which span a significant amount of time from project concept, through a funding bid process and then into delivery. The project also suffered set back due to weather impacting capital works in autumn 2019 as well as the pandemic. Both of these demonstrate the need to have strong project management including the active management of a risk log.

3.3 Further to the completion of the project BHCC have subsequently approached SDNPA regarding advice for further signage and interpretation at Falmer Station to improve promotion and accessibility of Stanmer Park.

3.4 HLF have granted an extension to BHCC for the implementation of the delivery plan until March 2023. A small amount of Eastern Downs Area Team time will contribute towards the delivery of some of the events.

4. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No

Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	No
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	N/A
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	There has been improved social value through the installation of the Green Drive as it provides a safer route and provides access for all improving social value at the park for visitors and users.
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes. The installation of the Green Drive has provided a safer route and provides access for all for all visitors and users including those with protected characteristics
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?	None
Are there any Data Protection implications?	No
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	The Green Drive provides improved access via foot, bicycle and public transport, creating a more sustainable way to enjoy Stanmer Park.

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Appendices

1. Interpretation and signage location map
2. Interpretation panel
3. Map showing location of Stanmer Park in the SDNP

SDNPA Consultees

Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services

External Consultees

None

Background Documents

[Stanmer Park Projects – Progress and Partnership Development paper, SDNPA Policy and Programme Committee in July 2016](#)
[Stanmer Park Projects – Progress and Partnership Development presentation,](#)
[Stanmer Park restoration project \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#)
[Home | One Garden Brighton - One Garden Brighton](#)
[Stanmer Park promotional video produced by The Living Coast through the Biocultural Heritage Tourism Project funded by Interreg France \(Channel\) Programme](#)



1 Location Plan: HLF Area Signage
Scale 1:5000@A1

2 Location Plan: Park Wide Trail Markers
Scale 1:1000@A1

Legend		Trail Routes	
	Information Board (x 4)		Outer loop (5 miles)
	Directional sign (Finger Post) (x 3)		Intermediate loop (3 miles)
	Trail Marker (x 40)		Inner loop (1 mile)
	Interpretation Board (x 6)		
	Ladder Board Entrance Sign (x 3)		
	Small entrance sign (x 6)		
	Vehicle Wayfinding (x 4)		
	Vehicle Bollard (x 30)		
	Highway Sign (x 1)		

Code	Description	Rev	By	Date
1	Issue for Construction	01	MM	2022
2	Issue for Construction	02	MM	2022
3	Issue for Construction	03	MM	2022
4	Issue for Construction	04	MM	2022
5	Issue for Construction	05	MM	2022

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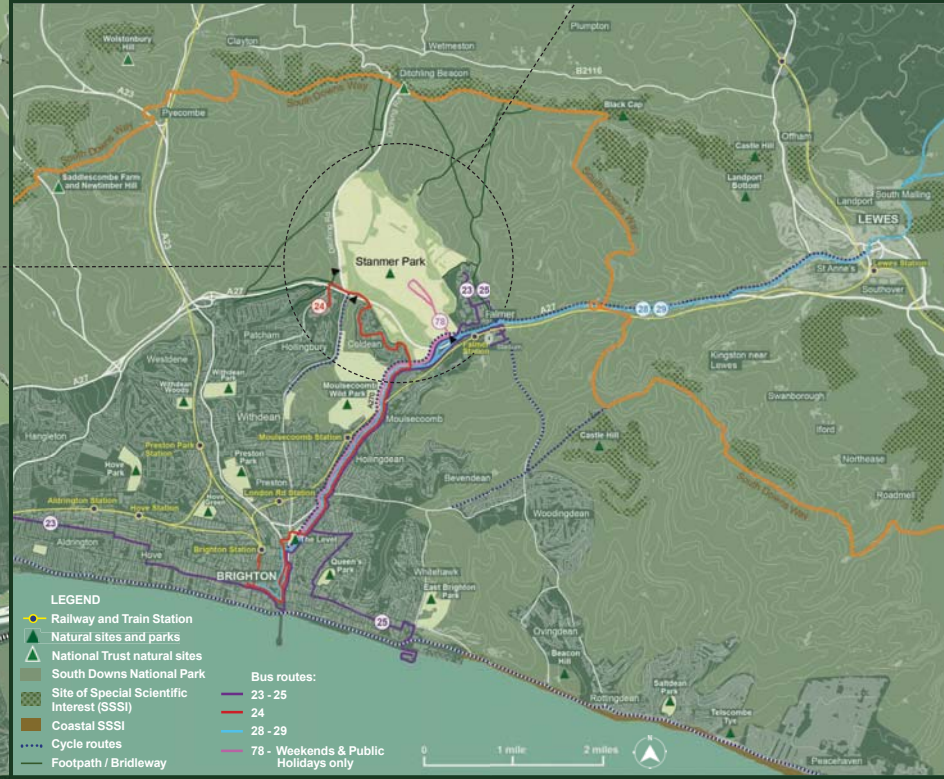
Project: Stammer Park
Stage III HLF Parks for People Grant
Client: Brighton & Hove City Council
Title: Signage and Interpretation Location Plan

Scale: 1:5000@A1 Status: Construction
Job No: 10049 Drawing No: 510 Issue: 5
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“A destination for heritage and environmental excellence”

STANMER PARK

... 5000 years of social, cultural and environmental history



Please keep the park tidy

