

Report to **Policy & Resources Committee**
Date **19 July 2022**
By **Performance and Research Lead & Project Management Lead**
Title of Report **Q4/year end Corporate and Project Performance report 2021/22**
Note

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Note the content of the Performance Report and highlight areas requiring further clarification or action**
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I. Introduction

- I.1 The SDNPA considers it important as a publicly accountable body, to monitor its performance. The Policy and Resources Committee has terms of reference which include “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” and “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”.
- I.2 A recent amendment to the P&R committee Terms of Reference requires that the committee now also: “...have oversight of bids for grant funding including to receive updates on the submission of bids for grant funding and the application of grants funds received”.
- I.3 Whilst the report calls on the committee to note the content of the performance report, the terms of reference for the committee include considering if the committee wishes to make any recommendations arising from its consideration of the report. Any such recommendations would be subject to a vote at the committee meeting.
- I.4 The purpose of this report is to update the Policy & Resources Committee on the Authority’s **corporate and project performance** during Quarter 4 (Q4) of 2021/22: 01 January 2021 to 31st March 2022, as well as providing a roundup of the year’s project and corporate activity. This report also provides an overview of ours and our partners’ achievements throughout 2021/22 as demonstrated in the Annual Review, Communications achievements infographic and PMP partner celebration attached as **Appendices 1, 2 and 3**.
- I.5 This report also provides Members with a progress update for the actions from the **Annual Governance Statement** and the **Human Resources and Health and Safety report** (see sections 12 and 13). It also updates Members on **Grant Funding** during Q4 (see section 9).
- I.6 At P&R committee on 25th November 2021, it was agreed that the corporate and project performance report would focus more on delivery against PMP outcomes. We report against PMP outcomes via the nine Corporate Plan priority areas (see below for detail).

- 1.7 This Q4/year-end report is structured around the nine priority areas proposed in the Corporate Plan action plan for 2022/23.
- 1.8 In this report, corporate and project performance information is being reported on together, as we did for Q3. See **Appendices 1-10 and the link at the end of the report to the Tableau dashboard** for detailed progress updates on the Corporate Plan, Partnership Management Plan, and Compliments, Comments and Complaints received during 2021/22.
- 1.9 A summary of the grassroots and open access projects delivered by our ranger teams in 2021/22 is included as a **link to the Tableau dashboard at the end of this report**. A total of £143,262 over 105 grassroots and open access projects were delivered across the National Park, delivering across a variety of our priority areas.
- 2. Priority area 1: Nature Recovery**
- 2.1 Of particular note was the launch of our innovative and ground-breaking South Downs Nature Recovery campaign. We are looking to raise £100m over 10 years to create 13,000 hectares (ha) of land for nature. We received 76 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in response to our Call for Nature Sites (C4NS). The EOIs have been triaged and a lead officer nominated for each so these EOIs can be progressed. A wide range of projects were put forward for consideration, including chalk grassland creation, pond installation, mixed woodland planting, and wildflower meadow creation.
- 2.2 Our five year flagship project, Heathlands Reunited (HeRe), conserved, enhanced and significantly restored 966 ha of lowland heath. See the Annual Review for more information about the huge success of this wonderful project.
- 2.3 One of our partners, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC), are saving Natterjack Toads at Blackmoor ARC Nature Reserve. Since 2010, ARC has embarked on a programme to restore Blackmoor to something of its former glory and turn the SSSI into favourable condition. Works included tree clearance, bracken control, scrub clearance, restoration of two ponds for potential Natterjack toad breeding sites and to replace some unsafe roadside trees with native broadleaved saplings. ARC purchased 20 hectares of the SSSI unit from the landowner chosen for the greatest potential for a Natterjack toad reintroduction.
- 2.4 A thousand plug plants went into the ground at Seaford College, near Petworth, to create a south-facing “butterfly bank” that Rangers hope will be teeming with life by the summer.
- 2.5 21 projects that are working towards the Nature Recovery priority area have been delivered through the Landscape and Biodiversity Theme Programme Board in 2021/22. These include 17 ongoing projects and 4 projects that are now complete.

Ongoing projects:

- **Arun Vision:** this project is 60% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Bringing back the ELMS:** this project is 100% complete and **green RAG**. Dutch Elm Disease (DED) has decimated English elm populations across the UK landscape, killing an estimated 60 million trees since its outbreak in the late 1960s. In recent years, elm breeding trials have successfully reared DED highly resistant cultivars of elm. Since the project started at the beginning of 2019, 2,693 DED resistant cultivars have been planted across the South Downs, which have been mapped and monitored. There have been some supply issues due to import and the health of the plants. This project is now complete and will be incorporated into the offer provided by the Trees for the Downs, managed by the South Downs Trust.
- **Changing Chalk - Dew Ponds:** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Changing Chalk - Grazier Post:** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Channel Payments for Ecosystem Processes:** this project is 95% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Cut and collect:** this project is 33% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Floodplain Meadows in the Rother Valley:** this project is 65% complete and **green RAG**.

- **Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill:** this project is 15% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Greenspaces:** this project is 40% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Hampshire Hedgerows:** this project is 45% complete and **green RAG**. This is an externally funded two-year project focussing on the delivery of hedgerow restoration - through coppicing, gapping up, planting and laying - at various sites within the Selborne Landscape Partnership and Winchester Downs Farm Cluster areas, plus training in the traditional rural skill of hedge laying. By extending and improving the quality of hedgerows, we are increasing habitat connectivity and diversity, allowing species to spread through and between habitats. To date, we have delivered 8 hedge-laying training events at Norton Farm, in the Selborne Landscape Partnership area, reaching 77 people. 50% of these training days were targeted at 16-25 year-olds, with 13 young people attending. Year one of the hedgerow restoration is now complete, and we are in the process of planning year two, to be carried out this winter.
- **Lullington Heath:** this project is 50% complete and **amber RAG**. The amber status is due to delays in the programme.
- **On Course to Flail:** this project is 75% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Rampion Monitoring:** this project is 40% complete and **green RAG**.
- **TAP:** this project is 40% complete and **green RAG**. The Wild Park Rainscape is on track for completion in 2023. We've launched a successful rain garden campaign and been out and about talking to community and specialist groups about groundwater protection. We've completed three year Nitrogen reduction and foliar trials and have focused on regenerative farming, soil health and farmer engagement and training. The partnership is strengthened with the addition of a new chair, as well as a wider range of technical expertise. We've leveraged an additional £2.16m on top of the five-year partnership funding of £480k. Our social media is going from strength to strength.
- **Watercress and Winterbournes:** this project is 25% complete and **green RAG**.
- **We Love Yew Project:** this project is 100% complete and **green RAG**.
- **West Burton Stream:** this project is 11% complete and **amber RAG**. There have been delays with this project because it requires planning permission before any further work can take place. An ecology survey, arboriculture report and supplementary planning documents have been commissioned and written.

Completed/closed projects:

- **Cockshut Stream Regeneration:** completed in **Q2**. This is the development phase of the project, to get the project ready for funding of the delivery phase. The ultimate aim of this project is the restoration of a chalk stream to its natural floodplain with improved flow and connectivity to the surrounding wetland habitats, with an increase of biodiversity. This phase involved the completion of a feasibility study, detailed assessments and detailed design leading to preparation of papers for planning permission and Ordinary watercourse consent.
- **Ewe Dean Fencing:** completed in **Q3**. This was a project to erect a fence to create a smaller grazing unit within a much larger field in order to target grazing on chalk grassland. It was 50% match funded by Butterfly Conservation. The purpose was specifically to create better habitat for the locally critically endangered Grayling butterfly. The fence was successfully erected by a competent and trusted contractor. The farmer has Exmoor ponies that are for conservation grazing and these were able to start bringing the site into the desired condition in the first winter after the fence was erected.
- **Graffham Woodland Recovery – Deer Fencing:** completed in **Q2**. This project has provided the Graffham Downland Trust with an area of woodland which they can manage for conservation without the threat of deer browsing. Over the following growing seasons the woodland should recover significantly, with more bramble growth and woodland regeneration providing improved habitats for priority species. Long term

monitoring of the impacts of this project will inform future woodland management and protection schemes.

- **Winchester Study:** completed in Q4. The East of Winchester area is identified in the SDNPA People and Nature Network (PANN) as experiencing a range of combined environmental issues. From development pressure; under-supply of natural greenspace; recreational pressure on sensitive sites; traffic, and non-motorised users in conflict, road construction, water quality problems, flooding and one of the lowest provisions per KM² of public rights of way in the whole of the National Park. SDNPA invited local stakeholders to come together and talk in a series of 3 workshops to discuss the issues, possible solutions and actions to address these issues. We also talked to over 500 members of the public in a series of pop up consultation events in and around Winchester, including an event for young people kindly hosted at the Winchester Science Centre. The process of shaping the results of the many discussions, opinions and ideas which were shared is set out in a report, which concludes with a forward plan for action. This is the stakeholders' plan for landscape restoration which the South Downs National Park Authority helped to coalesce and take shape.

3. Priority area 2: Climate Action

- 3.1 In 2021/22 we commissioned Small World Consulting (SWC) to undertake a carbon baseline assessment for the SDNP. Utilising multiple datasets, the assessment provided a comprehensive review of the carbon footprint of the SDNP (and other National Parks) across key sectors, and will help us understand the implications for our Net Zero targets. The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has now agreed to provide annual updates of key datasets such as Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry for all National Park Authorities. This is a great result and will enable us all to more accurately track change over time.
- 3.2 One of our partners, Petersfield Climate Change Action Network (PECAN), are working towards the Petersfield area becoming carbon neutral as quickly as possible. Successful projects so far have included encouraging residents to plant a fruit tree in every garden with 298 planted so far. Additionally, the group has an active Youth Volunteering strand who have been planting wildflower areas and measuring local air quality to support further campaigns and raise awareness. PeCAN has also teamed up with the National Energy Foundation (NEF) and local professional Retrofit Coordinators to create a new pilot called 'Petersfield Area SuperHomes'. The project supports homeowners to improve the comfort, health and energy efficiency of your home by guiding them through a series of retrofit measures. 22 retrofit plans have been completed for homeowners within Petersfield and those homes are now on a journey to start retrofitting their homes to significantly reduce their household carbon emissions. With a plan to reach 150 homeowners by the end of the pilot in April 2023.
- 3.3 As well as discussions with partners regarding development of the SDNPA approach to offsetting the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions that it can't reduce; SDNPA's latest actions have been looking at fossil fuel use in SDNPA vehicles. Members of the sustainability group have arranged for an EV 4WD demo after undertaking research with Ranger staff and Seven Sisters Country Park staff to evaluate its ability and application.
- 3.4 On 26 March 2020 the SDNPA approved its Climate Change Action Plan. The Plan affirmed the Authority's commitment to addressing the climate and nature emergency. £140K was allocated to deliver climate action, supporting the following projects:
 - **Community Energy Pathway:** this project provided support for local communities to develop community-based energy projects. This was a 2 Year pilot project, which completed in Q2. SDNPA allocated £30,790 to this project. A second phase of the project has commenced in spring 2022, which follows up on the pilot work, funded from the Connecting People and Communities Theme Programme Board (£15,000).
 - **Farm Carbon Project:** this project is 25% complete and **green RAG**. This projected involves piloting and rolling-out the Farm Carbon calculator across the Farm Cluster groups in the SDNPA. SDNPA allocated £45,000 to this project.

- **NPA Carbon Baseline work:** this involves developing a shared baseline and monitoring progress toward Net-Zero, using the South Downs and Broads Authority as pilots. The baseline assessment is now completed and will be rolled out across the other UK National Parks. SDNPA allocated £13,560 to this project.
- **South Downs Business Network:** this involves supporting local/rural businesses to transition to a low-carbon future, which launched in spring 2022. SDNPA allocated £30,000 to this project.
- **PeCAN (Petersfield Climate Action Network):** this project is 40% complete and **green RAG**. This 2 year 'Whole House' retro-fit project covers Petersfield/Winchester and the Rural Parishes and is now in its second year of deliver. SDNPA allocated £33,334 to this project.
- **WeCAN (Winchester Climate Action Network):** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**. This is a 2 year project, initiated in March 2022, supporting and developing community-based 'Net-Zero' plans, and rolling out of the IMPACT carbon assessment tool. SDNPA allocated £42,904 to this project.
- **Ouse Valley Cares:** the development phase of this project is 100% complete and we are awaiting confirmation of a funding bid submitted in May 2022 for the delivery phase.
- **Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) for Schools:** this project is 60% complete and **amber RAG**. We have completed one amazing SuDS in Schools project, with two more about to commence construction. This project is amber because there have been amendments to the design at one of the schools which will need to be re-submitted to the Planning Officer. Additional funding has been secured from the Department for Education for Carden Primary School. A construction company has been awarded the tender for Wallands Primary School construction. Hedge removal and replanting is complete and rain planters have been planted by the children.

4. **Priority area 3: A National Park for All**

4.1 Key achievements of note include:

- Generation Green, which connected young people to nature and increasing opportunities for pathways to green employment. Three residentials reached a total of 130 young people (or 296 pupil overnights). A total of 20 South Downs Youth Action days have been completed reaching a total of 248 young people. 29 online teacher training sessions were also completed. Over 530 teachers attended the live sessions and 350 more downloaded the recordings after the event.
- Encouraging young people to develop an understanding of and appreciation for our local environment is also a key aim for So Sussex, an innovative family run company aiming to offer people a range of enjoyable and educational outdoor experiences in the Sussex countryside. Through their 'Schools Without Walls' initiative, they have delivered 21 'Generation Green' activity days within the South Downs National Park. Children and young people that are traditionally less likely – due to social, economic and cultural factors – to connect with nature, or engage with nature and nature preservation/conservation were offered the opportunity to take part in the project. 615 children and young people from Sussex schools were supported to discover and explore and to connect to nature.
- The South Downs National Park Travel Grant Scheme targets schools with over 10% of students on Free School Meals in our most deprived urban communities around the National Park and aims to reduce the main barrier to outdoor learning identified by teachers in our schools survey; the cost of transport. The Travel Grant enables these schools to have subsidised coach travel to visit one of over 100 outdoor learning providers on the South Downs National Park Learning Map and supports our network approach to connecting schools and learning providers. For 2021/22 the grant fund was £20,000. This **enabled 3,866 students from 65 schools** to benefit from Learning Outside the Classroom in the SDNP.

- We engaged with 3,024 people at 32 pop up events at visitor hotspots across the SDNP.
 - 15 bursaries were awarded to writers from BAME backgrounds to focus new creative writing on the South Downs landscape.
 - We delivered a 'sense of nature' programme of mindful walks with Chichester Social Prescribers and Pulborough GP surgery.
 - Working with Enable Ability, the Western Area Rangers, supported by SDNPA Outreach and Volunteering staff, set up a volunteering programme to help young people with disabilities develop life skills, confidence and gain some work experience.
 - Initial discussions with the Seven Sisters Manager have identified a location for health and wellbeing activities to take place. We have agreed the Health and Well-Being Officer will lead some mindful walks as part of the new offering on the site.
- 4.2. Note that the priority to 'Develop the Our South Downs Learning Network' by reviewing the pilot of Ambassador Schools and extending the approach following learning, and running year 2 of the schools eco grant was **amber RAG** at year end. This was due to the ongoing impacts of COVID. However, this area of work is now back on track.
- 4.3 39 projects that are working towards A National Park for All were delivered through the Connecting People and Communities, Cultural Heritage and Access Theme Programme Boards in 2021/22. These include 20 ongoing projects and 19 projects that are now complete.
- 4.4 An additional corporate project delivering on this priority was completion of our Phase 2 entry signage project. A total of 30 signs were installed in Phase 2 across the park. This completes our entry signage project with a total of 49 signs now in place. These signs welcome people to the National Park and emphasise that it is a unique place to be treasured and cared for.

Ongoing projects:

- **Archaeology Walks Programme:** this project is 30% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Artist/writer in Residence SSCP Heritage Coast:** this project is 55% complete and **green RAG**. We commissioned Alina Azideh to be our writer in residence at Seven Sisters Country Park and the wider Sussex heritage coast. She continues to research and immerse herself into the landscape and history of the heritage coast, and has recently delivered a successful writer retreat at Seven Sisters Country Park, in which 14 writers benefitted from mentoring and professional development support, immersive time in landscape and activities to foster a closer connection to the South Downs landscape as a source of creative inspiration. Scoping is currently underway for some legacy elements for the project, including looking into digital technologies that may support imbedding the voices of participants in the landscape.
- **Artscape 2 (Timescape):** this project is 75% complete and **green RAG**. This project has been a huge success. It is supporting 26 people with physical and mental health issues to access the National Park through reflecting on the landscape and creating artefacts. We partnered with Weald and Downland Living Museum and Butser Ancient Farm to enable new audiences to have access to these cultural sites. A quote from a participant: *'This project has been amazing. It is the only time I am able to get out meet with others and be inspired by these places. Thank you'*
- **Beggars Bush Walk For All, Community Nature Area:** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Communities in the South Downs:** this project is 35% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Community Wanderings:** this project is 10% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Dark Night Skies activity packs:** this project is 50% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Egrets Way- Phase 5:** this project is 80% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Egrets Way- Phase 6:** this project is 20% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Footsteps App:** this project is 5% complete and **green RAG**.

- **Iron Age Build at Butser:** this project is 15% complete and **green RAG**. This is a project working in partnership with Operation Nightingale to build an Iron Age roundhouse at Butser Ancient Farm. It takes the extremely positive Bronze Age build a step forward, giving participants from Operation Nightingale a chance to get involved in further work in the South Downs with an archaeology focus. This project not only contributes to archaeological research by testing theories relating to Iron Age wall construction, it will further support participants with positive health and wellbeing outcomes, particularly given the challenges faced by many current and former Armed Services personnel with regards to mental and physical health.
- **Miles without Stiles:** this project is 90% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Notes to Self:** this project is 75% complete and **green RAG**. This successful project supported 61 people to access four circular walks and four creative workshops. People experiencing physical and mental health issues and social isolation connected with others and used their inspiration from being in National Park to be creative. A celebration event took place at Truleigh Hill where a group came together and sang around a fire. A quote from a participant: *"I felt so flippin happy all afternoon after that walk. Big tick for my mental health, thank you so much."*
- **Newhaven Travel Hub:** this project is 80% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Project Thrive (Allen Gallery):** this project is 0% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Seaford Head: Archaeological Investigation (Phase 1):** this project is 70% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Setting the Standard:** this project is 10% complete and **amber RAG**. The project is amber due to delays in funding.
- **Shifting the Gaze (extended):** this project is 0% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Stop a minute:** this project is 80% complete and **green RAG**.
- **Wealden Heath SAMM:** this project is 100% complete and **green RAG**.

Completed/closed projects:

- **A283 crossing:** completed in **Q4**
- **Beat the Street:** completed in **Q2**
- **Cissbury Digital Interpretation:** completed in **Q1**. The project delivered a series of high quality films covering 10 themes. Each film featured an archaeologist from either the National Trust or Worthing Museum, telling the story of the site from its Neolithic mines to its role in wartime defence. One film also celebrated the work of the National Trust ranger teams in caring for the site today. Films were made available via NFC and QR codes on plaques situated across the site, fixed to existing landscape furniture (such as gate posts, fence posts, finger posts and benches).
- **Deep time:** completed in **Q2**
- **Downland Man:** completed in **Q3**
- **Environmental Summer:** completed in **Q1**
- **Falmer to Woodingdean Path:** completed in **Q2**. Work to resurface the route began in late spring 2021 and continued during the summer months, with the path reopening to the public on 31st August 2021.
- **Friends of the SDW gates:** completed in **Q3**
- **Generation Green:** completed in **Q4**
- **Kingley Vale Interpretation:** completed in **Q2**
- **Lewes Castle:** completed in **Q3**
- **Midhurst Greenway:** closed in **Q2**
- **Petersfield Museum:** completed in **Q2**
- **Poetry for Wellbeing:** completed in **Q2**
- **Rother Valley Way:** closed in **Q3**

- **The Full Harvest:** completed in **Q2**
- **Tide Mills:** completed in **Q3**. An estimated 25,000 people attended a Heritage Celebration Week over five days in September 2021. A total of 13 schools and 3 colleges participated in the project. A documentary on the project was produced by Big Egg Films, and toured cinema venues in the area in February and March 2022, with tickets selling out for all venues. The project delivered a website, which includes information on heritage and wildlife, activity packs for children and young people, quizzes and Augmented Reality experiences.
- **Towner Art Packs:** completed in **Q2**
- **Workforce Support Webinars:** completed in **Q2**

5. Priority area 4: Rural Economy

- 5.1 SDNPA approved 57 Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) projects totalling £629,052. These projects will cover approx. 41,515 ha of land. These delivered across the range of FiPL objectives including 50 projects for 'nature', 50 for 'climate', 35 for 'people' and 52 for 'place'.
- 5.2 SDNPA jointly successfully secured £705,000.00 of funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund towards developing investment plans for a sustainable visitor economy.
- 5.3 We are successfully delivering the extended National Park Experience Collection (ENPEC), including the roll out of Ranger Experiences. There are now 87 live experiences on the National Parks UK website.
- 5.4 Fins and Forks was launched during the pandemic on the Sompting Estate in 2021 and subscribes to a sustainable, local ethos whilst adopting a flexible business model to combat economic uncertainty. Fins and Forks offers “Bait to Plate” experiences and cookery classes aimed at teaching participants how to “responsibly and confidently target, catch, prepare, cook and consume a range of local fish and seafood whilst at the same time providing a unique, intimate and fun experience”.
- 5.5 4 projects that are working towards the Rural Economy priority area were have been delivered through the Sustainable Economy and Tourism Theme Programme Board in 2021/22.

Ongoing projects:

- **Our South Downs:** this project is 90% complete and **green RAG**. “Our South Downs” is a South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) initiative to build a community of like-minded micro and small businesses, who share the same values around sustainability, into a local network group. The initiative has now launched, which will allow businesses and other organisations to connect with each other, share services and products, and work together towards sustainability. Our aim is to help kick-start a green recovery for the region’s economy following the pandemic whilst delivering our Management Plan priorities around climate change and the rural economy.
- **South Downs Hub Feasibility Study (SSCP):** this project is 5% complete and **green RAG**. The Pump Barn at Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP) became available due to a change in the way the site was managed. The concept of a multi-use space, with elements of retail, farm produce, bar, demo space, gallery, conferencing facility etc was developed. We intend to create an opportunity to highlight the products of the businesses of ‘Our South Downs’ whilst also improving the visitor experience and ensuring steady footfall to the site year round (reducing the winter and term time slumps that the site is prone to). Currently we’re working with Pritchard Architects to design the space and have engaged a local craftsman to develop the retail furniture.
- **Sustainable Business Certification Scheme:** this project is 80% complete and **green RAG**.

6. Priority area 5: Seven Sisters Country Park

- 6.1 Quarterly updates have been provided over the last year to both P&R committee and the NPA with the last one provided in May 2022.
- 6.2 On 1st of April 2020, the Trading Company (South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd) took over management of Seven Sisters Country Park.
- 6.3 The Project Board continues to oversee the original NPA remit for the Phase I construction project at Seven Sisters. We are now in the final stages of the Phase I construction works. Our new toilet block was opened for Easter weekend and provides a significantly improved number of toilets as well as disabled and changing places toilet facilities.
- 6.4 The Visitor Centre building has also now been completed and was opened to the public on Saturday 16th April showcasing our new interpretation and visitor information. The retail elements of the visitor centre have since been added and will evolve over time with new lines of produce/crafts added. The key changes to the Visitor Centre include an improved level floor, enabling full access and maximising space, as well as a log burner, new glass doors with the shared identify on.
- 6.5 The Ranger office has also been refurbished and the Seven Sisters team have moved back into this new improved space. The Turkey Barn is now available to book as a meeting space.
- 6.6 Signage has been installed around Seven Sisters to try and improve visitor flow. One remaining sign is due to be installed later in June when we have completed works to the rear courtyard and Dairy Barn (the only outstanding works on the Phase I contract, due for completion on 16th June). The Dairy Barn when completed will provide offices and staff facilities and Natural England are expected to occupy one of the new offices.
- 6.7 The Foxhole Cottages have undergone essential maintenance and repair work to roofs, walls, windows and repointing. The cottages have also had new bathrooms and decoration and are partially complete with the remaining works due to be completed under a separate contract for Phase Ia works and will now aim to be finished by the end of 2022.
- 6.8 The Phase Ia contractor are due to start at Seven Sisters in July 2022 and will complete the outstanding Phase I works including the improvements to the Facilities Block at the Camping Barn and outstanding works to the Foxhole Cottages. In addition under Phase Ia we also plan to develop the Pump Barn building at Exceat.

7. Priority area 6: Delivering the Statutory Planning Service

- 7.1 During the year the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) received 39 compliments and 61 complaints about the services it provides. Of the 61 complaints, two were in relation to Countryside Policy and Management, and one was for Corporate Services. The remainder related to the Planning function (including for the five host planning authorities where they undertake planning work on the SDNPA's behalf)
- 7.2 One complaint (received in the previous reporting year) was taken to the Ombudsman who closed the case after initial enquiries. Summary information about compliments, comments and complaints and the Ombudsman's investigation is at Appendix 10.
- 7.3 81% of major, minor and other planning decisions were dealt with within agreed timescales.
- 7.4 We have progressed work on our digital engagement at Shoreham Cement Works. We engaged PlaceChangers to lead on this work and also instructed a separate company to film drone footage that we will use as part of the consultation.

8. Priority area 7: Major Projects

- 8.1 During 2021/22 we collected £161,962.17 of S106 and spent £509,742.39. S106 monies helping to deliver ecological mitigation in Bordon, sports pavilion refurb in Petworth, tree and hedgerow planting and provision of a car club in Lewes.
- 8.2 Over 400 projects are being assessed for inclusion on the 2022 Infrastructure Business Plan (IBP) - i.e. spending of 2021/22 CIL Receipts). In the year 2021/22 we gave £818,809 to different projects across the Park and £509,054.57 directly to Parish / Town Councils. The

CIL collected in 2021/22 was £2,589,066.17. S106: The closing date for CIL bids was 28th February 2022. Example CIL Projects funded this year include, play and sports equipment in Stedham and Iping, a new sports pavilion in Fernhurst, Natural Flood Management Projects in Liss and new outdoor education facilities at a school in Droxford.

9. Priority area 8: Generating Income

- 9.1 £1,368,000 was secured in 2021/22. Full year income was below target due to an unsuccessful Tree Call to Action Fund and a delayed Ouse Valley Climate Action Bid. However, we were successful in securing additional funding for Seven Sisters Country Park from South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and we have an exceptionally strong pipeline of £4.6 million with which to begin the new financial year in 2022/23.
- 9.2 From December to June (Q4 - Q1 2022) the Income Generation and Marketing Team progressed 8 significant applications for the SDNPA (4 of these were new bids, 4 of these were full applications). Of these, 2 bids have been successful, 1 is recommended for support, 1 unsuccessful with the remaining pending decision (either at full application or EOI). The following applications that had a final decision at the time of the last report (i.e. Unsuccessful or Funding secured or in delivery) have been removed from the main table at 9.3.

Fund & Value	Project	Status	Value
DEFRA - Green Recovery Challenge Fund	Downs to the Sea - Water restoration project	Unsuccessful	£1,000,000
DEFRA - Green Recovery Challenge Fund	Restoring Hampshire Hedgerows - Hedgerow Restoration Project	Funding secured and in delivery	£150,000
Woolfson Foundation	Seven Sisters Improvements	Funding secured and in delivery	£70,000

- 9.3 In line with the new proposals agreed at Policy & Resources Committee; full applications after that point have been shared with the Committee Chair. In addition to this the Trust has secured 8 meetings with potential Major Donors, submitted 4 Corporate applications, and submitted 22 Trust and Foundation applications.

Fund & Value	Project	Status	Value	Partners
Lottery Communities Fund - Climate Action Fund	Ouse Valley Cares - Community Climate Change Initiative	Full bid submitted decision pending	£2,200,000	OVESCO, CES, SCDA, Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Seaford Community Partnership, Lewes District Council, Transition Town Lewis, SDNPA, SDNPT

Fund & Value	Project	Status	Value	Partners
DEFRA - Tree Call to Action Fund	Expanding Wood from the Weald to the Waves - Woodland Creation Project	Unsuccessful	£500,000	SxNP, SDNPA, SDNPT, Woodland Trust, Brighton and Hove Council
Lewes CIL	Ouse Valley Footpath Improvements	Full bid submitted being recommended for support	£35,000	SDNPA, Egrets Way
Get Britain Building Fund	Seven Sisters Improvements	Funding secured and in delivery	£200,000	N/A
Heritage Lottery Fund - Main Grants	Downs to the Sea - Water restoration project	Full bid submitted decision pending	£1,200,000	RSPB, ARRT, Brighton and Hove Council, SDNPA, SDNPT
Landscape Recovery Pilots	Lapwings and Landscapes: Nature Recovery in the Arun Valley	Full bid submitted decision pending	£500,000	17 Landowners inc WWT, SWT and RSPB
Landscape Enhancement Initiative	Ebernoe and Butcherlands Landscape Enhancement Scheme	Full bid submitted decision pending	£123,000	Sussex Wildlife Trust
Coast to Capital Business Case Development Fund	Natural: Coast to Capital	Funding secured and in delivery	£65,000	Palladium, Rural West Sussex
Changing Place Funding	Seven Sisters Improvements	Funding secured and in delivery	£20,000	Wealden District Council

10. Priority area 9: New Ways of Working

- 10.1 A mechanism for gathering partners' feedback of their experience of working with us will be incorporated into standard processes within the coming months. This was a recommended course of action from the ALS partnership review. Separately, a review of partnerships is underway as a consequence of new Corporate Plan priorities. Strategic partnerships with key organisations has been particularly prevalent during this last quarter with the government's response to Glover bringing together partners new and old to find common responses.
- 10.2 We continued to provide platforms for target groups to showcase their experiences to inspire future generations and new audiences. We achieved a number of pieces of coverage, reaching over 1 million people through broadcast, print and online media. The Colour of Chalk podcasts were promoted to an audience of over 8,500 through our newsletter.

11. Project Performance Reporting: Strategic Fund Implications

- 11.1 The Strategic Fund has been closed to new project funding applications since the start of Q3. Therefore there is no change to the strategic fund balance as presented to Members in the Q2 Performance and Project report which summarised a closing balance for year-end of £280,509 available for future projects.
- 11.2 The Theme Programme Boards were awarded a £300,000 budget for specific project delivery in respect of our PMP outcomes for 2021/2022 (which including carry overs totalled £512,120), by the end of Q4 £495,524 had been allocated to projects some of this remained unspent by the end of Q4.

TOTAL	Awarded budget	Total budget inc. carry over	Allocated to projects by Q4	Spent by end Q4	Carried over to 2022/23
Grassroots	120,000	120,000	143,261.84	143,261.84	0
Landscape and Biodiversity	60,000	111,400	111,355	86,233.79	21,820
Cultural Heritage	60,000	81,600	76,270	63,350.75	18,035
Sustainable Access	60,000	139,700	138,445	131,104.75	0
Connecting People and Communities	60,000	119,420	119,454	75,795.30	43,050
Economy and Tourism	60,000	60,000	50,000	16,550.00	10,000

12. Annual Governance Statement

- 12.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020/21 detailed 9 actions for 2021/22. These are monitored throughout 2021/22 and reported on quarterly. See Appendix 11 for progress on the Annual Governance Statement actions for Q4.

13. Human Resources & Health and Safety

- 13.1.1 The Human Resources & Health and Safety paper for 2020/21 detailed 8 actions for 2021/22. These are monitored throughout 2021/22 and reported on quarterly. See Appendix 12 for progress on the Human Resources and Health and Safety actions for Q4.

14. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	It will be the case that, as per the standing orders and the 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.

Implication	Yes*/No
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
Which PMP Outcomes/ Corporate plan objectives does this deliver against	We have listed in the report and appendices which PMP outcomes and corporate plan objectives our corporate and project work link to
Links to other projects or partner organisations	N/A
How does this decision contribute to the Authority's climate change objectives	Please see the achievements section (para 3) regarding Climate Action. It sets out high level targets around climate action
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes - Priority area three outlines the projects that have a specific focus on encouraging all people including those with protected characteristics to engage with and access the National Park. Projects across all priority areas are subject to an equalities impact assessment at the appropriate stage of their development and are monitored and adjusted accordingly. Any issues identified are highlighted within this report
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal??	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Data Protection implications?	None
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 some extent to the delivery of Partnership Management Plan outcomes, all of which are aimed at delivering sustainability. We also consider sustainability issues as part of our project

Implication	Yes*/No
	approval process.

15. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

15.1 Robust corporate planning and monitoring of 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>

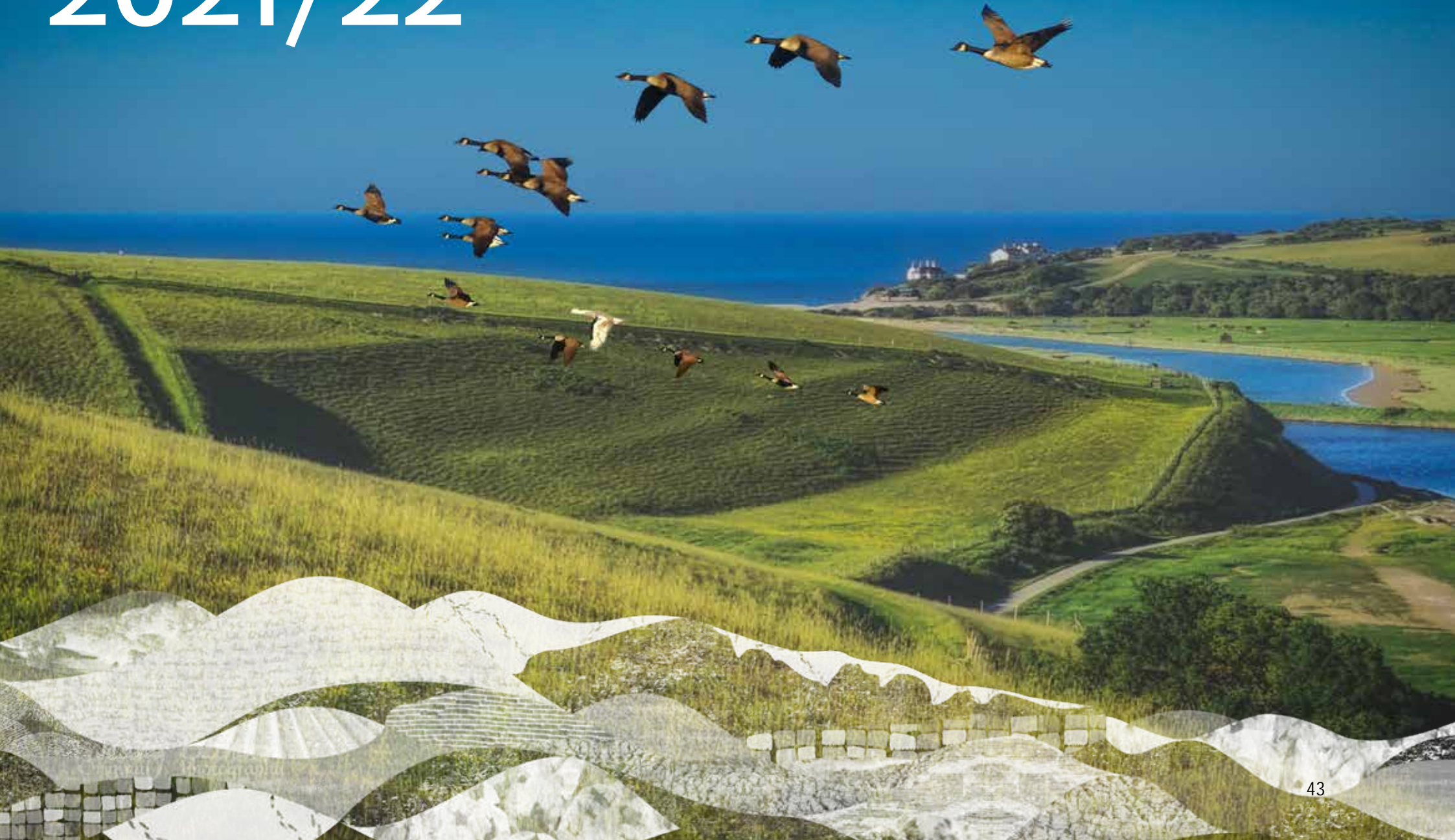
Tanya Hibberd, Performance and Research Lead & Liz Gent, Project Management Lead, South Downs National Park Authority

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 Email: tanya.hibberd@southdowns.gov.uk;
liz.gent@southdowns.gov.uk

- Appendices
1. Annual Review 2021-22
 2. Comms achievements 2021-22 infographic
 3. PMP partner celebration 2021-22
 4. Q4/year end Corporate performance 2021-22
 5. PMP outcomes and priorities
 6. Corporate Plan five year measures 2021-22
 7. PMP indicators 2020-25 progress update
 8. P&R projects dashboard Q4 2021-22
 9. Grassroots dashboard 2021-22
 10. CCC report 2021-22

	11. Q4 Annual Governance Statement update
	12 Q4 Human Resources & Health and Safety update
SDNPA Consultees	Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services, Business Service Manager; Countryside and Policy Managers
External Consultees	None
Background Documents	Corporate Plan 2021/22 Q4 performance and projects report Tableau Dashboard Link for Q4 Report Grassroots and Open Access projects in 2021/22 Tableau training video

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021/22



A YEAR OF CHANGE IN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

Emerging from the pandemic with a renewed, re-energised focus on nature recovery and creating new and innovative opportunities for people to connect with the National Park, it's been a busy year of significant progress in respect of our Purposes and Duty.

Firstly, improvements for our communities and visitors, on both the eastern and western side of the National Park. The pandemic underlined just how important the South Downs is for people's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as the need to have excellent infrastructure for visitors. Our investment of just under £2m at Seven Sisters – a key gateway to the National Park – is providing a world-class visitor centre that's deserving of this renowned location, giving people everything they need for a great day-out and inspiring people of all ages to care for this fragile site.

In the west of the National Park, Butser Hill is truly iconic as the highest point of the chalk ridge and we're pleased to have been able to provide significant funding for a project that will strengthen the visitor offering here, as well as benefit the landscape and its wonderful wildlife. More on this next year.

Our new **Corporate Plan**, demonstrates that we are a National Park Authority with a strong vision to deliver the outcomes in the Partnership Management Plan.

This year we made major progress with our goal to tackle the biodiversity and climate crises with positive action. Alongside the South Downs Trust, we launched **#ReNature**, the biggest campaign initiated by the National Park, which seeks to raise £100m over the next 10 years to create an extra 13,000 hectares of habitat where plants and animals can thrive. The response has been

phenomenal, with dozens of potential sites put forward for ReNaturing and significant fundraising generated in the first year.

Evidence of successful nature recovery has been shown as one major project, Heathlands Reunited, reached its conclusion. The project has successfully conserved and enhanced 23,825 hectares of lowland heath over five years. An assessment conducted by external consultants, determined that the project had been 'significant' in restoring the ecological condition and nature conservation value of heathland within the National Park. A testament to how much can be achieved when partners work together.

Through the Farming in Protected Landscapes Initiative (FiPL), the Authority has been a regional leader in climate action. A total of 72 projects have been supported to the tune of over £600,000 of funding, each championing a different strand of sustainability.

Over 12,000 new trees, planted through the Trees for the Downs initiative, and fittingly dedicated to The Queen in her Platinum Jubilee year – represent another triumph for the environment.

Engaging with young people is a key priority for the National Park and this year has been a hive of activity, with visits, residential stays, school trips, teacher

training and educational sessions inspiring a new generation to appreciate the wonders of the South Downs.

With more than two million people living in or within 10km of the South Downs, this is, and always has been, a National Park for everyone. Our unwavering commitment to reach new and diverse audiences continued in earnest this year, with dynamic engagement work and unique projects providing new voices and perspectives on the South Downs landscape.

We know the challenges and opportunities ahead will require determination, innovation and collaboration – and this review shows we are committed to deliver for both people and nature.

Trevor Beattie

Chief Executive

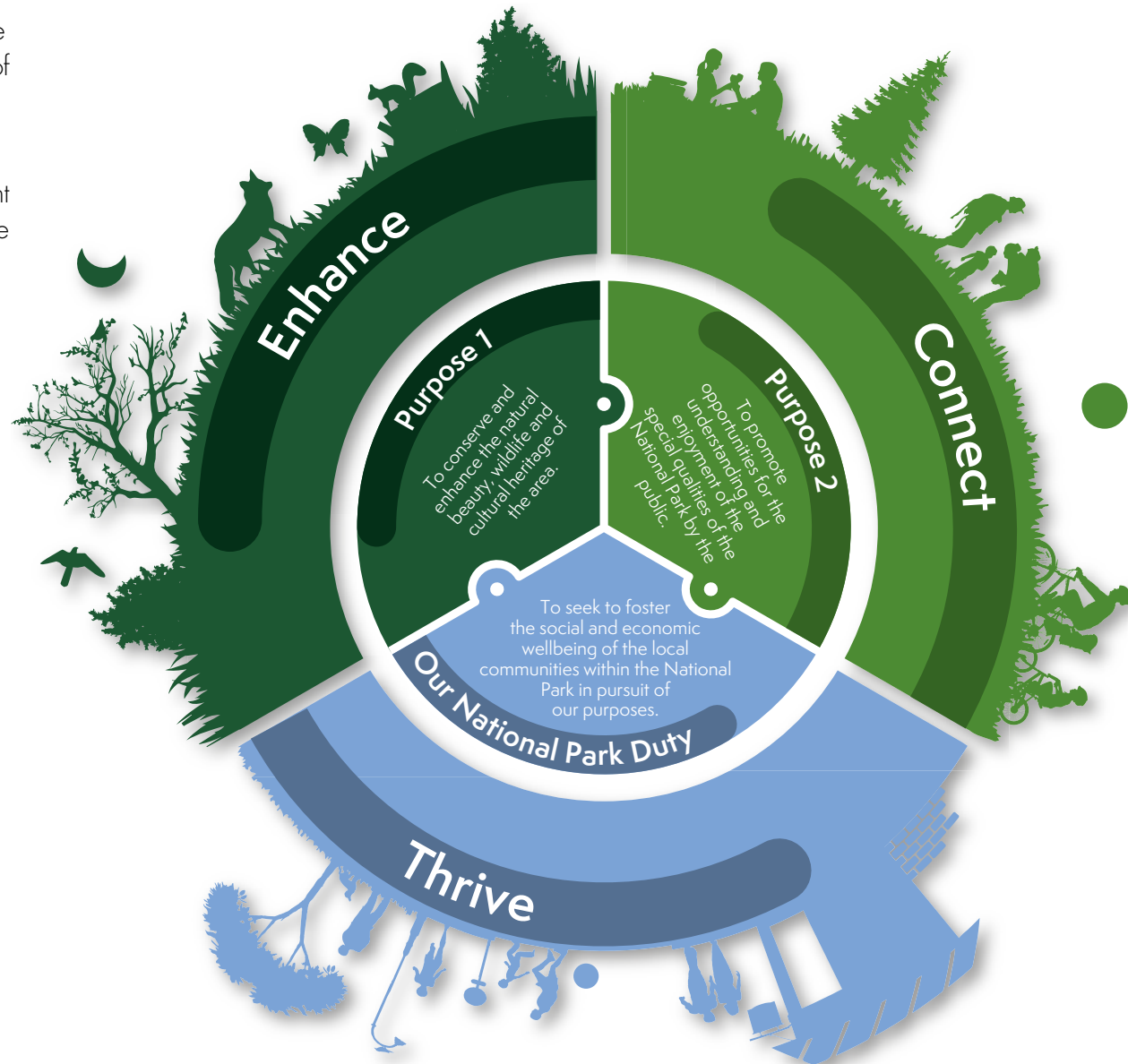
This Annual Review highlights some of our key achievements for 2021/22 which link to the objectives laid out in our [Corporate Plan 2021/22](#)

Cover image: © Wayne Spring – Early morning flight



OUR PURPOSES AND DUTY

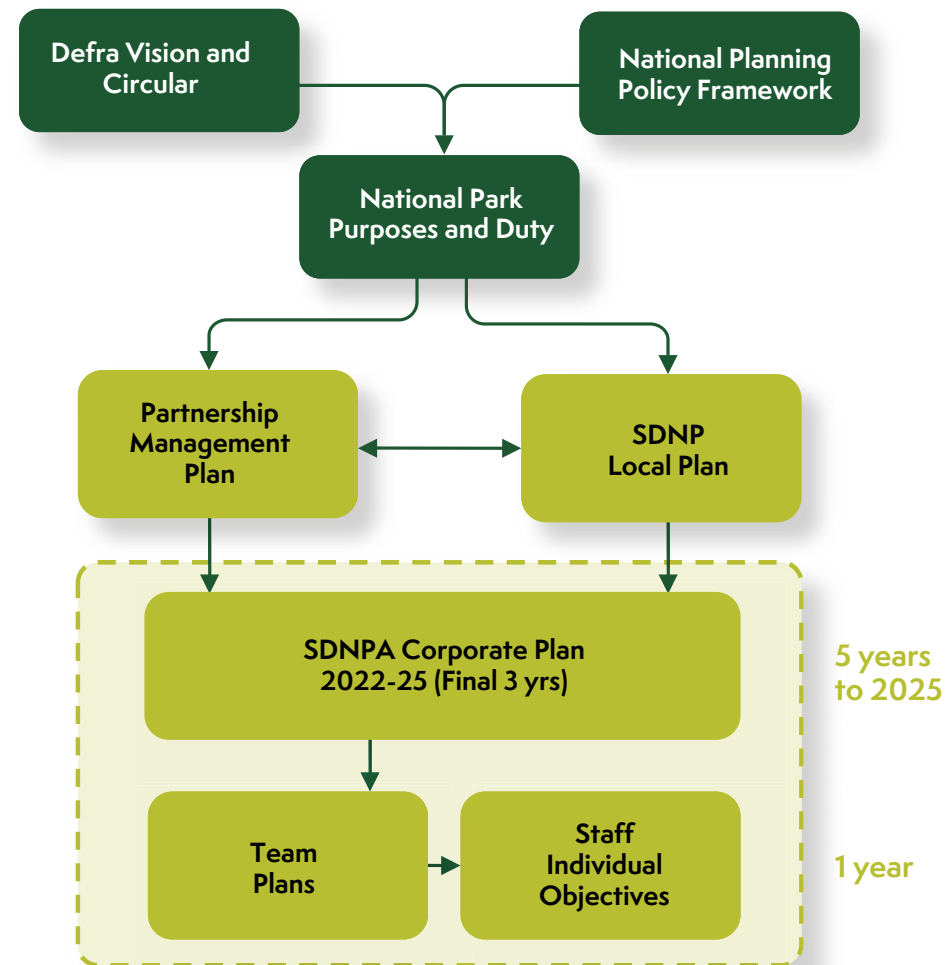
- **Our first Purpose is:** To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- **Our second Purpose is:** To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.
- **The Duty on the SDNPA is:** To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.



THE CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH WE WORK

The diagram sets out the policy and strategic framework steering the work of the South Downs National Park Authority. 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 2021/22

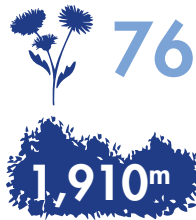
NATURE RECOVERY

#ReNature

Campaign
Launch

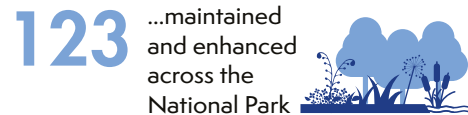
**SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK**

LANDSCAPE & BIODIVERSITY



HEDGEROW
...laid.

CHALK GRASSLAND, WOODLAND,
HEATHLAND & RIVER SITES



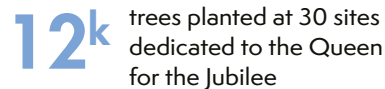
HEATHLANDS REUNITED (Yr5)



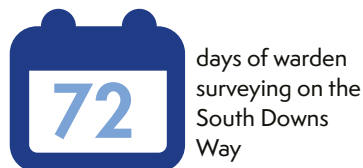
FARMING IN A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE (FiPL)



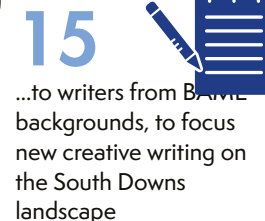
TREES FOR THE DOWNS



**OUR 206 SOUTH DOWNS
VOLUNTEER RANGERS spent...**

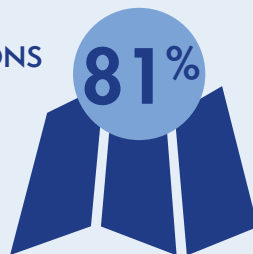


BURSARIES



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(major, minor
and other) dealt
with within
agreed
timescales



CIL FUNDING
£1.37m

...awarded to **29**
projects



SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK

in person engagement



at Pop Ups
(Summer 2021)



EDUCATION



...school children from our more deprived
communities visited, thanks to our grants for
schools and colleges

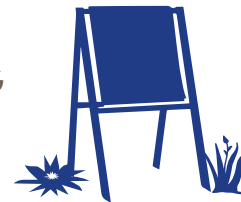


...children enjoyed in-school sessions from
providers in the South Downs Learning
Network

OUTSIDE LEARNING



...online teacher training sessions supporting
544 teachers to take learning outside



SIGNAGE

...additional
entry signs
installed
(**49** in total to
date)

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



Total followers



Youtube subscribers

WEBSITE VISITORS



E-NEWSLETTER

signups to date

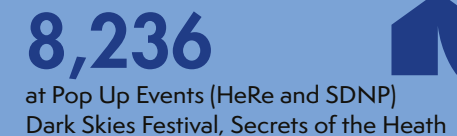


EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

VIRTUAL



IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT



SOUTH DOWNS WAY

1,000+
new Waymarkers on the
SDW and Serpent Trail



ACCESS

31 ...new signs installed on
the England Coast Path
National Trail



CASE STUDY: HEATHLANDS REUNITED

Heathlands Reunited was a five-year landscape scale partnership project. The project aimed to improve the condition of threatened heathland habitats in the South Downs National Park, and enthuse and inspire people to visit them, learn more about them, and use them responsibly. The project was supported by 11 partner organisations working across 34 heathland sites within the National Park and Wealden Heath sites beyond its central northern boundary.

The intended outcomes of the project were:

- **Heritage will be** – better managed, in better condition, identified/recorded
- **People will have** – developed skills, learnt about heritage, volunteered time
- **For communities, environmental impacts will be reduced;** more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage, the local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit.

Partners contributed nearly £1 million in match funding (cash and in-kind) towards the total project cost of £2.37 million. This included a cash contribution from the South Downs National Park Authority of £150,000. The remaining funding came from a grant of £1.44 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The partnership worked together with a wide range of stakeholders to reverse heathland decline and to improve heathland heritage.

The project has exceeded most of its capital works targets, with the result that heathland heritage is bigger and better. The final area completed was **966ha** which exceeded the original aim of **666ha**. The project has also been successful in raising the profile of heathlands both at higher levels within partner organisations and beyond the project area.

For communities, environmental impacts will be reduced; more people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage, the local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit. During the project, a total of **15,764** people attended **209** in-person events and a further **105,755** attended/viewed **30** virtual events.

In addition, over the course of the project, **698** participants made up of volunteers and partner staff attended 60 training sessions. These figures surpassed the anticipated numbers. Across the project activities, participants (including participants in training events, volunteers and members of the community) have reported an increase in their awareness and understanding of the importance of heathlands.

Volunteer recruitment was a great success, **114** volunteers were recruited directly to assist the project to join existing volunteers from partner organisations. Volunteer time amounted to **6,212** days, exceeding the target of **5,700** volunteer days.

The success of the project has spawned a new "Heathlands Reunited Wealden Heath SAMM" project, bringing together 12 likeminded organisations to help protect and enhance the Shortheath Common Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Wealden Heath Special Protection Area (SPA), funded by East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) and Whitehill Town Council (WTC) through Section 106 (S106) developer contributions. These sites sit on the boundary of the South Downs National Park. The project will inform, engage and involve local communities to use their heathland in a responsible way and protect them for future generations.



© SDNPA/Sam Moore

CASE STUDY: SEVEN SISTERS

Ownership of the iconic Seven Sisters Country Park was transferred from East Sussex County Council to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) in July 2021, following a two-year negotiating process.

Seven Sisters Country Park is a unique place. It comprises 280 hectares of chalk cliffs, meandering river valley and open chalk grassland. It's home to grazing livestock, rare flora and fauna and is a corridor for a large number of migrating birds.

The Authority is making a long-term commitment to Seven Sisters Country Park and is working with the South Downs National Park Trust to make substantial investment in the site. This investment underpins the Authority's long-term plans to conserve and enhance Seven Sisters Country Park to ensure that it continues to be an iconic, healthy and cherished place for future generations. The initial phase of work costing just under £2m is almost complete at Exceat, including a refurbished visitor centre, new and accessible toilet facilities, a locally-sourced and sustainable takeaway food service, and better signage. There will also be renovated accommodation at Foxholes, allowing more people to spend a night enjoying the dark night skies reserve. The renovated visitor centre and grab-and-go food offering are due to be opened to the public by early summer.

Majestic short-eared owls were spotted at the Park this winter, delighting birdwatchers and walkers alike, captivated by their aerial acrobatics as they hunt for food. The bird of prey is an incredible spectacle of nature, but, up until recently, seeing one of these owls would have been an extremely rare sight at the country park. It comes after rangers at Seven Sisters worked hard to manage the vegetation in the chalk grassland landscape, including introducing cattle and ponies which have been rotated around the site.

The Authority have been engaging with local stakeholders and parishes throughout the transfer process, and will continue this engagement as owners of the site. Public consultations were held in February 2020, and the feedback obtained was used to inform the vision and planning application for the works at the Park. A new website has been set up for Seven Sisters, which you can visit here: sevensisters.org.uk



© SDNPA/Sam Moore

The Authority hopes to continue to enhance the Park further in 2022, thanks to additional funds raised by the South Downs National Park Trust. This work will include improvements to the Pump Barn at Exceat, and completion of the Foxhole cottages and facilities block at the Camping Barn.



© Peter Brooks

SEVEN SISTERS
SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

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.**

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:

OUTCOMES 1-4 IN THE PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-25

- Outcome 1 – Landscape & Natural Beauty
- Outcome 2 – Increasing Resilience
- Outcome 3 – Habitats & Species
- Outcome 4 – Arts & Heritage

Each Outcome will be illustrated with a case study in the following pages.

WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO IN OUR CORPORATE PLAN	WHAT WE HAVE DONE
Deliver the strategic work streams for the People and Nature Network (Green Infrastructure)	The East Winchester Landscape Conversation final report and all the appendices are on the SDNPA website. Infrastructure and Environment Strategy Lead to act as lead coordinator within the Winchester area looking at the various work streams ahead. Please see the case study on page 10.
Restore nature at scale. Develop and implement a South Downs Delivery Plan for Wildlife. Work with regional and local partners (inc. Local Nature Partners (LNPs) and South East Protected Landscapes (SEPL) to define Nature Recovery Networks (NRNs) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Our aim is for 33% of National Park land, or 13,000ha, to be dedicated for nature by 2030. To help us achieve this we launched a Call for Nature Sites (C4NS) window for landowners to express interest in restoring nature on their sites. We received an impressive 76 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) by the closing date, which are now being triaged with a lead officer allocated to take them forwards. A wide range of projects were put forward for consideration, including chalk grassland creation, pond installation, mixed woodland planting, and wildflower meadow creation.
Aim to achieve climate neutrality for the National Park Authority	As well as discussions with partners regarding development of the SDNPA approach to offsetting the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions that it can't reduce; SDNPA's latest actions have been looking at fossil fuel use in SDNPA vehicles. Members of the sustainability group have arranged for an EV 4WD demo after undertaking research with Ranger staff and Seven Sisters Country Park staff to evaluate its ability and application.

OUTCOME 1: LANDSCAPE & NATURAL BEAUTY

CASE STUDY

EAST WINCHESTER LANDSCAPE CONVERSATION

In 2018 the South Downs National Park Authority published the People and Nature Network (PANN)

It sets out how taking a Green Infrastructure approach to environmental issues over the South East region could create multiple benefits for nature, people and the economy.

The study identified twelve individual strategic areas or 'hot spots' where targeted collaborative action would be needed owing to a range of interlinked and complex environmental issues in these places. One of these hot spots is the area **East of Winchester**, currently experiencing development pressure; under supply of natural greenspace; recreational pressure on sensitive sites; traffic, roads and non-motorised users in conflict, water quality problems, flooding and one of the lowest provisions per KM2 of public rights of way in the whole of the National Park. These issues are combining to erode the quality of the landscape for both people and nature – there is no doubt that this part of the National Park is under pressure.

A study was commissioned to look at how to restore East Winchester, specifically, the health, vitality and abundance of the landscape and nature. At the heart of this study lies the forward plan which was conceived with local stakeholders as the decision makers. The report and forward plan were published in February 2022.

SUCCESSSES

Many individuals and organisations could be potential partners to work together with the National Park Authority to find solutions and convene around common goals and ambitions. To start these conversations, SDNPA invited local stakeholders to come together and talk in a series of three workshops to discuss the issues, possible solutions and actions to address these issues. We also talked to over 500 members of the public in a series of pop up consultation events in and around Winchester, including an event for young people kindly hosted at the Winchester Science Centre.

The process of shaping the results of the many discussions, opinions and ideas is set out in a report; the 'East Winchester Landscape Conversation' which concludes with the

forward plan for action. This is the stakeholder's forward plan for landscape restoration which the South Downs National Park Authority helped to coalesce and take shape.

CHALLENGES

Many people in Winchester didn't know anything about the South Downs National Park (SDNP) despite it being on the doorstep. Comments such as 'there's nothing to do in the South Downs' were made. There is a long term issue around the offer from the SDNP to the people of Winchester.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Networking at the workshops helped stakeholders who had not previously worked together find synergies between themselves and others. Since then there have been several initiatives which have developed as a result of the East Winchester Landscape Conversation.

LOOKING AHEAD

There was an aspiration from the stakeholders to continue as a Landscape Forum and this will be investigated further during 2022. There is further work which could be done to link with Health and Well Being, educational and volunteering groups and organisations in and around Winchester. Since the workshop events several new initiatives have started in the East Winchester Area and are in development by stakeholders – watch this space. The PANN will continue to provide useful evidence, especially on the 'people, climate, nature' aspects of the forthcoming requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS).



OUTCOME 2: INCREASING RESILIENCE CASE STUDY

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

Taking immediate and effective action on Climate Change is a priority for the National Park Authority. It is one of the biggest challenges facing the National Park. The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has a key role in meeting the challenges arising from the climate and nature emergency in terms of advocacy, influence and delivery. Through the development of our Climate Change strategy and Action Plan we set out how we will work to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change on the landscape, habitats, communities and economy of the National Park.

SUCCESSES

In 2021 the SDNPA commissioned Small World Consultants to produce a carbon baseline assessment for the National Park. Published in January 2022, this essential piece of evidence work helps the National Park to achieve Net-Zero by its target date of 2040.

This project also sought to develop and apply a standard approach for a carbon baseline and metrics for all of the UK National Park Authorities. Including targets for land use, land cover change and forestry, all of the UK National Parks have signed-up, along with a number of AONBs and Conservation Boards.

SDNPA played a key part in an application to join the 'Race to Zero' for the UK National Parks, submitted in November 2022.

CHALLENGES

The Climate Change agenda is very broad, and the SDNPA needs to focus on the areas where we can have the greatest impact and influence. This includes advocacy at a national level, achieved through our work with the Family of UK National Parks at COP26 in Glasgow. We also need to deliver effectively at a strategic, park-wide scale and help support local, community based action whilst also working beyond our boundaries developing adaptation responses at landscape scale.

The challenge of delivering emission reductions to meet Net-Zero targets is enormous and there is a huge funding and resource gap. New sources of funding, especially

from the private sector, are needed to address this gap.

Delivery of Net-Zero targets requires major changes in land use and land management. As an example, 20% of land needs to be taken out of intensive agriculture whilst maintaining food production levels. This is an example of the potential conflict between different land uses – 'less space, more pressure'.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The SDNPA currently act as convenor for the UK National Park Climate Change & Energy Group. This group seeks to coordinate Climate Action across the UK family of National Parks (including Scotland and Wales). The group have developed a national delivery plan, working together across priority areas. An example has been the work to establish shared metrics and targets for Net-Zero.

LOOKING AHEAD

Work towards our Net-Zero target for the South Downs National Park and deliver emissions reductions through:

- Nature-based solutions
- Community based Net-Zero planning and projects
- The launch of the Climate Change digital Resource Hub
- Engagement with the launch of the 'Count Us In' campaign

OUTCOME 3: HABITATS & SPECIES CASE STUDY

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

There has been an increasing focus at a national and local level on the current state of biodiversity and what actions we can take to restore it. National Parks have a key role in conserving and enhancing wildlife. However, as it stands our current monitoring does not allow us to adequately describe the ongoing health of our wildlife and our contribution to its conservation. To address this we have developed the Biodiversity Monitoring framework, which focuses on five key areas,

- Habitat extent
- Habitat condition
- Species
- Projects and habitat management
- Planning

SUCCESSSES

In this first year, we have adopted the framework, established a working group and developed an annual work plan. We have developed three species monitoring programmes for farmland birds, butterflies and dragonflies, which give park wide data that can be compared with national trends. In addition we have been obtaining data that can refine our knowledge of habitat extent.

CHALLENGES

Collecting and collating statistically relevant data is a massive task. The main challenge is the resource to undertake this, internally and in partner organisations. Another challenge is to develop a methodology to monitor condition of our key habitats which is not too time consuming and a set of focused species monitoring programmes that can be compared nationally.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

It is important that we work with partners both to develop suitable methodology for monitoring biodiversity and in the collection and collation of data. The biological record centres are core to this as custodians of a considerable amount of data. The species monitoring programmes are developed with others, for example, the farmland bird survey has been developed with six partner organisations. It involves co-ordination by the British Trust for Ornithology and numerous volunteers carrying out surveys and submitting data. Likewise, Butterfly conservation and the British Dragonfly Society have helped by developing their current monitoring programmes to fit the National Park boundary.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our action plan for year two includes

- Trial rapid habitat condition assessment methodologies
- Identifying priority and iconic species for the South Downs
- Developing a fourth species monitoring programme using the National Plant Monitoring scheme

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OUTCOME 4: ARTS & HERITAGE CASE STUDY

CONSERVE HERITAGE

Cultural heritage in the National Park is being actively used to inspire new audiences about its special landscapes, and the landscapes, in turn, are continuing to inspire creativity. Its unique value is in helping us to engage with the present, by understanding our human journey.

SUCCESSES

Over the course of 2021-22, 11 projects were in live delivery. Collectively, the projects and activities supported by SDNPA reached 35,196 participants, delivered through 30 partner organisations, and benefitted from input by over 50 freelance creatives. In addition, new digital assets including podcasts (such as The Full Harvest with Applause Rural Touring), digital interpretation (10 new short films at Cissbury Ring, developed in partnership with the National Trust and Worthing Museum) and Augmented Reality experiences (through seven AR experiences from LYT Productions) at Tide Mills .

CHALLENGES

The continued uncertainties facing cultural heritage organisations, as well as the high demands on time and resource, has continued to require flexibility as we rebuild after the pandemic but also reassess our priorities and principles in light of impacts to our communities and rural economies.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

SDNPA cultural heritage work is delivered wholly through partnership. We benefit from a wide variety of skills, perspectives and opportunities thanks to our partners, and they are also crucial in supporting our mission to address equity and access to countryside for a wider variety of people. The alignment between the DCMS sectors and partners and the strategic priorities is well evidenced through comparison of the Landscape Review (Glover, 2019) and the Arts Council England 10 year strategy, 'Let's Create'.

LOOKING AHEAD

Cultural heritage projects will continue to focus on equity, using its resources to work with priority audiences who have faced the greatest barriers to experiencing and finding belonging in countryside. Creativity and culture present a powerful opportunity for people to find and tell their own stories.

We also have potential to explore the role of cultural heritage in communicating the generational change ahead for landscape in terms of both climate change and our responses to it. Looking back to the deep time changes in the landscape, we can work with communities to explore what new futures for our rural spaces could be through archaeology, art and creative writing.



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: ENHANCE

CALL FOR NATURE SITES

In 2021, SDNPA launched an initiative inviting interested landowners, land managers, communities, businesses, and conservation groups to put forward possible sites where new wildlife habitat could be created, contributing to nature recovery in the South Downs National Park.

We were looking to identify potential projects, ranging from well-developed project ideas, through to expressions of interest in putting forward a site to explore further.

The Call for Nature Sites is a pilot approach that we are testing to help deliver our nature recovery ambitions as set out in our **#ReNature** Campaign. It is based upon the concept of the 'call for sites' approach used in planning but adapted to help identify potential sites for nature recovery projects.

The first 2 month 'window for applications' closed in January 2022 with **76** expressions of interest received. Proposals of all sizes and scales have been put forward and SDNPA are now supporting the development of suitable projects, providing specialist advice and help in matching with appropriate funding mechanisms.



© SDNPA

WOODLAND OPPORTUNITY MAPPING

Sussex Nature Partnership, Woodland Trust and South Downs National Park Authority have collaborated to produce a Woodland Opportunity Map for Sussex and the areas of the South Downs National Park in Hampshire. This is a GIS based tool to help farmers, landowners and managers with initial guidance on identifying sites suitable for woodland creation in Sussex and South Downs National Park. It uses a methodology applied in other sensitive landscapes, such as Nidderdale AONB and Yorkshire Dales National Park. It provides a high level indication of suitability which does not include all factors for consideration and so must be followed by scrutiny of a more complete set of information. But it will act as a useful first screening of where opportunities for woodland creation in this area of the south-east are most likely to occur and where extra care may be needed to understand sensitivities of a site during project planning and design.



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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.**

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:

OUTCOMES 5-8 IN THE PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-25.

- Outcome 5 – Outstanding Experiences
- Outcome 6 – Lifelong Learning
- Outcome 7 – Health & Wellbeing
- Outcome 8 – Creating Custodians

Each Outcome will be illustrated with a case study in the following pages.

WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO IN OUR CORPORATE PLAN	WHAT WE HAVE DONE
Deliver the Families Outreach Project using the John Muir Award (JMA)	This was a highly successful and inspirational two-year project. We had set out to partner with 10 community organisations over the two years, engaging with 60 families who would achieve their Family John Muir Awards. Instead, due to COVID-19 and the measures we put in place, we engaged with families and organisations in a very different way. Families and individuals achieved 104 John Muir Awards, and 60 families experienced in person sessions. We also engaged with 11 community organisations.
Link into social prescribing and place based health networks to increase use of the National Park for health and well-being (H&WB) via social prescribing	The Sussex Local Nature Partnership steering meeting in March focused on working collaboratively on a joined up approach to developing access to green open spaces for health, linked to the development of Local Nature recovery strategies. We want to ensure the community voice is heard alongside health and environmental NGOs and Local Government. Initial discussions with the Seven Sisters Manager have identified a location for Health and Wellbeing activities to take place.
Target socially deprived communities to enable schools to access outside learning opportunities via the South Downs Travel Grant	The South Downs National Park Travel Grant Scheme targets schools with over 10% of students on Free School Meals in our most deprived urban communities around the National Park and aims to reduce the main barrier to outdoor learning identified by teachers in our schools survey; the cost of transport. The Travel Grant enables these schools to have subsidised coach travel to visit one of over 100 outdoor learning providers on the South Downs National Park Learning Map and supports our network approach to connecting schools and learning providers. For 2021/22 the grant fund was £20,000 . This enabled 3,866 students from 65 schools to benefit from Learning Outside the Classroom in the SDNP.

OUTCOME 5: OUTSTANDING EXPERIENCES

CASE STUDY

SUSTAINABLE ACCESS

The resumption of access 'works on the ground' in 2021/22 has seen some notable successes and a particular challenge.

SUCCESSES

In October 2021, after delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, construction works was able to commence on Egrets Way Phase 5 at Riverside Park, Newhaven. A total of 680m of route was completed during the year.

Enabling works took place in preparation for the next phase of the Centurion Way shared use path extension and further design work and ecology surveys were commissioned for Egrets Way phase 6.

A new boardwalk bridge at Iping Common forms part of a new Serpent Trail 'Snakelet' and 'Miles without Stiles' route. The bridge enables walkers and mobility scooters to avoid a particularly boggy area of path.

Improved and more accessible approach ramp to the iconic Alfriston White Bridge, which forms part of the South Downs Way, was completed. This replaced old retaining walls, replaced the handrails and created new mounting and dismounting areas, passing places and waiting areas.

The establishment works to create the approved route of the new England Coast Path National Trail, through the South Downs National Park, was completed with over 30 new signs installed and over 600metres of new surface improvements.

CHALLENGES

The discovery of Ash Dieback in trees along the Centurion Way led to the temporary closure of 1.2km of route on public safety grounds. Following ecological surveys, work to remove infected trees took place in autumn 2021. The popularity of the Centurion Way as a recreational route was reflected in the high volume of calls and emails from the general public enquiring about its reopening. Frustration at the five month closure

was also evidenced by trespass and repeated damage to security fencing on a number of occasions.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As members of the South Downs Way National Trail Partnership, Hampshire County Council is leading on design and planning work for the new South Downs Way Chilcomb link, improving safety and connectivity for cyclists and horse riders alongside the A31 between the M3 and Chilcomb.

In partnership with Brighton and Hove County Council and East Sussex County Council, the Falmer to Woodingdean path was given a face-lift with the installation of new surfacing. The new smoother and wider surface means it is now accessible for all, including wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Our support for Community Rail Partnerships continued this year with opportunities to promote visits by sustainable transport through artwork and interpretation at Bishopstone and Amberley stations and at bus stops near Haslemere station.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Completion of Egrets Way Phase 5
- Commencement of Egrets Way Phase 6
- Work begins on a new section of Centurion Way at the former Railway Station, Singleton
- Horse riders and cyclists using the South Downs Way at Chilcomb will benefit from a new link.



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OUTCOME 6: LIFELONG LEARNING CASE STUDY

LEARNING, OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEERING

Generation Green was a 16-month project connecting young people to nature and increasing opportunities for pathways to green employment. It was the first project delivered by the Access Unlimited coalition, funded through the Green Recovery Fund.

The project engaged young people aged 8-25 that are traditionally less likely (due to social, economic and cultural factors) to connect with nature, or engage with nature conservation activities.

The SDNPA teamed up with So Sussex, Clarion Housing and Sussex Clubs for Young People to deliver nature based discovery days for schools and youth groups including residential experiences enabling young people to get a taste of a night under the stars in the SDNP.

SUCCESSSES

- **29** online teacher training sessions were delivered by learning providers within the SDNP **Learning Network** providing nature connection training for over 880 teachers
- **25** Discovery Day educational sessions for schools were delivered by So Sussex reaching a total of 330 pupils
- **3** residential experiences for schools were delivered by So Sussex at YHA Truleigh Hill and YHA South Downs
- **4** South Downs Youth Action residential visits took place including a Youth Ambassador training weekend, a 5-night residential for the Lithuanian Society South Coast and two youth group visits in collaboration with Clarion Housing partners in London. These residential experiences benefitted 130 young people.

CHALLENGES

Covid continued to present challenges to group visits and this led to some cancellations and postponements. Fortunately, we were able to amend booking dates to ensure that visits took place and the project achieved all of its engagement targets.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Generation Green was a partnership between SDNPA, YHA, So Sussex, Clarion Housing and Sussex Clubs for Young People, bringing together a wide range of expertise in creating inspiring residentials, nature connection and youth engagement. In addition, we worked collaboratively across the wider SDNP Learning Network to:

- Deliver the online teacher training programme
- Deliver a programme of School Visit Grants enabling 21 schools to access outdoor education within the SDNP

LOOKING AHEAD

We are working with the Access Unlimited consortium to explore future funding, which will build on the pilot project successes and extend the opportunities to connect young people with nature and pathways to green employment.



OUTCOME 7: HEALTH & WELLBEING CASE STUDY

HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

We want to empower new audiences, within and in a 10km radius of the National Park, to experience the National Park through a variety of ways; walking, arts, cycling, connecting to nature. In 2021-22 we delivered year one of our Health and well-being strategy.

SUCCESSES

'A sense of nature' a programme of Mindful Walks, with Chichester Social Prescribers and Pulborough GP surgery, were delivered to participants of Pulborough. Connecting people to their local green spaces, each other and nature to support their health and wellbeing.

"It has made me realise I need to slow down in life and take more time for myself and that it is ok to say no to others"

Timescape, a partnership between Artscape, Weald and Downland Living Museum and Butser Ancient Farm launched in July. This explored the relationship between people, place and cultural heritage. Participant's experiencing a range of health conditions and from areas of deprivation created artefacts using traditional artisan techniques.

"The only time I go out each week is to come to Timescape, where I can meet people, be in a beautiful location and learn and create, how lucky am I?"

We undertook research to understand where green social prescribing was happening in the National Park and the barriers for providers and social prescribers to making better use of it to support people.

CHALLENGES

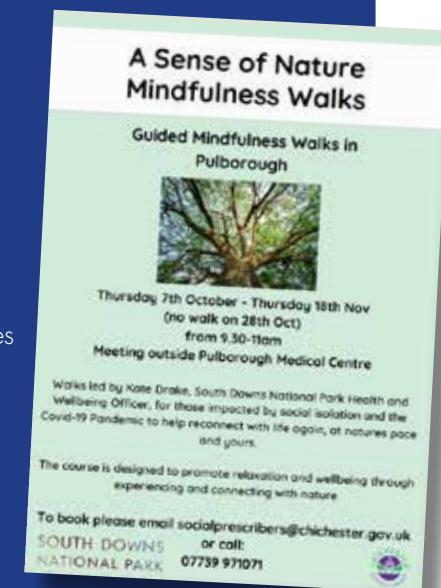
Our target audiences continued to experience the impact of Covid during 2021-22. Social isolation and loneliness, complex physical and mental health needs meant it was challenging for some to engage. NHS colleagues were diverted to support vaccination programmes. Where this involved social prescribers, it meant that they were unable to maintain levels of engagement.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Our key partners were; National Academy of Social Prescribing, Sussex Local Nature Partnership, Public Health Teams, the voluntary sector and cultural heritage organisations.

LOOKING AHEAD

During 2022-23 we will develop a grant scheme to help community transport organisations to develop befriending services to support people to access activities in the National Park. We will pilot projects focussing on loneliness and social isolation. We will connect activity providers to places in the National Park that they can deliver green social prescribing from. Projects which address health inequalities are our priority.



OUTCOME 8: CREATING CUSTODIANS CASE STUDY

SOUTH DOWNS YOUTH ACTION

South Downs Youth Action (SDYA) is a flexible programme of youth volunteering, designed to create exciting new opportunities for young people to get involved in practical action to support the SDNP. It includes:

South Downs Youth Action days – dynamic, fun, flexible and varied volunteering activities supporting nature recovery and climate action. Sessions are open to both individuals and youth groups.

South Downs Youth Ambassadors – a volunteer role for 16-25 year olds to promote youth voice, influence policy and encourage other young people to connect with the SDNP

Youth Action Fund – offers grants of £100-£1000 to organisations supporting young people to take positive social and environmental action to support the SDNP. Funded through the SDNP Trust and Clarion Housing/#iwillfor nature.

SUCCESSES

- **20** SDYA day events held from July – November 2021 engaging a total of 248 young people
- The first ever SDNP Youth Ambassador training weekend held on 2-3 October at YHA South Downs
- **3** Youth Ambassadors attended the inaugural NPUK Youth Voice conference in the Peak District in March
- The Youth Action Fund supported 13 organisations across the SDNP including a SDNP discovery project with young refugees and asylum seekers, young people with complex needs taking part in heathland conservation, a youth group litter picking by bike, a Space to Breathe summer camp for girls with mental health challenges and young people with learning disabilities creating Great Outdoor films celebrating inclusive access

CHALLENGES

- Sign-up by individuals to SDYA day events remained lower than anticipated this year, potentially due to the ongoing impact of Covid infections. As a result we have widened our communication channels to better promote and recruit to these opportunities
- Reaching young people from under-served communities is an ongoing challenge, however, the strong partnerships with community based organisations such as Clarion Housing is actively addressing this and having a positive impact on engagement

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

SDYA days were delivered with a wide range of partners including Action for Conservation, Adur Outdoors, Brighton University, Buzz Active, Midhurst Green Volunteers, Selborne and Winchester Farm Cluster, Sussex Clubs for Young People, Sussex Wildlife Trust and YHA.

LOOKING AHEAD

- 10 further **South Downs Youth Action** days are planned for Spring and Summer 2022.
- The SDNP Youth Ambassadors have planned an exciting programme of activity and will continue to champion youth voice across the SDNP and further afield!



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: CONNECT

WE SEE YOU NOW: SEVEN SISTERS WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Alinah Azadeh is a writer, artist and cultural activist and the first Writer-in-Residence for Seven Sisters Country Park and the wider Sussex Heritage Coast.

She is also creative lead on We See You Now (WSYN) a landscape and literature project commissioned by the South Downs National Park Authority and funded by SDNPA and Arts Council England. The project is dedicated to exploring diverse voices and connections to this iconic coastal area, through new stories and poetry, across digital, live and print platforms.

Project highlights include:

We See You Now (Prologue): The original audio story by Alinah Azadeh inspired by a walk from Birling Gap towards Cuckmere, which led to the We See You Now project.

- The Hidden Valley: Performed as part of BBC 3 The Essay 'Into the Wild' season, reflecting a walk from the edge of the South Downs to the sea.
- The Colour of Chalk: A Podcast series featuring walk and talk 'in conversation' pieces with writers, activists and ecologists.



© Jeff Travis

LYT PRODUCTIONS AT TIDE MILLS

This inclusive, community focused project brought Tide Mills to life in September 2021. Despite suffering the impacts of the pandemic, LYT Productions with support from a wide network of partners and funders, including SDNPA, delivered a phenomenal creative immersive experience at Tide Mills in Newhaven, a site that had once been a village, now abandoned and returning to nature. An estimated 25,000 people attended the Celebration Week, and the project worked with 13 schools, three colleges, 10 community groups and over 250 people volunteered. The site came alive thanks to performances by actors and musicians, heritage crafts people and artworks inspired by the history of the site.

"The project was just magical, I am still buzzing from being submerged in the stories, singing, performance, art and pizza bread! My 6 year old said it was the best night of her life!"

Visitor to Celebration Week



© SDNPA/Jan Knowlson

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.**

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 update:

OUTCOMES 9 AND 10 IN THE PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-25.

- Outcome 9 – Great Places to Live
- Outcome 10 – Great Places to Work

Each Outcome will be illustrated with a case study in the following pages.

WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO IN OUR CORPORATE PLAN	WHAT WE HAVE DONE
Participate in the Environmental Land Management (ELM) National Pilot	Details of the Defra Landscape Recovery Pilot were announced in January 2022. The Arun to Adur Farmers Group were keen to look at the possibilities, and we met with them and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) in February. They decided that direct participation in the pilot was not appropriate, but they would look to participate in applications along the Arun (SDNPA led) and Adur (Knepp Estate led). The Local Nature Recovery Pilot will be launched later in 2022 with several of the farmer groups seeing this as their opportunity to be involved.
Create a Business Network for likeminded local economic and social enterprise partners who positively contribute to the National Park	There are 21 businesses assisting with the development of the business community in the capacity of a business focus group. The design and mechanics of the business network platform are now 95% complete. The platform has been tested in a real-time environment with the 20 businesses that make up the Business Focus Group (BFG) and their feedback has informed the last stages of the development. The Platform is ready for launch and Go Live mid-2022.
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	During 2021/22 we collected £161,962.17 and spent £509,742.39. S106 monies helping to deliver ecological mitigation in Bordon, sports pavilion refurb in Petworth, tree and hedgerow planting and provision of a car club in Lewes. Over 400 projects are being assessed for inclusion on the 2022 IBP (i.e. spending of 2021/22 CIL Receipts). In 2021/22 we gave £818,809 to different projects across the Park and £509,054.57 directly to Parish/Town Councils. The CIL collected in 2021/22 was £2,589,066.17. CIL projects funded in 2021/22 include: play and sports equipment in Stedham and Iping, a new sports pavilion in Fernhurst, Natural Flood Management projects in Liss, and new outdoor education facilities at a school in Droxford.

OUTCOME 9: GREAT PLACES TO LIVE CASE STUDY

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

This year saw two significant achievements from a planning perspective. Firstly, a milestone was reached as the final piece in the housing strategy for the National Park was completed after a community voted overwhelmingly for its neighbourhood plan.

The referendum at Twyford, in Hampshire, marked the final step in the process of completing the housing allocations set out in the South Downs Local Plan.

The award-winning Local Plan was formally adopted in 2019, but several Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) still needed to be completed and voted on by the community.

Meanwhile, more than £1.37m of new funding was made available to help local communities via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

SUCCESSSES

The referendum on the Twyford Neighbourhood Development Plan saw 349 Yes votes and 70 No votes (83% to 17%). It means 40 NDPs are now incorporated into the Local Plan for the National Park – a process that started in 2014.

More than £1.37m benefitted almost 30 community schemes across Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex. As well as the £1.37m, 22 parish or town councils across the National Park took a share of just over £256,000 to support grassroots projects in their area.

Among the inspiring projects were a mix of initiatives to help better connect urban areas to the countryside, including new Miles Without Stiles routes in Hampshire. Over 130 miles of stile-free routes will be created around Winchester and from Hambledon to Rowlands Castle.

In West Sussex, funding will help to create the first phase of a shared-use traffic-free path connecting the south of Midhurst to the town centre.

In East Sussex, a cash injection will help pay for Phase 6 of Egrets Way, connecting Rise Farm to Rodmell in the beautiful Ouse Valley.

The people of Fernhurst will also benefit from a modernised and expanded sports pavilion, while new play equipment will be installed at Lavant and Liss.

CHALLENGES

The CIL initiative requires significant communication and administration with local community groups and parishes, while the local referenda require considerable planning in advance and close liaison with parish councils to effectively communicate the process.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Both these initiatives worked in partnership with local communities, parish councils and local and county authorities. We would thank each and every person who has contributed and given their time to the Neighbourhood Development Plans. These adopted plans are a powerful way of local people helping to shape where and what development happens in their communities.

LOOKING AHEAD

This substantial CIL funding underlines the tremendous value of good planning and showcases the benefits that flow from high-quality development in a protected landscape such as the South Downs.



OUTCOME 10: GREAT PLACES TO WORK CASE STUDY

RURAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM

Enterprises in the South Downs have a crucial role to play in delivering on our National Park Purposes and achieving our Corporate Priorities. Owning the majority of land designated as a protected landscape, upwards of 80%, they are the custodians of the landscape and key delivery partner.

The diverse enterprises in the South Downs contribute to the National Park in numerous ways, whether through producing fabulous food and drink, providing great places to stay, making space for nature or showcasing incredible heritage.

SUCCESSES

- The creation of Our South Downs with a mission to “Promote stronger, shorter rural supply chains and support businesses in their pursuit of sustainability”.
- 609 businesses now subscribed to quarterly Enterprise Newsletter
- 21 businesses who sit on our Business Focus Group helping to shape our many initiatives including Our South Downs and Green South Downs.
- The continued development of Green South Downs (the bespoke sustainability accreditation programme for South Downs businesses) in partnership with Green Tourism.
- Four Estates have progressed to the later stages of Whole Estate Plan (WEP) endorsement.
- Securing £65K funding from Coast to Capital LEP to create a Natural Capital Economic Case.
- Jointly securing £705K from UK Community Renewal Fund towards developing investment plans for a sustainable visitor economy.
- Leading on UK National Parks Sustainable Tourism Officer (STO) Group and National Park Experiences Steering Group.



- Hosted UK STO site visits attended by 9 National Parks (March 2022), and coordinating the development of the regenerative tourism paper and National Park Experiences legacy.

CHALLENGES

The economic fallout from the pandemic coupled with the effects of Brexit on our land-based sector and more generally the continued issues around logistics, labour shortages, price fluctuations, supply chain problems and fuel prices have contributed to a fragile state for the UK economy, a state echoed in the South East Region.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- Rural West Sussex Partnership
- Sussex Modern
- UKCRF Delivery Group
- National Park Experience Collection Steering Group
- UK National Park Sustainable Tourism Officers Group
- Sussex Visitor Economy Advisory Group
- West Sussex Economy Managers Group

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the next financial year, our focus will:

- Continue to enhance the Our South Downs platform
- Complete and launch Green South Downs
- Continue to collaborate with partners to explore the Natural Capital (Economic Case) and to test the Revolving Fund concept.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FUND CASE STUDY

THE BEES AND SEAS PROJECT, WORTHING

'We are Food Pioneers' Community Interest Company (CIC) seeks to support vulnerable groups living in food poverty.

In 2021, the Bees & Seas Project connected communities across land and sea to re-purpose a derelict urban council yard in Worthing awarded by the Council, into a buzzing pollinator hub extending habitat links to Dankton Barnyard in Sompting. Working with 'The Friends of Brooklands Park', 'Breathing Spaces' and 'Creative Waves', the project created an ecological, natural asset for the community as well as delivered a programme of activities and training centred on pollinators.

The Sustainable Communities Fund was pleased to award a grant of £7,500 towards the project. This was matched by over £10,000 in material donations, local business sponsorship and grants from organisations such as Worthing Community Chest, Peoples Postcode Lottery Trust, Sussex Community Foundation and Sussex Police. The project received a great deal of in-kind support through the donation of materials as well as professional expertise from Adur and Worthing Council Rangers.

Despite the challenges of project delivery during the Covid -19 pandemic, the Brooklands Park site now has a series of native habitat gardens. This includes a vegetated shingle garden 'stepping stone' from the sea, a chalk grassland 'stepping stone' garden to the Downs and a range of native wood, hedge, meadow plants and trees to give hungry pollinators a sanctuary on their journey through the landscape.

A natural log tree hive installed at Dankton Barnyard was swiftly colonised by wild bees following installation. Two shipping containers have been vibrantly painted with locally themed artwork and provide educational space and storage.

The success of match funding enabled the activity programme to be extended to deliver 42 sessions at a Bees & Seas event in Brooklands Park from 20th – 23rd Aug 2021. Over 2,400 people attended, volunteered or participated across the three days. Local schools were engaged and three groups of students from Lancing College were given projects to manage and present at the event. Bee keeper and pollinator training was delivered for 20 adults and six young people.

The CIC has since re-branded as We are Pollinator Pioneers and is planning a second phase to clear and extend the site for more hives. A fence and hawthorn perimeter will add to security as well as contribute more pollinator-friendly planting. The intention is to hold educational workshops annually.



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OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS: THRIVE

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The SDNPA is able to offer Affordable Housing Grants to not for profit organisations who are looking to provide affordable housing to be held in perpetuity, this ensures the retention of affordable homes for future generations. Community Land Trusts (CLT's) are one of many providers of affordable housing, and have a particular focus on providing homes for local people. This enables families to stay within their community long term. By working alongside CLT's, in conjunction with Housing Hubs, the SDNPA is well placed to support the provision of affordable housing across the whole of the National Park.

Midhurst Community Land Trust initially identified an opportunity to purchase two new homes in the centre of Midhurst and consequently sought advice from the SDNPA in order to progress and inform their project. By engaging in discussions with the Authority at an early stage the CLT were able to check and review the design and sustainability criteria for the dwellings as well as inform their funding strategy. This early engagement ensured the homes for the CLT were secured through a S106 agreement. Following the submission of an Affordable Housing Grant application to the SDNPA, funding totalling £60,000 was transferred to MCLT upon practical completion in May 2021, with the new residents moving into the dwellings in early June 2021. The Affordable Housing Grant secured by the CLT, along with other funding, resulted in a reduction of rental levels to 70% of market rates as well as enabling them to offer in-perpetuity leases.



© SDNPA

FARMING IN A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE (FiPL)

Farming is going through a significant period of uncertainty and change as we transition from the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to a new agricultural support system Environmental Land Management (ELM).

As a result, the Government developed an Agricultural Transition Plan to provide details on the changes taking place and the development of new schemes. The Farming in Protected Landscape Programme (FiPL), a three year programme (from July 2021 to March 2024), forms parts of the Agricultural Transition Plan (ATP).

FiPL is open to all farmers and land managers within protected landscapes. They can apply for funding to carry out projects that meet one or more of the FiPL programme outcomes (Climate, Nature, People and Place) and support delivery of their Protected Landscape's management plan.

Within the South Downs National Park, FiPL is being delivered by the Authority's Farming Team. A Local Assessment Panel, comprising predominately of farmers, was developed to consider and decide on applications for projects above £5,000.

For 2021/22, 72 projects, from 54 applications, have been supported through £629,052 of FiPL funding within the South Downs National Park. This equates to supporting approx. 41,415ha of land.



© 2020 vision/Guy Edwardes

ON THE GROUND AND GRASSROOTS PROJECTS

Relationships are fostered and developed daily between the National Park Authority and the local councils, with Officers attending AGMs, special meetings and workshops with the 176 Town and Parish councils across the National Park. Together numerous projects are initiated every year 'on the ground'. Here are just a few highlights from 2021/22:

BUTTERFLY BANK

A thousand plug plants have gone into the ground at Seaford College, near Petworth, to create a south-facing "butterfly bank" that Rangers hope will be teeming with life by the summer.

Around 30 children rolled up their sleeves to help plant a variety of specially-chosen plants and wildflowers creating a new wildlife corridor. The plants, such as vipers bugloss, agrimony and birdsfoot trefoil, will provide much-needed food for caterpillars that will later transform into butterflies and moths.

It's hoped the butterfly bank will support a large variety of species, including the common blue, marbled white, green hairstreak, and rarer species, such as the grizzled skipper, Duke of Burgundy and small blue.

The planting comes after rangers helped the school transform an old waste area, creating a new bank that replicates the chalky habitat on the South Downs that attracts butterflies.



© Neil Hulme

ENABLE ABILITY – DEAD HEDGING

Based in Portsmouth, Enable Ability are a really inspirational charity for young people with disabilities. Altogether they provide for approximately 500 children and adults via a growing number of different services.

The Western Area Rangers, supported by SDNPA Outreach and Volunteering staff, were keen to set up a volunteering programme to help young people with disabilities develop life skills, confidence and gain some work experience.

At the beginning of March, the Western Rangers and SDNPA staff, ran their first taster session – dead hedging at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. This is a common technique using off-cuts from trees to create a natural fence. The group also took part in tree surveying helping to inform Hampshire County Council's tree species records.

As many of the group can get very anxious before they go anywhere new, the Western Area Rangers created a video at the site to show the group in advance what they would be doing.

The day was a resounding success and an incredibly rewarding experience for all involved.



© SDNPA

SERPENT TRAIL RELAUNCH

The Serpent Trail is a 65-mile long path, snaking back and forth along the ridges between Haslemere and Petersfield, and linking several areas of rare lowland heathland habitat within the National Park.

In May 2021, SDNPA 'relaunched' the Serpent Trail virtually via social media after a series of improvements were made to the existing Trail. One of the most significant updates has been the waymarkers, to help improve navigation along the Trail. There are now two colours of marker – a purple one for the "tail route" starting at Haslemere and ending at Petersfield, and a green one for the "head route", from Petersfield to Haslemere. The Wealden Heath ranger team have worked extremely hard to replace over a thousand old markers, including where the Trail has been re-routed to reduce the amount of time on roads. The Serpent Trail logo has also been redesigned.

A lot of effort has also gone into a fabulous revamp of the Serpent Trail Guide. The Trail is now split into eleven stages, with updated maps, details of public transport and descriptions of the Trail itself. There is also a Visitor's Guide section with lots of information on the wildlife, history and cultural aspects of the Trail. The new Guide is available online now at southdowns.gov.uk/get-active/on-foot/serpent-trail

Printed booklets are also available from the South Downs Centre reception in Midhurst.



© SDNPA/Olivia French

SHIFTING THE GAZE

In 2021, **Writing Our Legacy** offered 15 bursaries of £500 each as part of 'Shifting the Gaze' – a project working with Black, Asian and ethnically diverse established and emerging writers from across the South East. The bursaries allowed the writers to do a three-month research and development project over winter with a focus on the landscape of the South Downs National Park. In 2022, the talented wordsmiths will be using their creative flair to produce prose, poetry and other chronicles.

The programme is funded by South Downs National Park Authority in association with New Writing South.

SEAFORD HEAD SAM

As delegates arrived in Glasgow for COP26 in November, a series of drones flew over Seaford Head, a coastal Local Nature Reserve in East Sussex. This

marked the start of a new project delivered in partnership with Historic England, Archaeology South East (University College London), Seaford Town Council and SDNPA. Seaford Head is home to a Scheduled Monument, dominated by an Iron Age Hillfort. It was last subject to archaeological attention in the 1870s, when the noted Victorian archaeologist, Augustus Lane Fox (later known as Augustus Pitt-Rivers) visited the site. Lane Fox noted that “at least one half of this camp [has been lost] by the erosion of the sea.”



© Deb Pople

Up until a few years ago, the monument would have appeared much as it had to Lane Fox, but since 2015, intensified weather events have accelerated cliff losses, with major sections of the ancient monument and its wider landscape setting having been lost. The rate of accelerated loss, a cause for concern, has however resulted in the appearance of previously unrecorded archaeological features visible in the cliff’s chalk profile.

A network of partners came together, securing funding (totalling just over £33,000) for a systematic survey of the Scheduled Monument at Seaford Head. This survey has built on the initial body of work by Lane-Fox in the 19th century and will not only help us to understand the site better and identify areas for further research, but will take the first steps towards the only viable mitigation option ahead for a site of this kind, which is preservation by record – where research and captured knowledge essentially acts as a proxy for the physical site itself, existing beyond the lifespan of the monument or site.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

This year the South Downs National Park Authority hosted a story writing competition for children and teenagers, in partnership with the MADhurst Festival 2021.

More than 140 young people across three age categories let their imaginations run wild as they wrote intriguing short stories inspired by the South Downs National Park. The winning stories were brought vividly to life through the story-telling powers of actor Hugh Bonneville, who read the stories aloud for a film recording which has been published on the SDNPA website.

The prize-giving ceremony took place at Midhurst Town Council Street Party, which is part of the MADhurst 2021 Festival. Prizes included a goodie bag of items donated by the South Downs National Park Authority and book tokens purchased jointly by MADhurst and the National Park.



© SDNPA

TREES FOR THE DOWNS

Wild Heart Hill family owned campsite near Findon, West Sussex teamed up with the South Downs National Park Authority to plant 1500 trees as part of the Trees for the Downs programme.

Native trees were chosen specifically to enhance the wildlife, increase species diversity and help mitigate climate change.



© Wild Heart Hill

Wild Heart Hill Camp ran five community tree planting events during the Spring as a way of engaging local people with nature. Local children were tasked with painting the tree tubes that will protect the trees from resident deer and rabbits. This helped to connect with a wider audience, highlight the wildlife that will benefit from the trees and create an engaging and thought-provoking artistic trail.

In addition to the native trees, an avenue of disease resistant elms were planted in March 2022 in honour of the Queens Jubilee, helped by children from Reflections Small School.



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 2021-22 the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) received a grant totalling around £10.5 million. This is the second year where a fixed cash settlement was received.

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 2021-22 the SDNPA received income of just over **£3.4 million** through planning activities (including Community Infrastructure Levy). This is an increase of 26% compared to 2020-21.

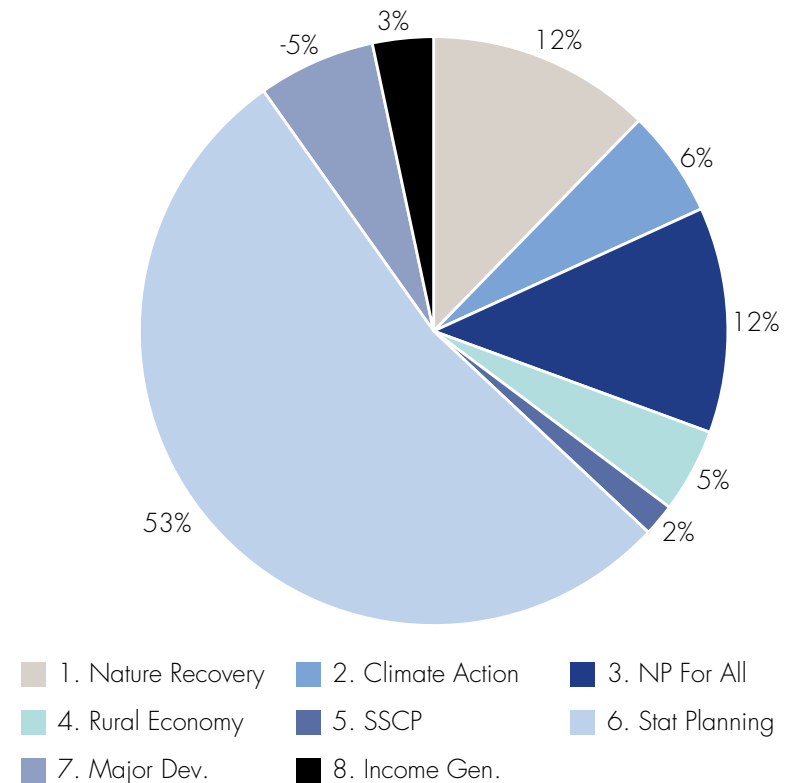
The SDNPA was also successful in attracting significant funding for projects to deliver the Partnership Management Plan. During 2021-22 the SDNPA received **£2.0 million** of income through specific grants and contributions in addition to funds secured by other partners to deliver work in the National Park. An increase of 25% on the previous year.

In total the income received by the SDNPA in 2021-22 was **£17.6 million**, compared to £14.9 million in 2020-21.

HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

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:

Provisional Outturn 2021/22 against Corporate Plan Priorities



THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK VISION

At the creation of the National Park Authority we set an ambitious vision for the South Downs National Park. By 2050:

- 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.

This document demonstrates that we are well on track to achieve our vision for the National Park. 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)**
- **Corporate Plan 2020–2025 (Year 3 Action Plan – 2022–23)**



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

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

SDNPA KEY COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENTS 2021/22

CAMPAIGNS

#ReNature



ONLINE REACH

378^k



FILM VIEWS

258^k



MEDIA REACH

7.5^m



MEDIA

221

pieces of coverage

#TakeTheLead



781.8^k

↗21%
messaging reach

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



14% ↗

65.7^k

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

on social media channels



12.1^m

TOTAL REACH

on social media channels



612^k

TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

on social media channels

WEBSITE

1.57^m

TOTAL ANNUAL USERS



SDNPA DISCOVERY MAP
ANNUAL VIEWS

35.5^k



YOUTUBE



68.2^k

TOTAL VIEWS

↑ 64

NEW UPLOADS

✓ 846 ↗18%

SUBSCRIBERS

EVENTS AND ENGAGEMENT



Virtual

275^k

REACH



27.1^k

VIDEO VIEWS



In Person

3,024

POP UPS

7,230

SEVEN SISTERS COUNTRY PARK

15.5^k

people engaged

376

HEATHLANDS REUNITED

836

DARK SKIES FESTIVAL



Parishes

4

WORKSHOPS

2

WEBINARS

MEDIA



7.47^m

PEOPLE REACHED



54

PROACTIVE PRESS RELEASES
issued



1,359 ↗

EARNED MEDIA COVERAGE
(from press releases alone)



21^k

MENTIONS
in the media (inc. in UK nationals)



£1.9^m

PR VALUE

SHARED IDENTITY & SIGNAGE



15

KEY INTERPRETATION & SIGNAGE PROJECTS

including three digital interpretation projects.

30

NEW ENTRY SIGNS

installed (49 in total)

8.7^k ↗8%

E-NEWSLETTER

subscribers to date



PUBLICATIONS

distributed to 390 venues (online request only) by Brochure Connect

Item 10, Appendix 3: Partner achievements across the South Downs National Park 2021/2022

Introduction

The [Partnership Management Plan](#) (PMP) sets out the overarching five-year strategy for the management of the South Downs National Park (SDNP). It brings together and coordinates the aspirations of partners who contribute towards the purposes for which the National Park was designated.

The Partnership Management Plan brings together and coordinates the aspirations of many different partners who help contribute towards the purposes for which it was designated.

The Plan consists of a vision, three linked strategic themes and 10 outcomes which set where we would like to get to by 2050.

Over the last year, many organisations across the breadth of the National Park have been actively working to support the PMP vision despite the COVID-19 pandemic posing significant challenges. This document celebrates the crucial contribution that partners have made to help accomplish the strategic themes of the South Downs National Park – Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All.

Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty
Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience
Outcome 3: Habitats and Species
Outcome 4: Arts and Heritage
Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences
Outcome 6: Lifelong Learning
Outcome 7: Health and Wellbeing
Outcome 8: Creating Custodians
Outcome 9: Great Places to Live
Outcome 10: Great Places to Work

The 10 Partnership Management Plan Outcomes

1. Nature Recovery: Supporting action to rebuild biodiversity (ReNature and Core Nature)

The unique combination of geology and microclimates of the South Downs National Park has created a rich mosaic of habitats that supports many rare and internationally important wildlife species. However, climate change, habitat fragmentation, poor land management, pests and non-native invasive species all add to the pressure on nature. Currently 25% of the National Park is managed for nature. By 2030, working with a strong partnership of farmers, land managers, communities and a wide range of partners we will aim to ensure that 33% of land is managed for nature and will encourage the remaining 67% to be nature friendly.

Only a small percentage of the land in the SDNP is owned by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) – Seven Sisters Country Park. We rely heavily on the collaboration, tenacity and willingness of land owners and other partners to support nature recovery across the National Park.

2. Climate Action: Supporting action to reduce emissions and increase resilience

Climate change is having a fundamental effect on biodiversity, agriculture, water resources and communities in the National Park. We are already experiencing more unpredictable weather events causing drought, soil erosion and flooding. This is changing the landscape as habitats come under pressure and agricultural systems and infrastructure struggle to adapt. As a National Park Authority, we have a commitment to address the climate and nature emergency by working with partners to deliver actions that respond effectively to the climate and nature emergency. These actions focus on:

- Working towards the South Downs National Park becoming 'Net-Zero with Nature' by 2040
- Limiting the magnitude or rate of climate change and its related effects by cutting emissions.
- Mitigation against changes in climate and its related effects at both a local and landscape scale

3. A National Park for All: Supporting action to increase the value of the National Park to under-served groups

We want the South Downs to be a welcoming place, for everyone to connect with nature, the landscape and our rich cultural heritage. We want it to be a place that nourishes and nurtures physical and mental health and well-being. We want to inspire individuals and communities to experience it and take action to care for it. We want organisations to unite to break down the barriers that prevent people from feeling that the National Park is for them, or which make it difficult for some to visit. Our PMP looks to build connection and trust with under-served communities and to nurture new cultures of connection to the nature, heritage and landscape of the South Downs. We aim to achieve this through engagement, learning, volunteering, outreach, community, cultural heritage and health and wellbeing work.

To find out more about the ways in which the SDNPA is delivering against its Corporate Plan objectives, please see our latest [Annual Review](#).



Fingerpost on the South Downs Way

Partner delivery towards the protection and enhancement of the South Downs National Park



Natterjack Toad

Creating, restoring and improving habitat is key to Nature Recovery. A fantastic example of this can be found at the **Nature Reserve at Blackmoor, Hampshire**. Owned and managed by **Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC)** the reserve forms part of Woolmer Forest in Hampshire.

Although it was historically an excellent for reptiles and amphibians, this area of heathland habitat had become heavily encroached with Scots pines, birch and willow. As a result **Natterjack toads** had not been seen on Blackmoor since the 1970s.

Since 2010, ARC has embarked on a programme to restore Blackmoor to something of its former glory and turn the SSSI unit into 'favourable' condition. Works included tree clearance, bracken control, scrub clearance, restoration of two ponds and to replace some unsafe roadside trees with native broadleaved saplings. The introduction of longhorns for site grazing and browsing have had a marked impact on the heathland vegetation and will provide the short-sward conditions as favoured by

Natterjack toads.

In 2021, ARC was awarded a further tranche of S106 money (planning obligation funds) to fund a Natterjack toad reintroduction programme and to replace the roadside fencing. With a Natural England licence in place, and permission from MoD to translocate some Natterjack tadpoles from Woolmer Military Training Area, ARC plans to [return some Natterjack toads to the site in 2022](#).

Habitat restoration and creation has also been a priority for volunteers with **Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT)**. At Ebernoe Common National Nature Reserve, a great example of a Low Weald woodland site dominated by old wood pasture, **species rich grassland** at Furnace Meadow (located at the north of the site) has been cleared of scrub and invasive bracken whilst bramble and holly has been removed from woodland glades.

The SWT's long term aim is to increase the area of un-shaded species-rich grassland beneath widely spaced veteran trees. In the southern area of the reserve, the focus is to maintain and improve the nationally important lichen-rich habitat on old Beech trees.



Volunteer working in the fish pond at Ebernoe Common

Climate change is a key influence on the future survival of key habitats. One of the challenges we face is how to mitigate against the environmental impacts of climate change, looking at ways we can ‘future proof’ important sites and features in the landscape crucial to the survival of a multitude of species.



Kingley Vale Nature Reserve

Portsmouth Water, as part of its ongoing environmental commitments, is offering a [grant scheme](#) from 2020 to 2025 for environmental improvement projects. One of the successful grant funded projects was the restoration of **West Marden Dew Pond**, close to the **Kingley Vale Nature Reserve** in West Sussex. Historically ponds were common in the South Downs and provided water for grazing animals and seed-eating birds like Turtle Doves. With Climate Change increasing the frequency of hotter drier summers **Dew ponds are becoming increasingly important habitats and water sources**. Yet 70% are in poor condition including West Marden, which had been overgrown with bulrushes and scrub which inhibits its ability to hold water and made it inaccessible.

The overgrowth is now being cleared and then clay lined to improve its ability to hold water to facilitate improved biodiversity. The outcome will be improved water quality in the pond and the creation of a biological corridor for the local ecology. Restoration of the West Marden dew pond provides a key stepping stone in a local network of ponds close to Kingley Vale Nature Reserve. This will provide connectivity with a further 26 planned ponds and create habitat for Great Crested Newts, Barbastelle and Bechstein bats supporting nature recovery.

Also taking climate action and aiding nature recovery, **Chichester District Council (CDC)** is taking part in four tree planting pilots as part of the DEFRA funded project *Trees Outside Woodland*. The programme seeks to develop innovative and sustainable new ways to increase tree cover to address both the climate and ecological emergencies.

Over the 2021/22 tree planting season the District Council distributed **over 8,000 free trees** to residents, community groups, parish councils, businesses and landowners. They have also planted three mini urban forests within the district, funded three agroforestry and community orchard projects, and funded five planting projects within the farmed landscape. In total, **over 12,000 trees** have been planted across the district.



Mini urban forest at Midhurst Rother College

As part of the project, Chichester District Council are testing the [Miyawaki method](#) of tree planting at Midhurst Rother College (MRC). The plot will be monitored to assess growth and survival rate against a control plot. Trees in a Miyawaki forest grow up to ten times faster than trees planted in conventional woodland planting schemes at around one metre per year. In addition, native trees, such as those planted in a Miyawaki forest, can support significantly more wildlife than non-native species. Miyawaki forests also absorb more carbon than conventional woodland schemes.

Healthy soils provide the largest store of terrestrial carbon. When managed sustainably, soils can play an important role in climate change mitigation by storing carbon (**carbon sequestration**) and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere.



Arun Valley

Soil health was the focus of a 5-year monitoring project which is due to conclude this year. In 2017, **Southern Water (SWS)**, **S. Woodley Crop Services** and the **Arun to Adur Farmers Group (A2A)** came together to form the project with a focus on, and better comprehend, the nature of their downland soils. The aim of the project was to set an accurate baseline for the current state of soils across the farm cluster and to improve their understanding of nitrate levels in the soil after harvest.

The last samples were taken in autumn 2021 and the data is currently being analysed, but early indications suggest that soil health improvements are seen when livestock is incorporated into the farming system but that there can still be a place for the plough in some farming systems – results will be published later in 2022. A Cover Crop Nitrogen Release Trial is also ongoing with results expected in 2022.

Successful nature recovery and action against climate change is dependent on **people**. Our future vision for the National Park cannot be achieved without bringing people along on the journey – equipping individuals and communities with knowledge and providing support for changing behaviours will help to create custodians for the future.

A fantastic example of this is demonstrated by [Petersfield Climate Action Network \(PeCAN\)](#), an environmental charity set up by local residents in and around Petersfield, Hampshire that seeks to work with local people and organisations to create the changes needed to reduce carbon emissions and protect nature.

Formed in December 2020, the charity are working towards the Petersfield area to become carbon neutral as quickly as possible. Successful projects so far have included encouraging residents to plant a fruit tree in every garden with **298 planted** so far. Additionally, the group has an active Youth Volunteering strand who have been planting wildflower areas and measuring local air quality to support further campaigns and raise awareness. PeCAN has also teamed up with the National Energy Foundation (NEF) and local professional Retrofit Coordinators to create a new pilot called '**Petersfield Area SuperHomes**'. The project supports homeowners to improve the comfort, health and energy efficiency of their home by guiding them through a series of retrofit measures. **22 retrofit plans** have been completed for homeowners within Petersfield and those homes are now on a journey to start retrofitting their homes to significantly reduce their household carbon emissions.



PeCAN youth volunteers planting fruit trees



The first two completed MLC homes

Reducing home carbon emissions will in part mitigate the increase in the cost of living however access to **affordable housing** remains a key issue facing many local communities. **Midhurst Community Land Trust (MCLT)** is a not-for-profit social enterprise set up by local people for the benefit of the town and its surrounding villages is making available a long-term stock of genuinely affordable housing for local people to rent or occasionally, buy. The purchase by the MCLT of the **first two houses in Midhurst** is the first Community Land Trust success in Sussex; built with sustainability in mind with integrated solar panels to reduce household carbon emissions.

Obtaining property or land and negotiating the development of such is a slow process but MCLT have three other projects in the pipeline which if successful **should provide more than 40 new “units”** for the local area.

The Aquifer Partnership’s [SuDS in Schools](#) project is delivering exemplar Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in school grounds, encompassing the four pillars of SuDS – improving water quality, reducing flood risk, enhancing biodiversity and realising amenity value. The project has been delivered with financial support from Brighton & Hove City Council, the Environment Agency, the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust and Southern Water.

In addition to a courtyard rain garden centrepiece created by pupils in Moulsecoomb Primary School in Brighton, Wallands Primary School in Lewes have transformed the whole playground into a water friendly space, reducing run-off from the site which contributes to flooding further down the catchment. The tarmac playground is being brought to life with trees, permeable surfacing, play features, a new diverse hedge, rain planters with a mix of species for pollinators and wildflower basins. A stunning view has been revealed for the pupils and their families to enjoy. In total, **539 children** have benefitted from our SuDS in Schools project so far.



Concept sketch of the scheme at Wallands Primary School – Robert Bray Associates



School children enjoying time spent in nature

Encouraging young people to develop an understanding of and appreciation for our local environment is also a key aim for **So Sussex**, an innovative family run company aiming to offer people a range of enjoyable and educational outdoor experiences in the Sussex countryside. Through their **‘Schools Without Walls’** initiative, they have delivered 21 ‘Generation Green’ activity days within the South Downs National Park. Children and young people that are traditionally less likely – due to social, economic and cultural factors – to connect with nature, or engage with nature and nature preservation/conservation were offered the opportunity to take part in the project. **615 children and young people** from Sussex schools were supported to discover and explore and to **connect to nature**.

Connecting people to nature is also an effective way to improve individual **health and wellbeing** and recent [research](#) by the Mental Health Foundation has shown that “nature has played a critical role in mental health during the pandemic”. **The Grow Project** is a charitable organisation run by people who know what it is like to struggle with wellbeing challenges. Grow welcomes people from all over Sussex to get outdoors, reconnect with nature and improve their wellbeing. This year, the Grow Project delivered a rolling programme of 4 week “Reconnect” groups aimed at addressing loneliness and reconnecting people to the landscape and each other both during and after the pandemic. Small groups were taken to beautiful spaces and places around and outside of Brighton to spend time in nature and just enjoy the beauty of the seasons. Places were made accessible and charged on a sliding scale, including free places for those on a limited income.

Unfortunately, easy access to nature and green spaces can be a barrier to the most vulnerable people across the National Park. **Outcome 5 of the PMP** seeks to address these barriers by widening participation for under-represented groups; improving accessibility through a network of routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attraction, transport hubs and gateways; and encouraging sustainable access into and around the National Park.

Helping to achieve this outcome are [Friends of the South Downs](#) who have committed to providing attractive, sustainable oak seats every 7 miles or so along the South Downs Way. The first seat was installed 2 years ago above Saddlescombe farm and progress continues. In addition, the Friends have also funded **33 stile to gate conversions** installed by SDNPA staff to help **less mobile walkers** access the South Downs.

Friends of the South Downs have also collaborated with **Southeast Communities Rail Partnership** to share a new range of enjoyable and varied circular and linear walk guides, all from Railway Stations in and around the South Downs. Working with the Southeast Communities Rail Partnership over the last couple of years has led to banners displayed at railways stations, promoting the Society’s extensive guided walks.

Connecting people to the National Park is also imperative for our **local economy**. The National Park is home to more than 8,000 businesses and a thriving economy is essential if our landscapes are to be sustainably managed. However, economic uncertainty, the impact of Covid-19 and changes in support for farming and the rural economy, make this a time of huge upheaval. The tourism and the visitor economy is changing rapidly. A ‘Green Recovery’ means focusing on sectors such as land management, food & drink and the visitor economy to help businesses seize opportunities and create more sustainable business models.



Sustainable oak seating on the South Downs Way

Fins and Forks launched during the pandemic at home in the Sompting Estate in 2021 and subscribes to a sustainable, local ethos whilst adopting a flexible business model to combat economic uncertainty. [Fins and Forks](#) offers “Bait to Plate” experiences and cookery classes aimed at teaching participants how to “responsibly and confidently target, catch, prepare, cook and consume a range of local fish and seafood whilst at the same time providing a unique, intimate and fun experience”. This new business perfectly conveys **Outcome 10 in the PMP** which seeks to improve business’ sustainability, by boosting their environmental performance and actively seeking to employ local people, source local products and support other local businesses.



Champagne from Ridgeview vineyard



Focussing on the visitor economy and another exemplar of practicing sustainability through local enterprise, **Sussex Modern** brings together a group of 9 vineyards and 13 museums, performing arts venues and art galleries to offer visitors a unique experience in Sussex. Working in close partnership with SDNPA, Plumpton College and Lewes District Council, [Sussex Modern](#) secured **£719,100** from the UK Community Renewal Fund to grow wine and cultural tourism, backed by sustainable transport, in the region. The funding will support bookable art and wine itineraries, green travel options, support for local hospitality businesses and a clear place for Sussex on the global tourism map.

Well-conserved historical features and a rich **cultural heritage** are one of the **seven special qualities of the South Downs National Park** which attracts visitors and residents alike. **Outcome 4 of the PMP:** Cultural heritage of the National Park is enhanced and widely understood and enjoyed, reflects the value of culture as outlined in the DCMS Culture White Paper (2016):

- The intrinsic value: Culture creates inspiration, enriches lives and improves our outlook on life.
- The social value: Culture has important social benefits in terms of health, education and community cohesion.
- The economic value: the contribution culture makes to economic growth.

These values were demonstrated by **Sussex Archaeological Society** at [Lewes Castle](#) who received funding from SDNPA to support and extend their summer activities, focusing on families across the town and beyond. Workshops ranged from Dinosaurs to Dragons, Archaeology to Textiles and sessions exclusively for families with additional needs.

Hosting picnics, activities and heritage crafts in the Gun Garden gave children and adults the opportunity to play and mix in a safe, outdoor environment as well as a chance to climb to the top of the castle.



Knights in training at Lewes Castle

The funding targeted local families who may not have visited the Castle before or faced barriers to accessing local heritage sites. Vouchers were distributed through partnerships with schools, vulnerable groups, local foodbanks, play schemes and refugee families. Feedback was very positive with several families saying how much they enjoyed their visit. And for some families, who had felt that the Castle and museum was ‘not for them’, their experiences removed a barrier to coming again.

Artwork trail, Eastbourne



Combining ancient history with modern creativity, Mexican artist **Mariana Castillo Deball** created a public artwork trail that plays out across the streets of Eastbourne, into **Towner Eastbourne**'s gallery building, and out to the South Downs. As Part of [England's Creative Coast](#), the trail is inspired by a 'young Frankish woman' whose remains were excavated in Eastbourne in the late '90s along with a number of funerary objects dating back to the Iron and Bronze ages. Along the streets of Eastbourne pedestrians followed a chalk stencilled rope that when viewed from above or via a map delineates the profile of a woman. Along the way followers of the trail encountered several sculptural objects embedded in the fabric of the street each relating to the objects the woman was buried with. A third element to the work took place out of the town: the shape of a giant hairpin, the most magnificent of the found funerary objects, inscribed in chalk onto the Beachy Head Down.

4. Conclusion

In this report, we have provided examples of the inspiring work our partners are delivering right across the National Park. This snapshot of varied projects demonstrates a common theme of innovation and resourcefulness in meeting the challenges of the last two years whilst connecting with nature and working towards the protection and enhancement of the South Downs National Park.

This is the first year that feedback has been sought from partners, about their work, in support of the PMP. All major partners were approached and some provided detailed examples of their work whilst others struggled to provide information this year. The impact of Covid-19 is still being felt by some partners and we will encourage all partners to share and celebrate their achievements in 2022/23. Nevertheless, the diversity of work happening in support of the PMP is well represented.

Feedback on the content and layout of the report is welcome. For 2023, there are plans to combine this report with the Annual Review and explore alternative methods of telling the story of the National Park through, for example, a story-map or similar.

We would like to thank all partners who contributed to this report and we hope that those who were unable to contribute this year will do so in 2023.

For details about any of the work featured or to give feedback on this review, please contact:

Performanceandprojects@southdowns.gov.uk

ITEM 10 APPENDIX 4: CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT YEAR-END 2021/22							
Assist key for the RAG Performance column: Green = on track; Amber = slightly behind schedule; Red = significantly behind schedule							
Corporate Plan Thematic area	Key priorities	In year 2 of our Corporate Plan we will:	Key data	Commentary	RAG Performance	Next steps and/or potential risks (including impact of Covid-19)	PMP outcome(s) delivering against
1. Nature Recovery	Deliver the strategic work streams for the People and Nature Network (Green Infrastructure)	1) Develop greater detail around the Nature Conservation Improvement Areas (NCIA) and audit current activity 2) Align Local Plan Green Infrastructure (GI) policy and practice with Environment Bill, GI standards and partner authorities' Local Plans where possible to develop shared policy objectives 3) Support and develop cross boundary links to wider initiatives to support the setting of the SDNP 4) Integrate strategic GI approach with Nature Recovery Network (NRN) and Net Zero with Nature (NZWN)		The East Winchester Landscape Conversation final report and all the appendices are on the SDNPA website and have been passed through Assist accessibility testing. Links have been sent out to the stakeholders with a holding email. Internal meetings have been held to structure and coordinate the response and actions across teams within the SDNPA to agree the best way forward. The Infrastructure and Environment Strategy Lead will act as lead coordinator within the Winchester, area looking at the various work streams ahead.	Green	Next steps: Prepare EOI for continuation funding for the project workshop group - a further meeting is proposed in Q3 2022/23. Resources 4 Change are on board to undertake this session around moving on, partnership delivery and joining up. Several on the ground initiatives are developing and the project has provided an impetus for other things to begin. The M3/J9 project, for example, is using the evidence to put together mitigation proposals which are delivering aspirations set out by the stakeholders.	PMP Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty
1. Nature Recovery	Develop and deliver SDNPA projects as part of the National Trust led HLF funded Changing Chalk initiative	Development Phase continued: submission June 2021	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience
1. Nature Recovery	Complete Heathlands Reunited and secure ongoing commitments to heathland recovery and public engagement	1) Complete/close HeRe project 2) Initiate Strategic Access Management & Monitoring (SAMM) Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Project 3) Development of a landscape-scale approach to the Wealden Heaths	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 3: Habitats & Species
1. Nature Recovery	Restore nature at scale. Develop and implement a South Downs Delivery Plan for Wildlife. Work with regional and local partners (inc. Local Nature Partners (LNPs) and South East Protected Landscapes (SEPL) to define Nature Recovery Networks (NRNs) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	1) Define & adopt the Nature Recovery Network in partnership 2) Develop a nature recovery vision specific to the SDNP 3) Develop nature recovery in the SDNP by landscape character area 4) Develop a matrix / framework which outlines the different mechanisms (financing nature recovery and natural capital) 5) Develop a monitoring & reporting framework: develop and adopt the SDNPA approach to biological monitoring 6) Develop nature recovery/nature based solutions as part of the climate change action plan	33% of NP land, or 13,000ha, will be dedicated for nature by 2030 76 Call for Nature Sites (C4NS) applications received	The pilot Call for Nature Sites (C4NS) Eol window closed in January with 76 applications. Application assessment is underway; 55 Eols have so far been assessed. Defra launched a consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), SDNPA will be submitting a response, coordinating the NPE response and feeding into Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) and South East Nature Partnership (SENP) responses. Deadline is 5-April. For the Defra consultation on the Nature Recovery Green Paper and the Environmental Targets, SDNPA will contribute to the National Parks England (NPE) response and, again, feed into the LNP and SE Nature Partnership responses. The deadline is the 11-May. The Biological Monitoring Framework (BMF) Action Plan Year 1 reported to the Landscape & Biodiversity Theme Programme Board in Q4 and are drafting the Action Plan for Year 2. Progress continues with the Woodland Opportunity Mapping, Nature Recovery by Landscape Character Type mapping and the SE Nature Partnership Nature Recovery Network mapping/ framework.	Green	Next steps: Complete the assessment of the C4NS Eols and allocate lead officers to progress, forming a core of nature recovery delivery in 2022/23. Complete responses to the various Defra consultations: BNG, Nature Recovery Green Paper and Environmental Targets. Progress with the Nature Recovery Work programme for 2022/23 which has been developed alongside the Corporate Plan. Potential risks: Impact of the #ReNature campaign. Ability to bring land managers and partners to the table to take action. Capacity to engage in the complex range of Nature Recovery activity. Clarity of SDNPA role in facilitating new mechanisms. Officer capacity and resource.	PMP Outcome 3: Habitats & Species
2. Climate Action	Reduce nitrates into groundwater as part of Brighton ChAMP Phase 2 (The Aquifer Partnership (TAP))	Continuation of TAP	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience
2. Climate Action	Lead the Development phase of the OUSE Valley CARES bid to the Climate Action Fund	Develop and submit fully costed delivery project proposal for large HLF project	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live
2. Climate Action	Deliver Sustainable Drainage Project with schools	Rainscape construction planned in 2021/22- two schools (Moulsecoomb and Carden)	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live

2. Climate Action	Aim to achieve climate neutrality for the National Park Authority	Continue to implement and monitor climate change action plan		As well as discussions with partners regarding development on the SDNPA approach to offsetting the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions that it can't reduce; SDNPA's latest actions have been looking at fossil fuel use in SDNPA vehicles. Members of the sustainability group have arranged for an EV 4WD demo after undertaking research with Ranger staff and SSCP staff to evaluate its ability and application.	Green	Next steps: Awaiting new Commercial Director to take further actions forward regarding EV 4W.	Core work
3. A National Park for All	Create and undertake a Scheduled Monument Monitoring project	Apply for funding, recruit project delivery staff, plan delivery, design participant agreements and recruit participants	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 4: Cultural Heritage
3. A National Park for All	Roll out the Footsteps App	Develop and deliver new App content (max. 2 new organisations)	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 4: Cultural Heritage
3. A National Park for All	Create and Install 'Meet the Archaeologist' Near Field Communication (NFC) plaques	Deliver tranche 1 plaques	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 4: Cultural Heritage
3. A National Park for All	Encourage creative experiences and activities and cultural programming, providing a platform for increased representation and engagement for all groups	Build on projects and co-author follow on projects	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 4: Cultural Heritage
3. A National Park for All	Increase our digital reach and engagement	1) Increase web traffic to 55,000 visitors average per month 2) Deliver Phase 2 of the website 3) Increase our social media following to 65,000 (10% increase)	The website had 402,996 unique visitors during this period, providing us with a monthly average of 134,665 visitors . Across social media, we have 65,747 followers .	Phase two of the website has now been completed.	Green	Next steps: Continue to produce new feature content for the website, focused around awareness days and in line with Corporate Plan priorities. Potential risks: A slow down on new monthly page likes across social media. This will need to be monitored.	PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences
3. A National Park for All	Manufacture and install 30 new entry signs inside the National Park	Complete manufacture and installation of phase 2 which was delayed by Covid	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences
3. A National Park for All	Deliver the Families Outreach Project using the John Muir Award (JMA)	<u>Deliver year 2 and evaluate:</u> 1) Deliver face to face activities with community organisations 2) Support organisations through JMA resources and tool-kits 3) Review and evaluate project and embed legacy plans		Face to face engagement took place with EnableAbility, Facing Forward and Rackham Pathfinders. Resources have been completed and distributed to groups including the award of all group John Muir Award certificates for completed Awards. The project final report was written and submitted to SDNP Trust and the Connecting People and Communities (CPC) Theme Programme Board (TPB). Sian Jones (Families Outreach Officer) presented the findings to the CPC programme board and the CPM Directorate broadcast. Final hand-over and legacy documents have been produced and filed on the i-Drive. The project finished in Q3.	Green		PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences
3. A National Park for All	Provide funding for permissive paths as a stop gap between expiring existing agri-environment schemes and the start of the new ELM scheme	Ensure agreements are in place with relevant landowners	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences
3. A National Park for All	Create a safe crossing on the A283 at Upper Beeding on to the South Downs Way (SDW)	Support West Sussex County Council with scheme feasibility and outline design work	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences
3. A National Park for All	Deliver Centurion Way Phase 2 from Singleton to Cocking	Undertake ecological/tunnel surveys for Centurion Way Phase II		Winter ecological/tunnel (hibernation roost) surveys for West Dean, Singleton and Cocking disused railways tunnels were been carried out in December. All work is now complete for 2021/2022.	Green		PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences

3. A National Park for All	Create a new multi-user route along the Rother Valley	1) Review, negotiate and agree route alignment with landowners 2) Develop and submit planning application	Projects are reported through Tableau			PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences	
3. A National Park for All	Develop the 'Our South Downs' Learning Network	1) Review pilot of Ambassador Schools and extend approach following learning 2) Run year 2 of schools eco grant	£49,953 of school visit grants allocated in 2021-2022 supporting 6,200 pupils from 105 groups to engage with the SDNP	1. The urban/rural engagement elements of the Ambassador Schools programme was paused due to the inability of any activities to progress through the Covid restrictions. Despite this, Bury School contributed to the SDNP Ambassadors film for the 10th Anniversary celebrations and Droxford School progressed its outdoor learning space with grant funding from CiL. Ambassador school contact has now resumed and events are planned for Bury and Droxford School in the summer term. 2. School eco-grants have been launched in conjunction with the SDNP Trust. Closing date 6 May 2022. Provides grants of up to £150 per school to support renature activity in the school grounds.	Amber	Next steps: Evaluation of Ambassador School delivery in summer with case study written by September 2022	PMP Outcome 6: Lifelong Learning
3. A National Park for All	Deliver Generation Green	1) Contract learning provider to deliver educational sessions at YHA sites across the National Park (Eastbourne, South Downs and Truleigh) 2) Deliver South Downs Youth Action (SDYA) days as part of targeted delivery of volunteering opportunities for project participants 3) Work with partners in the SDNP Learning Network to deliver teacher CPD sessions on learning in the National Park 4) Work with Generation Green Project Manager to secure additional funding for Years 2-5 as part of the Access Unlimited consortium	So Sussex have delivered education days for 330 pupils. Three residentials reached a total of 130 young people (or 296 pupil overnights). A total of 20 South Downs Youth Action days have been completed reaching a total of 248 young people . 29 online teacher training sessions completed. Over 530 teachers attended the live sessions and 350 more downloaded the recordings after the event.	1. So Sussex have delivered education days for 330 pupils. A total of 25 sessions were delivered by the project with the extra session being used to support The Garden Classroom activities. 2. This reporting quarter saw a five night residential with the Lithuanian Society at YHA South Downs in February half-term and a one night weekend residential at YHA Truleigh Hill for Castlecombe Youth Group from Bromley in March. In total we have now delivered three SDYA residentials and three school residentials with Peter Gladwin School, Oscar Romero and Nightingale Primary School in collaboration with The Garden Classroom. These residentials reached a total of 130 young people (or 296 pupil overnights). A total of 20 SDYA days have also been completed engaging a total of 248 young people. 3. Delivery of the online teacher training sessions is complete. A total of 29 sessions were commissioned and delivered by partners across the SDNP Learning Network. Over 530 teachers attended the live sessions and over 350 more downloading the recordings after the events. 4. Proposals have been submitted to the Generation Green project manager for phase 2 applications.	Green	Next steps: Work with Generation Green project manager to support funding bids for Generation Green 2	PMP Outcome 6: Lifelong Learning
3. A National Park for All	Link into social prescribing and place based health networks to increase use of the National Park for health and well-being (H&WB) via social prescribing	1) Support the development of the Sussex Local Nature Partnership (LNP) H&WB sub committee 2) Identify places and begin negotiation for at least 1 H&WB hub to be set up 3) Identify existing Local Authority H&WB hubs 4) Use research findings to identify and develop specific interventions 5) Continue to support the Public Health England (PHE) Southern National Park partnership	Attended 3 meetings of the Sussex LNP H&WB sub committee. Helped lead development of an event for Leaders in Public Health, the Environment Sector and Local Government and Community sectors to identify actions to make health and well-being integral to nature recovery that has attracted Natural England (NE) funding of £8,000 . 2x hubs identified at Seven Sisters and Truleigh Hill. Final research report received. Identified 46 organisations delivering Social prescribing activity in or near the NP. Recommendations are being reviewed and and actions identified.	SDNPA supports the Sussex Local Nature Partnership by taking the notes of meetings. Staff were also on the Steering Committee for the March event. The Infrastructure Lead spoke at the event which was aimed at gaining commitment from key stakeholders to work collaboratively on a joined up approach to developing access to green open spaces for health, linked to the development of Local Nature recovery Strategies. We want to ensure the community voice is heard alongside health and environmental NGOs and Local Government. Initial discussions with the Seven Sisters Manager have identified a location for activities to take place. We have agreed the Heath and Well-Being Officer wil lead some mindful walks as part of the new offering on the site. Existing H&WB hubs have been identified, but as they are quite different in what they do across the National Park, there is not as much merit in linking them to hubs in the National Park as first anticipated. There have been no meetings with Public Health England (PHE) due to a restructure. However, we will try and pick things up in 2022.	Green	Next steps: We will keep engaged with, and continue to support, the development of the LNP H&WB sub committee. We will link providers from the social prescribing research to the Seven Sisters hub, and will provide training for volunteers so that they can deliver mindful walks. As a result of the Member workshop in October, we are preparing a briefing paper for the incoming Integrated Care System managers about the asset of the National Park and how we can work with them to secure long term funding for activity providers. We wil continue to attend network events and to support the Southern National Park Public Health Partnership. We may need to review and update the joint Accord.	PMP Outcome 7: Health & Wellbeing

3. A National Park for All	Develop South Downs Youth Action (SDYA)	1) Co-develop Lead Youth Ambassador roles with current Youth Ambassadors and recruit new intake of Youth Ambassadors 2) Deliver the SDYA Park-Wide programme in conjunction with the SDNP Trust, Clarion Housing and Generation Green 3) Launch the #iwillfornature youth action grant scheme	20 South Downs Youth Action days engaging with 248 young people	Three new Youth Ambassadors have been recruited bringing the total to five. The youth ambassadors attended the NPUK Youth Voice conference in Edale to represent the SDNPA. 20 SDYA days engaged a total of 248 young people. We hosted a second residential with a Clarion Housing Youth Group (Castlecombe youth centre) at YHA Truleigh Hill in March 2022. SDYA programme for 2022 has been developed with 10 SDYA planned for Spring and Summer. There was a low response to round 3 of the Youth Action Grant, potentially due to the impact Covid has had on youth group provision last autumn. In agreement with Clarion Housing and the SDNP Trust, we launched the second round of the Youth Action Fund in March 2022.	Green	Next steps: Deliver SDYA programme 2022-23. Finalise a programme of delivery for SD Youth Ambassadors for 2022.	PMP Outcome 8: Creating Custodians
3. A National Park for All	Deliver or support place making enhancements for specific communities	1) Support the development of the Petersfield place making strategy 2) Deliver Communities in the South Downs: develop draft products for 3 areas and begin engagement in 2 further areas	1. Attended 1 x Petersfield Officer Group meetings and 1 x Petersfield Strategy group meetings. Attended the Key Junctions stakeholder workshop and town spine stakeholder workshop. 2. Considered initial parish highways issues and options reports for Cheriton and Fittleworth. Initial review of overall interventions catalogue	1. Reviewed range of design options proposed by the engineer on key junctions and town spine proposals. Design proposals were circulated to key SDNPA officers for comment. Responses from officers and lead Members were collated and input was provided in writing before and after the stakeholder workshops. Provided extensive feedback on all options documents to project team at both stakeholder workshops. 2. Considered initial parish highways issues and options reports for Cheriton and Fittleworth. Provided extensive feedback to initial reports to consultants. after which the decision was taken to prepare the overall solutions catalogue before preparing parish level reports for the three pilot parishes. Draft reports for Fittleworth and Cheriton have been prepared and the consultant has SDNPA and Parish feedback. Initial feedback has been provided to consultant on overall intervention catalogue.	Green	Next steps: 1. Hampshire County Council project team will review all partners' input and comments and present preferred options for each of the key junctions and town spine. Preferred options will be tested using Visim modelling to assess the likely impact of town spine improvements on surrounding key junctions and whether key junction improvements will resolve impact of town spine improvements. Further stakeholder discussions to take place through Petersfield Officer Group and Petersfield Strategy Group. 2. To provide detailed feedback to the consultants on the overall intervention catalogue. To arrange stakeholder workshops with the three highways authorities SDNPA officers and pilot Parish Councils to review and agree on final interventions and supporting information. Following this, the three pilot parish reports will be finalised. One intervention from each pilot will be implemented using project funding. The delivery of interventions will be assessed by communities to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention catalogue. Year two pilots will not be progressing.	PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live
3. A National Park for All	Deliver our Public Affairs Strategy	Develop and deliver an annual action plan for the three priority areas of the Public Affairs Strategy		We began reviewing the strategy during this quarter to determine how we have done and to look at objectives going forward.	Green	Next steps: Report and revised strategy going to P&R Committee in July and NPA in October.	PMP Outcome 10: Great Places to Work
3. A National Park for All	Deliver the extended National Park Experience Collection (ENPEC), including roll out of Ranger Experiences	Support project legacy through collaborative NPA UK experience body	There are 87 live experiences on the National Parks UK website.	In Q3, a lead evaluation metrics report was completed for Visit England (funders) and a programme evaluation was given to the consultants. Since then, the Tourism Lead has presented to Visit Britain US office presenting to 20 people. Regarding project legacy, two meetings have been held - one with Visit Britain to discuss project legacy and a second sustainable tourism meeting to discuss project legacy and management.	Green	Next steps: This project is now closed	PMP Outcome 10: Great Places to Work
4. Rural Economy & 2. Climate Action	Support farm clusters across the South Downs National Park	Develop and operate projects that prepare farmers for the implementation of the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme at a landscape scale	14 farms receiving soil sampling and analysis as part of the Farm Carbon Project 773 views of new Meet the Farmer videos	In October, soil sampling and analysis was completed for 14 farms taking part in the SDNP Farm Carbon Project. The initial target had been 20 farms, but due to a difficult harvest, only 14 were able to take part. The remaining 6 farms will be completed in autumn 2022. After the soil analysis, 11 farmers received their reports and a visit from Stephen Woodley (consultant who undertook the sampling) to explain the results. The remaining 6 participants have yet to receive their reports due to delays at the labs analysing the samples. Due to this delay, farm carbon audits have not yet been undertaken and are planned for summer/autumn 2022. The 'Meet the Farmer' plaques were distributed to participating farms and put up along public rights of way through their holdings.	Green	Next steps: Remaining six soil reports to be sent to participating farmers and undertake Farm Carbon Toolkit (FCT) analysis	PMP Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty

4. Rural Economy	Participate in the Environmental Land Management (ELM) National Pilot	Ensure National Park involvement, where possible, in all components of the ELM National Pilot		Details of the Defra Landscape Recovery Pilot were announced in January 2022. Information was disseminated to the farmer clusters to assess interest. The Arun to Adur Farmers Group were keen to look at the possibilities, and we met with them and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) in February. After discussing the options, they decided that direct participation in the pilot was not appropriate, but they (through individual members) would look to participate in applications along the Arun (SDNPA led) and Adur (Knepp Estate led). Defra have also announced that the Local Nature Recovery Pilot will be launched later this year. Several of the farmer groups see this as their opportunity to be involved.	Green	Next steps: Continue to support those groups/farmers who are looking to take part in Landscape Recovery Pilots. Disseminate Local Nature Recovery Pilot information as soon as it is available.	PMP Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty
4. Rural Economy	Support Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL)	Implement and manage FiPL funding across the National Park	57 FiPL applications approved allocating £629,052.45	March 31st 2022 saw the end of year one of the FIPL Programme. Since it opened in July 2021, 57 applications were approved consisting of 72 projects allocating £629,052.45. These delivered across the range of FIPL objectives including 50 projects for 'nature', 50 for 'climate', 35 for 'people' and 52 for 'place'.	Green	Next steps: Work with the Local Assessment Panel (LAP) to set priorities for year two applications and start to develop and submit applications	PMP Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty
4. Rural Economy	Support the South Downs Forestry Champions partnership	Review the composition of the partnership group and continue delivery of the action plan	Royal Forestry Society have delivered 2 training events (out of 7) on Deer Management and Impact Assessments, and Introduction to protected species and their considerations in woodland management.	An MOU between Forestry Commission, Forestry England and the SDNPA has been agreed and will be signed soon. The MOU outlines conditions relating to the local agreement to meet the shared ambition, priorities and objectives set on the National Accord between Forestry Commission (England) and National Parks England signed in April 2018. Deer enclosures at West Dean and those funded by Natural England across the wider We Love Yew project area, have been completed and a baseline survey has been commissioned.	Green	Next steps: Next meeting of the SD Forestry Champions Partnership is scheduled for the 19th May. Continue support of Deer Management Groups. Potential risks: Changes in Covid-19 restrictions.	PMP Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience
4. Rural Economy	Support the Woodland Trust conservation partnership	Deliver a package of targeted woodland management advice and support to landowners and woodland businesses	38 site visits in year 4 (covering 1245 hectares of woodland in 74 woods) with all identified (except one) as needing further support. 32 sites getting support with Woodland Management Plans (WMPs): 11 sites with plans in progress but fed into; 12 WMP since visit; 7 working with owners; 2 WMPs in progress. 2 sites with invasive species being restored: Ancient or veteran trees recorded. 26 Trees for the Downs projects with 23 landowners planting 10,440 trees.	As part of the Conservation Partnership, the SDNPA and Woodland Trust (WT) worked with 2Excel Aviation Ltd to evaluate rhododendron mapping using fine resolution airborne data from selected sites in the South Downs. Data is currently being analysed. In addition to the Conservation Partnership with the WT a range of projects/activities aimed to improve the resilience and quality of trees and woodland in the NP have taken place. A woodland opportunity map has been developed and will be used to target potential areas with potential for afforestation.	Green	Next steps: Pursue the development of the conservation partnership with the WT following the departure of the SDNPA Woodland Officer. No agreement has been reached yet. Engagement and liaison with different partners to resolve issue with supply of elm cultivars. Potential risks: High risk the SDNPA will not be able to provide proactive engagement with landowners in relation to woodland management due to lack of resources.	PMP Outcome 2: Increasing Resilience
4. Rural Economy	Support and encourage traditional skills through partnerships	Develop and deliver new projects across both aims	Projects are reported through Tableau				PMP Outcome 4: Cultural Heritage

4. Rural Economy	Create a Business Network for likeminded local economic and social enterprise partners who positively contribute to the National Park	Deliver business engagement programme through the South Downs Enterprise Partnership. Aim for 60 members	609 businesses continue to subscribe to the business newsletter. There are also 21 businesses assisting with the development of the business community in the capacity of a business focus group.	Great progress has been made during Q4. The design and mechanics of the platform are now 95% complete. The content including photography is 100% complete aided by the support of a professional copywriter. The CRM data is clean and ready to export across, with all GDPR advice received informing the process. The domain names have been purchased and are due to be transferred in April. The platform has been tested in a real-time environment with the 20 businesses that make up the Business Focus Group (BFG) and their feedback has informed the last stages of the development. The Platform is ready for launch and Go Live in Q1 2022/23. It is expected the original 19 businesses that form the BFG, which is shaping the development of the platform, will become the founder members of Our South Downs.	Green	Next steps: Development of the platform will continue into Q1 2022/23, with a view to doing a press release w/c 16th May which will also act as the official 'Go Live' for the platform. Recruitment work will build during the next quarter alongside continual enhancement works to the platform in terms of content and campaigns. The engagement and interaction with businesses through the platform will become the go to mechanism for the SDNPA when communicating with the business community.	PMP Outcome 10: Great Places to Work
4. Rural Economy	Implement the learning from the Whole Estate Plans review	Review the WEPs guidance and process		WEPs guidance and process now reviewed and an action plan in place	Green		Core work
5. Seven Sisters Country Park	Produce a Landscape Management Plan (LMP) for Seven Sisters Country Park	LMP completed. Delivery in SSCP started	Seven Sisters updates are reported to P&R and NPA in a written report				PMP Outcome 3: Habitats & Species
5. Seven Sisters Country Park	Deliver the Communications Plan and signage and interpretation plans for Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP)	1) Engage with local communities on the redevelopment and launch of SSCP 2) Develop and launch new Seven Sisters website and social media channels 3) Develop and deliver new site signage 4) Deliver new interpretation in the visitor centre 5) Launch and promote SSCP after Phase 1 has been completed	c 100,000 unique visitors to SSCP social media channels 2,375 followers 4 carpark interpretation panels installed. 6 entry signs installed.	Visitor centre interpretation was designed and delivered to budget and deadline. Press release sent out to announce the opening of the visitor centre, toilets and grab and go. Social media followers and web visitors continue to grow steadily. One sign was delayed due to delays to the building works but will be installed in the first week of July.	Green	Next steps: Final sign to be installed in early July. New listening posts to be installed in the Autumn as part of the Writer in Residence programme. Working with the SSCP to deliver SDNPA events at SSCP.	PMP Outcome 5: Outstanding Experiences
5. Seven Sisters Country Park	Work towards building Seven Sisters Country Park into a world class visitor attraction	1) Complete Camping Barn bunkhouse construction 2) Ensure marketing is underway	Seven Sisters updates are reported to P&R and NPA in a written report				PMP Outcome 10: Great Places to Work
5. Seven Sisters Country Park	Complete Phase 1 scope of works at Seven Sisters Country Park	Phase 1 construction underway	Seven Sisters updates are reported to P&R and NPA in a written report				Core work
5. Seven Sisters Country Park	Develop a wider masterplan for the future Phase 2 and Phase 3 work at Seven Sisters Country Park	Identify development opportunities following completion of Phase 1 work to support operational and commercial delivery at Seven Sisters Country Park. This will be led by the Trading Company	Seven Sisters updates are reported to P&R and NPA in a written report				Core work
5. Seven Sisters Country Park	Set up a trading company for Seven Sisters Country Park	Ensure trading company is operating. Commercial elements now trading - visitor centre/bunk house/ holiday lets		The operating agreement was approved at NPA in December 2021, and has now been signed off by the company. The annual business plan has now also been agreed by the NPA (as shareholder of the company).	Green		Core work
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Engage digitally on Local Plans, neighbourhood plans and other planning documents	Explore interactive digital engagement starting with our new SPDs/TANs, major planning applications and Whole Estate Plans. Investigate any pilot schemes from MHCLG.		We have progressed work on our digital engagement at Shoreham Cement Works. We engaged PlaceChangers to lead on this work and also instructed a separate company to film drone footage that we will use as part of the consultation	Green	Next steps: Work will continue on the virtual consultation to support the Issues & Options consultation, which is due to commence Q1 2022-23	PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Maintain a robust and well performing host authority development management system	1) Monitor service and deliver continued Improvements 2) Devise new Section 101 agreements	Approximately 80% of all planning decisions taken in the National Park are taken by the 5 host authorities.	NPA has authorised heads of terms for new Section 101 (\$101) contracts with our 5 host authorities that will apply from 1 October 2022.	Green	Next steps: Completing (i.e. signing and sealing) the final Section 101 contracts. A full report on 2021/22 planning performance will be provided to Policy and Resources Committee in September.	Core work

6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Provide Local Plan training for officers, members and agents	Train officers, members and agents on the Local Plan		Following on from the Agents' Forum in Q3, successful Local Plan Member and Officer training took place in Q4 for which we received very positive feedback. The focus was on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	Green		Core work
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Review and update the Local Plan, including evidence gathering and engagement	Incorporate learning from establishment of first Local Plan		We are actively incorporating learning on the Local Plan into implementation. The system of Planning Policy providing comments is now well established and working well.	Green		Core work
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Implement Local Plan Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Technical Advice Notes (TANs)	Provide further guidance on Local Plan policies for Design SPD, Biodiversity Net Gain SPD, Parking SPD, Viticulture TAN, Camping & Glamping TAN, Equestrian TAN, Health & Wellbeing TAN and Ecosystem Services TAN.		We are coming to an end with our SPD/TAN work. The Renewable TAN was approved at Planning Committee in February 2022.	Green		Core work
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Work cooperatively with neighbouring local planning authorities on cross boundary strategic issues	Respond to consultations from neighbouring local planning authorities concentrating on our six cross boundary priorities		Comments have been submitted on the Eastbourne draft Land Availability Assessment methodology.	Green		Core work
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Deliver a robust and well performing development management and Minerals & Waste service	Exceed the performance indicators for issue of decisions whilst adding value	The Authority achieved the following performance in Q1-Q4: Majors 89%, Minors 79%, Others 82% <i>(Note the Authority achieved the following performance in Q4: Majors 95%, Minors 77%, Others 80%)</i>	Note that these figures are provisional pending quality assurance checks. However it should be noted that the data shows an improvement in Q4 over the previous quarter (Q3).	Green		Core work
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Deliver a robust and well performing development management service in terms of Appeals performance	Respond swiftly to appeals and measure the rate of dismissals	Percentage of Appeals dismissed in Q1, Q2, Q3 & Q4 = 68%	The performance continues to be acceptable in relation to appeals won.	Green		Core work
6. Delivering the Statutory Planning Service	Deliver a robust and well performing enforcement service	1) Undertake investigations within agreed timetables 2) Ensure swift resolution and conclusion of investigations		Investigations have been dealt with within acceptable timescales. Teams continue to work hard to ensure, where possible, swift resolution to investigations.	Green		Core work
7. Major Developments	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		Speed of determination of major planning applications remains in excess of Government targets. All NSIP deadlines were met.	Green		PMP Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty
7. Major Developments	Provide high quality specialist advice in Design, Conservation and Landscape, as required across the organisation	Provide specialist advice as and when required		Specialist advice has been provided throughout.	Green		PMP Outcome 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty
7. Major Developments	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 produce the yearly Infrastructure Business Plan (IBP) as a mechanism to direct CIL money to priorities	S106: During 21/22 we collected £161,962.17 and spent £509,742.39 . CIL: Over 400 projects are being assessed for inclusion on the 2022 IBP (i.e. spending of 2021/22 CIL Receipts). In 2021/22 we gave £818,809 to different projects across the Park and £509,054.57 directly to Parish / Town Councils. The CIL collected in 2021/ 22 was £2,589,066.17 .	S106: In Q4 spent S106 monies helping to deliver ecological mitigation in Bordon, sports pavilion refurb in Petworth, tree and hedgerow planting and provision of a car club in Lewes. CIL: The closing date for CIL bids was 28th February 2022. Example CIL Projects funded this year include, play and sports equipment in Stedham and Iping, a new sports pavilion in Fernhurst, Natural Flood Mgt Projects in Liss and new outdoor education facilities at a school in Droxford.	Green	Next steps: 'Business as usual' for preparing this year's IBP - the spending of 2021/22 CIL Receipts. Closing date for submitting bids was 28th Feb and we have started the assessment process Potential risks: Government has confirmed its intention to replace S106 and CIL for a national infrastrucutre levy - details are still awaited. Therefore risks and implications are currently unknown.	PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live

8. Generating Income & 1. Nature Recovery	Comms to work alongside the Trust to develop and deliver a Nature Recovery Campaign. The aim is to raise substantial funds to enable delivery of our ambitious nature recovery plans for an additional 13,000 hectares of land that will be managed for nature by 2030	Develop and launch our Nature Recovery Campaign	31 pieces of media coverage re the Re:Nature Call for Nature Sites, reaching a total of 2.4 million people We reached 39,813 people through social media and 2,154 through our website with the Call for Nature Sites information During Q3 we reached an additional 172,729 people through our social media with our ReNature campaign messaging We launched the New Nature Recovery Hub which has had 2,4002 unique visitors .	In November 2021 we launched the first ReNature Call for Nature Sites. Media coverage included BBC Sussex and Farming UK.	Green		PMP Outcome 3: Habitats & Species
8. Generating Income & 3. A National Park for All	Work with External funding team to find ways to fund a challenge fund to support the development of community facility enhancements that contribute to mitigating climate change, enhancing nature recovery, promoting health and well-being and supporting the local economy	1) Understand which funders might support this and approach them 2) Work with parishes to identify enhancements needed		The Corporate Plan review process has identified the importance of supporting communities to develop community assets to ensure a National Park for All. The Corporate Plan includes a high level target to 'create tangible assets in the areas identified in the People and Nature Network as having a deficit and where local communities are willing to engage in supporting access to the National Park'. To support this aim, officers will seek to align CIL spend to make a direct contribution to this aim and explore external funding opportunities through the South Downs Trust	Amber	Next steps: Explore funding opportunities through the South Downs Trust. Engage with the CIL and S106 officers the opportunities to support applications for CIL / 106 which would support the corporate priority around developing community assets	PMP Outcome 9: Great Places to Live
8. Generating Income & 9. New Ways of Working	Develop a fund raising strategy and identify ways to help fund, match fund and increase the value of our partnership work, through supporting our Theme Programme Boards and initiatives that are focussed on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) or are strongly supportive and contribute to our wider EDI aspirations	Develop a funding stream to deliver actions		A number of our projects include components to help further our EDI, for example, Ouse Valley Cares, Families Outreach and the School Travel Grant.	Green		Core work
8. Generating Income	Continue to develop self generated income, supporting PMP delivery, through bids to Statutory Sources, support for developing Private Finances for Natural Capital Services and support for the South Downs National Park Trust in continuing to build a sustainable income stream	Raise £2.5 million across all fundraising streams	£1,368,000 secured	Full year income below target due to an unsuccessful Tree Call to Action Fund and a delayed Ouse Valley Climate Action Bid. However, we were successful in securing additional funding for Seven Sisters Country Park from South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and we have an exceptionally strong pipeline of £4.6 million with which to begin the new financial year 2022/23.	Amber		Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Set up thematic research networks with academics and sector specialists based on research requirements highlighted through strategic reviews and in the PMP	Start collaborations around the chosen three themes: Soil Health, Climate Change and Health & Wellbeing		We are working on a soils research project with the University of Sussex (UoS) that will benefit a number of areas of our and our partners' work relating to climate change, farming practices etc. The research aims are threefold: 1. Quantify carbon capture potential of switching land use or employing restorative practices on chalk, clay and sand based soils; 2. Estimate the timeline for carbon capture for different land uses and soils, and 3. Explore causes of considerable variability in soil carbon within land use and soil type that UoS have recorded in pilot data.	Green	Next steps: share and utilise the evidence from the soils research project.	Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Improve performance and project reporting information on the National Park Authority website	Ensure project and performance web content is updated at least quarterly		Project web pages have been created and signed off by officers. These will be updated every quarter and have clear links to the Corporate Performance quarterly reports and the Annual Review.	Green	Next steps: continue to review and develop our project and performance information to better 'tell the story' of our delivery against PMP outcomes	Core work

9. New Ways of Working	Establish, manage and monitor an evaluation framework tasked to carry out external evaluations of SDNPA corporate and project work	1) Ensure evaluations are carried out to a high standard 2) Internally review the success to date of the framework and create KPIs		The Evaluation Framework, consisting of five evaluation agencies, is proving very effective. Heritage Insider are our main supplier and have undertaken the PMP process review, updated the Sussex Heritage Coast Partnership strategy and action plan and developed the Ouse Valley Climate Action monitoring plan. They are currently working on our Volunteering Review. LUC undertook the Whole Estate Plans Review, and ERS Ltd are undertaking the monitoring and evaluation of the Timescape project.	Green	Next steps: procure an evaluation for the Communities in the South Downs project.	Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Monitor SDNPA and partner delivery against PMP outcomes	Implement framework for PMP impact reporting		We have obtained information from partners in time for year end reporting and have ensured our reporting is more outcome and impact focused.	Green		Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Implement actions following recommendations for the Equity Diversity and Inclusion review of the South Downs National Park Authority	1) Training plan identified and set in motion 2) Additional key actions and recommendations identified and put into place		The EDI Action Plan has been to SMT and will go to the EDI Steering group in January 2022. Many actions are already being implemented, and some have been completed.	Green	Next steps: The relevant officers will implement their actions from the plan and progress will be monitored with progress monitored quarterly by the EDI steering group.	Core work
9. New Ways of Working	<u>Develop relational partnerships:</u> 1) Work with strategic partners to develop work streams to engage with target audiences as identified within the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion review 2) Work with target audiences to co-author mutually beneficial outputs	1) Look to build on strategic existing partnerships and develop new partnerships based on ongoing relationships work with DEFRA, NPE, NP officer groups, ACE, PHE, NE CCs etc 2) Develop a range of outcomes which cover multiple PMP ambitions and accord with Glover recommendations for engagement for all		1. A mechanism for gathering partners' feedback of their experience of working with us will be incorporated into standard processes within the coming months. This was a recommended course of action from the ALS partnership review. Separately, a review of partnerships is underway as a consequence of new Corporate Plan priorities. Strategic partnerships with key organisations has been particularly prevalent during this last quarter with the governments' response to Glover bringing together partners new and old to find common responses. 2. There are multiple examples of projects being co-authored and delivered through the Theme Programme Boards which cover several PMP ambitions and accord with the Glover recommendations for engagement for all.	Green	Next steps: Continue to promote the use of the EDI Screening and Impact Assessment Form in developing proposals to ensure EDI is properly taken into account.	Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Embed Equity, Diversity and Inclusion across the way the National Park Authority works internally and externally	1) Reconsider the policies and processes that are least helpful and replace with more inclusive approaches 2) Identify those policies and processes which are easier to amend and make the necessary changes.		Several policies and processes have been identified and have been changed, and others are either in hand or have been planned. We are starting to see the impacts of changing policies, for instance recruitment, where skills and relevant experience are accepted alongside qualifications, ensuring a wider cohort of applicants to choose from.	Green	Next steps: Continue to review policies and processes and adapt where necessary	Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Continue to build on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Communications Plan	Provide platforms for target groups to showcase their experiences to inspire future generations and new audiences	We achieved a number of pieces of coverage, reaching over 1 million people through broadcast, print and online media. The Colour of Chalk podcasts were promoted to an audience of over 8,500 through our newsletter	During October 2021, we launched the Writer in Residence at SSCP and covered the first set of workshops carried out with the cohort. In November the first of the series of podcasts, "The Colour of Chalk" was released.	Green	Next steps: launch the second podcast by Josephine Hall In January 2022.	Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Continue to review opportunities to secure suitable long term accommodation for our area offices that meets the aspirations of the National Park Authority	Begin arrangements to re-locate central area staff		On-hold to review use of office space with new ways of working. Introduction of blended working in October 2021 likely to mean changes for balance of area accommodation required.	Amber		Core work
9. New Ways of Working	Commission a new Staff Survey and create an action plan	Procure and undertake survey		Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the externally commissioned staff survey will be delayed until April 2023. At present we wish to focus on the blended ways of working staff survey which we will conduct internally. This is due to take place in September 2022.	Amber	Next steps: develop and test the questionnaire for the blended working staff survey to go out in September 2022. Design the brief to enable the more detailed staff survey to be commissioned in early 2023.	Core work

9. New Ways of Working	Set up new South Downs Partnership (SDP)	1) Ensure South Downs Partnership consists of a wide variety of partner organisations 2) Appoint Chair and encourage a wide range of applications for the remaining specialist places on the partnership		In April the SDP submitted a strong response to the Defra consultation on the Glover Review and a covering letter in the name of its Chair which was acknowledged by the Minister. A number of SDP partners also made supportive comments using their social media channels. The Partnership met face to face for the first time in April, to look in more depth at the three Corporate Plan priorities. The education representative – Julie Kapsalis – has unfortunately had to step down due to changing employment and a new individual is being sought.	Green	Next steps: a site visit is planned to Church Farm, Litlington, on 12th July, to focus on land use and land management issues.	Core work
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South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan 2020-25: Outcomes & Priorities

Purpose 1: Enhance

Outcomes	Priority Programmes
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	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 1.3. Maximise environmental, cultural and economic benefits of agri-environment and forestry schemes across the National Park
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	2.1. Improve soil and water by reducing soil erosion, improving carbon capture and filtration and reconnecting wetland habitats 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
Outcome 3 A thriving and connected network of habitats and increased population and distribution of priority species now exist in the National Park	3.1. Create, restore and improve areas of priority habitat to be more, bigger, better, and joined up at a landscape scale 3.2. Increase the genetic diversity and resilience of target species and implement a landscape scale strategy for tackling invasives, pest species and diseases
Outcome 4 Cultural heritage of the National Park is enhanced and widely understood and enjoyed	4.1. Increase conservation, awareness, access to and understanding of South Downs cultural heritage 4.2. Promote creativity and understanding of the landscape and traditions of the South Downs through contemporary arts and crafts

Purpose 2: Experience

Outcomes	Priority Programmes
Outcome 5 Outstanding experiences for communities and visitors are supported by high quality access and sustainable transport networks	5.1. Encourage everyone to experience the National Park and widen participation for under-represented groups through targeted activities and promotion 5.2. Improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways 5.3. Encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park, encouraging the retention and expansion of rural transport services
Outcome 6 Widespread understanding of the special qualities of the National Park and the benefits it provides	6.1. Provide high-quality outdoor learning opportunities as part of a locally relevant curriculum
Outcome 7 The South Downs National Park is a well-used and recognised asset for sustaining mental and physical health and wellbeing	7.1. Develop initiatives which enable local communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing
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	8.1. Increase and diversify volunteering opportunities that support the National Park

Duty: Thrive

Outcomes	Priority Programmes
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	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 9.3. Support improvement in digital infrastructure, speed and coverage throughout the South Downs National Park
Outcome 10 A diverse, sustainable, dynamic economy which is positively linked to the special qualities of the National Park	10.1. Strengthen and support sustainably managed land-based industries and local enterprise 10.2. Increase awareness and desirability of the South Downs as a special place to visit 10.3. Establish the South Downs as an exemplar in sustainable tourism

ITEM 10 APPENDIX 6: CORPORATE PLAN FIVE YEAR MEASURES OF SUCCESS YEAR 2 PROGRESS REPORT (2021/22)				
Assist key for the RAG column: Green = on track; Amber = slightly behind schedule; Red = significantly behind schedule				
Five Year Measures (FYM)	Achieved	Yr 2 target	RAG	Commentary
CORPORATE PLAN THEMATIC AREA: A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL				
Increase our average unique monthly web visitors from @36,000 to 54,000 by 2025	130,911	42,000	Green	As more people spent time at home and online as a result of COVID-19 and lockdowns, our channels became refuges for those seeking an escape from doom scrolling and negative news. We made a conscious choice early on that channels were to be 'positivity engines' by helping people connect to the landscape at a time they were only allowed to leave their homes for specific periods or for a limited number of reasons. This accelerated our channel growth and engagement. More recently, we've seen higher volumes of international traffic to our website, probably as a result of an uptick in international visitations to the UK.
Increase our social media following from @37,000 to 50,000 across all platforms by 2025	65,747	41,000	Green	As lockdown restrictions slowly eased, outdoor venues and facilities opened first. This meant we had a big drive on our channels towards walking pages and to feature pieces on the website e.g. top picnic locations in the South Downs. Many were finding us for the first time and we've retained a high number of these users since.
Increase from the baseline in the 2018 Volunteer Development Strategy in the number of females participating in volunteering opportunities led by the SDNPA	33%	32%	Green	This figure includes volunteers noting their gender as other (e.g. non-binary or gender-fluid).
Increase from the baseline in the 2018 Volunteer Development Strategy in the number of young people participating in volunteering opportunities led by the SDNPA	13%	5%	Green	This share of the volunteer cohort has increased from 4% in 2019. This is due to the targeted programme of South Downs Youth Action days coordinated by the SDNPA Volunteer Development Officer and delivered by staff across the SDNPA and partner organisations. The reduction in VRS tasks due to COVID-19 has also played a part.
Increase from the baseline in the 2018 Volunteer Development Strategy in the number of BAME people participating in volunteering opportunities led by the SDNPA	6%	1%	Green	This increase is due to aforementioned youth volunteering programmes and residential weekends working with diverse groups of young people from urban conurbations such as London.
Create two new gateways to the National Park between 2020 and 2025	1	1	Green	Year 1-2 aim to create gateway at Seven Sisters Country Park
% of people aware of the South Downs National Park in a YouGov poll	61%	65%	Amber	The year 2 target was 65% (a 4% increase on the 61% result achieved in the 2020 survey). However, the result remained the same with 61% of YouGov pollsters aware of the SDNP in 2021 (based on a survey of 2,030 residents of Great Britain undertaken over one day in October 2021). A new survey is due to take place in October 2024 when we will measure whether awareness has increased back to the 65% figure achieved in the 2019 survey, prior to the various restrictions imposed by COVID-19.
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	9%	10%	Amber	The way this data is captured could be improved. As disabilities are not necessarily visible and their disclosure is not compulsory, the figure is likely to be higher. The impact of COVID-19 may also have reduced the willingness of people with disabilities to volunteer due to the potential risks around social mixing.
Develop at least 3 Health and Well- Being Hubs across the National Park by 2025	0	3	Amber	Target = at least 3 hubs created by 2025. There have been some challenges around creating health and wellbeing 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.

CORPORATE PLAN THEMATIC AREA: DELIVERING THE STATUTORY PLANNING SERVICE				
% of major applications determined within 13 weeks	89%	70%	Green	54 applications were made and 48 determined within 13 weeks. <i>NB Statutory target is 60%, SDNPA internal target is 70%</i>
% of minor and other planning applications determined within 8 weeks	81%	80%	Green	2,172 applications were made and 1,758 determined within 8 weeks. <i>NB Statutory target is 70%, SDNPA internal target is 80%</i>
CORPORATE PLAN THEMATIC AREA: NEW WAYS OF WORKING				
% of contractors fulfilling their obligations as set out in their tender to quality, time and budget	100%	80%	Green	Request for feedback was sent with regard to 8 contractors. Of the 7 response received, all had fulfilled their obligations.
% of new projects brought forward that have delivery plans	71%	100%	Amber	This low figure is due to changes made to the reporting process and some projects may have been unaware of the new project delivery plan requirements. This has been addressed for 2022/23.

ITEM 10 APPENDIX 7: PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-25 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS PROGRESS UPDATE (2021/22)				
Assist key for the RAG column: Green = on track; Amber = slightly behind schedule; Red = significantly behind schedule				
Indicator	2021/22 data	2021/22 Target	RAG	Comment
PMP OUTCOME 1: Landscape & Natural Beauty				
Percentage of the National Park that is relatively tranquil for its area	86%	80%	Green	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%	Green	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 2022/23 reporting.
Percentage of woodland area that is managed under agri-environment or other schemes	70%	69%	Green	This is data collected by Natural England, the Environment Agency, Historic England and Forestry Commission and cut to English National Park boundaries (known as MEOPL data - Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes). The figure for 2020/21 was 69%. This increased slightly to 70% in 2021/22.
Percentage of farmland that is managed under agri-environment or other schemes	50%	70%	Amber	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 stabilised at around 70% as CS increases at the same rate that HLS/ELS agreements decrease. This is MEOPL data. Whilst the figure for 2020/21 was 70.0%, this decreased to 50% in 2021/22. This may be due in part to the gap between existing agri-environment schemes expiring and the start of the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme.
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 60 geological sites within the National Park. This is broken down into 50 Local Geological Sites (LGS)/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 (SGG) 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 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.

PMP OUTCOME 2: Increasing Resilience				
PMP-8: Percentage of rivers and groundwater bodies with water available for abstraction	7.5%			We were unable to source this data from the Environment Agency in 2020/21 and the data for 2021/22 will not be available until at least November 2022. Therefore, the only figure we have is from 2019 (7.5%).
PMP OUTCOME 3: Habitats & Species				
Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland that is in a favourable condition	81%	80%	Green	According to MEOPL data from 2019/20, 2,406 out of 2,966 ha (81%) of broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland SSSIs are in favourable condition. Note that this is consistent with 2017 as only three units have been surveyed since 2017, all of which were already in favourable condition. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as no updated data was provided by Natural England for 2020/21 or 2021/22. In addition to continuing to report on MEOPL data - in line with other NPAs - we may also be able to report better local data from 2023/24 with information from projects such as Trees for the Downs, We Love Yew etc.
Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of calcareous grassland that is in a favourable condition -	43%	41%	Green	According to MEOPL data from 2019/20, 1,348 out of 3,103 ha (43%) of calcareous grassland SSSIs are in favourable condition. This a slight increase from 42% in 2017. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as no updated data was provided by Natural England for 2020/21 and 2021/22. In addition to continuing to report on MEOPL data - in line with other NPAs - we may also able to report better local data from 2023/24 with information from projects such as Big Chalk, Changing Chalk etc.
Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of lowland heath that is in a favourable condition	29%	27%	Green	According to MEOPL data from 2019/20, 432 of 1,488 ha (29%) of lowland heath SSSIs are in favourable condition. This is a significant increase compared to 10% in favourable condition in 2017. This increase is due to the re-survey of several SSSI units in Woolmer Forest resulting in a reclassification from Unfavourable Recovering to Favourable condition, which was a key Heathlands Reunited site. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as no updated data was provided by Natural England for 2020/21 and 2021/22. In addition to continuing to report on MEOPL data - in line with other NPAs - we may also able to report better local data from 2023/24 with information from projects such as SAMMs and other HeRe legacy work.
Area, condition and connectivity of target priority habitats – percentage of neutral grassland that is in a favourable condition	34%	33%	Green	According to MEOPL data from 2019/20, 479 out of 1,417 ha (34%) of neutral grassland SSSIs is in favourable condition. This is a slight increase on 32% reported in 2017. Note that we are reporting on 2019/20 data as no updated data was provided by Natural England for 2020/21 or 2021/22.
Percentage of water bodies achieving 'good' or 'high' status or potential	32%	32%	Green	According to MEOPL data from 2021/22, 99.94km of 314.44km (32%) of streams and rivers in the SDNP were considered to have 'good' ecological status. This is a significant improvement on the baseline reported in the State of the Park Report (2012) when we reported that just 15% of streams and rivers achieved 'good' or 'high' ecological status.
Population and distribution of target priority species				The South Downs Farmland Bird Initiative is currently in its 8th year of data collection and early trend results have been produced, a brief summary is as follows: in the 115 squares for which results are available for this year (2021), lapwings were recorded in only 11 squares, corn buntings in 21 squares, and grey partridges in only four squares. These small numbers are the reason why it is difficult to monitor these key farmland species using a survey of this type, but the aim of this monitoring project is to monitor more common farmland species with the idea that these will act as indicators of the quality of the farmland for birds and other wildlife. In the 115 squares within the South Downs National Park, skylarks were recorded in 97 squares (84%), yellowhammers in 67 squares (58%) and linnets in 69 squares (60%). Buzzards were recorded in 77 squares (67%) and red kites in 35 squares (30%). In addition to farmland birds, the Biodiversity Monitoring Group have highlighted five national recording schemes they are looking to adopt and implement locally. We now have data on dragonfly monitoring for the National Park and discussions have begun looking at Butterfly survey data cut to the National Park boundary. As a fourth set of data, we are currently investigating the use of the National Plant Monitoring scheme and a fifth data set will be added in 2022/23.

Distributions of target invasive non-native invasive species (INNS)				Area teams continue to monitor invasive species specific to their areas including American mink in the Western Area and Himalayan Balsam in the Wealden area. In addition, the five catchment partnerships are taking the lead on invasive species survey and control on a catchment wide basis. Invasive non-native species (INNS) projects have been set up on the Itchen, Ouse and Cuckmere and planning is in progress for the Arun, Rother and Meon catchments.
PMP OUTCOME 4: Arts & Heritage				
Percentage of heritage assets 'at risk'	0.8%	0.9%	Green	According to Historic England data, there are 5,808 heritage assets (<i>listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields</i>) in the SDNP. Of these, 46 (0.79%) were considered to be 'at risk' in 2021/22.
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 but there is a cost attached to this.
PMP OUTCOME 5: Outstanding Experiences				
Percentage of visitors who felt very satisfied with the visitor experience	98%	99%	Green	This information is collected via the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey, undertaken every three years. The last survey took place in summer 2021. In 2018 and 2021, 98% of respondents rated their enjoyment of the National Park 'high' or 'very high'. Whilst this is an excellent result, this is a slight decrease from the 2015 survey (99%). The next Visitor Survey is due to take place in 2024 when we will report updated data.
PMP-13: Percentage of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that is 'easy to use' or in good condition	93%	79%	Green	Note that we are reporting the figure from 2019/20 as no surveys were undertaken by the South Downs Society in 2020/21 and 2021/22 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	8%	11%	Amber	This information is collected via the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey, undertaken every three years. The last survey took place in summer 2021. In 2021, possibly due to COVID-19, there was a fall in the number of people using public transport to visit the National Park (down to 8% from 11% in 2015 and 2018). The next Visitor Survey is due to take place in 2024 when we will report updated data.
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	In 2021/22 we relaunched the Serpent Trail. As part of the relaunch one of our rangers replaced a number of stiles on the Serpent Trail making more of the trail more accessible. As well as a new guidebook launched in April 2021, other work such as the Iping Common boardwalk has contributed to making more of this route accessible.
PMP OUTCOME 6: Lifelong Learning				
Percentage of people who are aware of why the National Park is a special place	96.0%	95%	Green	This information is collected via the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey, undertaken every three years. The last survey took place in summer 2021. In 2021, 96% of people surveyed noted that at least one of the seven special qualities was a contributing factor to their enjoyment. This is comparable to 96.5% in 2018 and 95% in 2015. The next visitor survey is due to take place in 2024 when we will report updated data.
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%	Green	The figure for this indicator is obtained through a contracted 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. The next survey is due to take place in the Summer term 2022. We will report an updated figure in 2022/23

PMP OUTCOME 7: Health & Wellbeing				
Percentage of visitors using the National Park for the improvement of their health and wellbeing	N/A	31%	N/A	This information was collected for the first time in 2021 via the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey. The option 'It improved my health and wellbeing' was added to the question 'What factors contributed to your enjoyment of your visit to this part of the South Downs National Park today?'. We will continue to measure this in future surveys. The next visitor survey is due to take place in 2024 when we will report updated data.
PMP OUTCOME 8: Creating Custodians				
Total number of volunteer days spent on activity relating to the special qualities	95,120	91,000	Green	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 2023 when we will report updated data.
Number and proportion of community led plans that are adopted and/or endorsed by the National Park Authority	47	40	Green	Seven community led plans were adopted in 2021/22 as follows: Boxgrove, Bramber, Henfield, Upper Beeding, Stedham with Iping and Twyford Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs), and Hambledon Village Design Statement (VDS). This totals 47 community led plans adopted to date (40 NDPs and 7 VDS).
PMP OUTCOME 9: Great Places to Live				
Percentage of communities with access to natural greenspace	90%	85%	Green	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.
Area of National Park with broadband connection (at or above national average speed)	95%	99%	Amber	This figure is defined as the percentage of properties able to receive greater than 10 Mbits/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.
Percentage of communities with access to key facilities.	55.6%	56.8%	Amber	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, 98 have access to at least one of the above mentioned key facilities (55.6%). This is down from 100 Parishes in 2020/21. In 2021/22 the post office at Woolbeeding with Redford was closed. The Tichborne Arms in Tichborne is temporarily closed, but will hopefully be opening again in 2022/23. They were the only services these two Parishes had, hence the drop to 98. This information is calculated from Points of Interest data which we can now obtain cut to the National Park boundary. 2020/21 was the first time we were able to accurately report on this figure since 2013/14 when we reported 46.6%. In 2020/21, a new target of 56.8% was set.
Proportion of new homes built that are 'affordable housing'	6%	19%	Amber	Note that this information is based on the 2020/21 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) as we always report a year in arrears. In 2020/21, 175 new homes were built. This compares with 282 in 2019/20. Of these, 11 are affordable dwellings (this compares to 62 in the previous year) - equating to 6% of total dwellings. COVID-19 caused a significant reduction in homes being built. However, looking ahead, the number of affordable permissions waiting to be built remains around the same level as previous years (around the 19% target).

PMP OUTCOME 10: Great Places to Work				
Spend per visitor per day in the National Park	£15.30	£12.31	Green	This information is collected via the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey, undertaken every three years. The last survey took place in summer 2021. In 2021/22, the average expenditure per person on non-accommodation costs was £15.30 per person. This is <i>higher</i> than in 2018 (£12.31) and 2015 (£9.97). The next visitor survey is due to take place in 2024 when we will report updated data.
Average length of visitor stay in the National park	3.9 nights	4.1 nights	Amber	This information is collected via the South Downs National Park Visitor Survey, undertaken every three years. The last survey took place in summer 2021. The average length of stay of overnight visitors staying within the National Park boundary showed a marginal <i>decrease</i> from 4.1 nights in 2018 to 3.9 nights in 2021 (and both are down from 4.3 nights in 2015). This further reduction in the number of nights staying is likely to be due to COVID-19. The next visitor survey is due to take place in 2024 when we will report updated data.
Number and diversity of business types that exist in the National Park.	7,985	8,115	Amber	This data comes from the Office for National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR), which is cut to best fit at Output Area geography using a population weighted centroid method. 2021/22 is the second year we have been able to obtain data cut to the SDNP boundary. Note that we are unable to provide information on the type of business alongside the number of each type. We are only able to report on the total number of small, medium and large businesses in the National Park.

SDNPA Projects in Delivery by end Q4 2021-2022

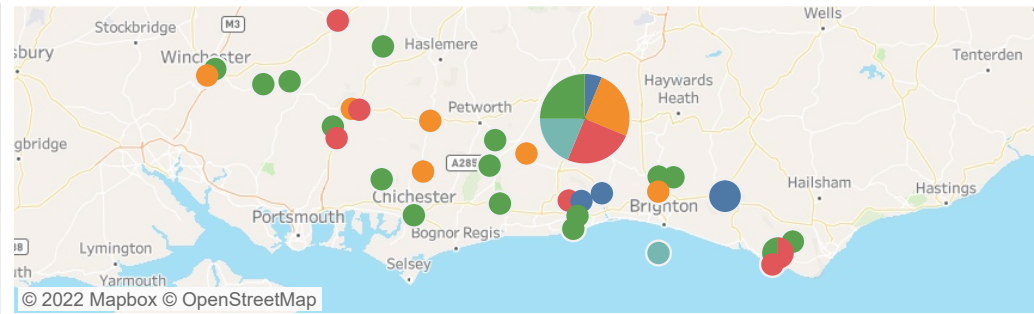
Number of Projects in Delivery

50

Team Areas

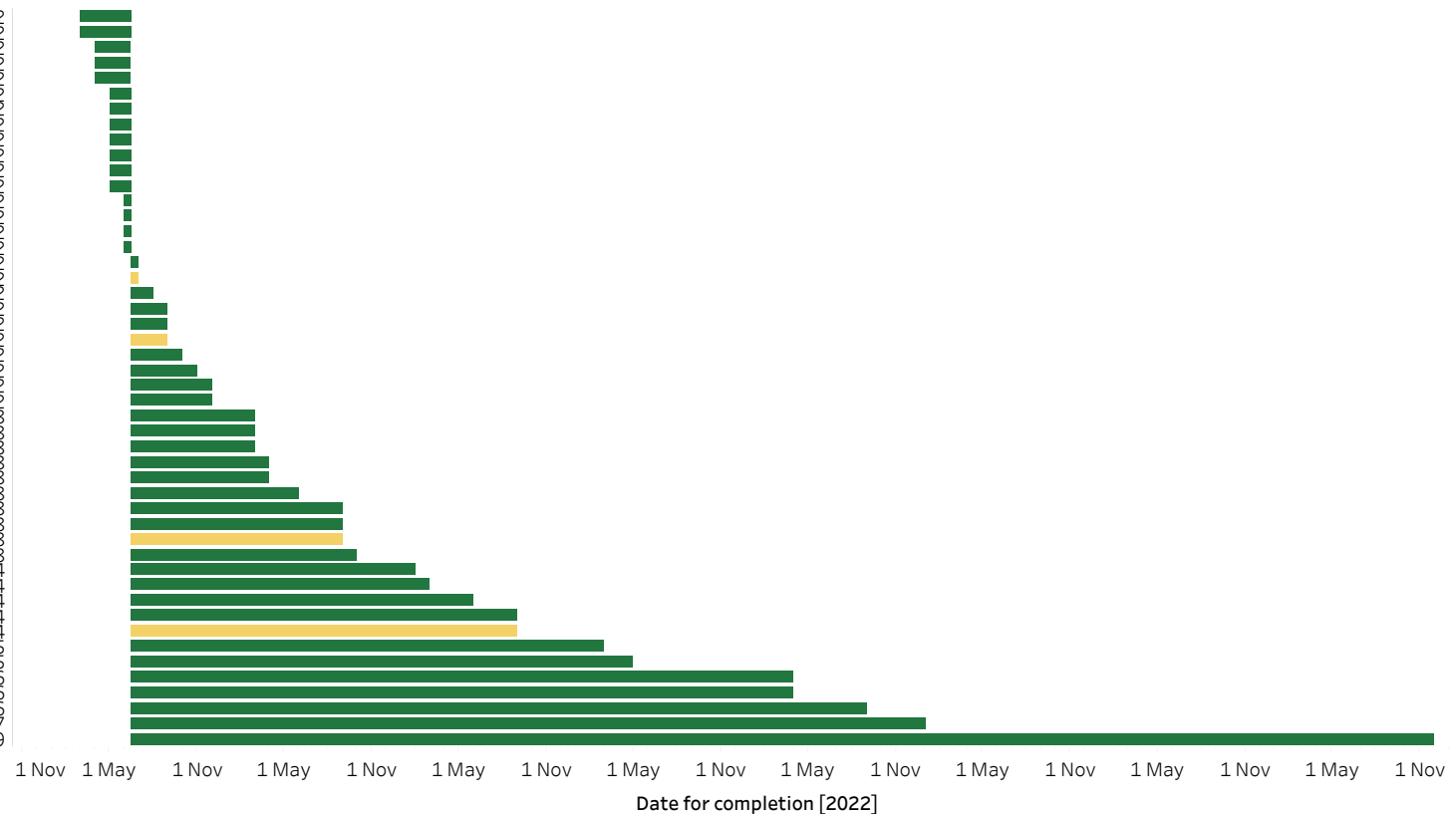


Project Location by RAG



RAG status project time line

Dark Night Skies acti..	01/12/2021	01/03/2022
Generation Green (w..	01/03/2021	01/03/2022
A283 crossing	01/01/2022	01/04/2022
Channel Payments fo..	01/09/2017	01/04/2022
Winchester Studv	01/12/2018	01/04/2022
Footsteps App	01/11/2020	01/05/2022
Notes to Self	01/01/2022	01/05/2022
Ouse Valley Cares	01/04/2021	01/05/2022
Phase 2 Signage	01/06/2019	01/05/2022
Seaford Head: Arch..	01/07/2021	01/05/2022
Stop a minute	01/03/2021	01/05/2022
Sustainable Business..	01/07/2021	01/05/2022
South Downs Hub Fe..	01/12/2021	01/06/2022
Active Access/ Newh..	01/10/2017	01/06/2022
Earets Wav- Phase 5	01/04/2020	01/06/2022
Our South Downs (So..	01/12/2020	01/06/2022
Bringing back the EL..	01/01/2019	30/06/2022
West Burton Stream	01/02/2022	01/07/2022
Artscape 2 (Timesca..	23/05/2020	01/08/2022
Community Wanderi..	01/03/2022	01/09/2022
Miles without Stiles	01/09/2018	01/09/2022
Setting the Standard	01/02/2022	01/09/2022
Iron Age Build at But..	01/03/2022	01/10/2022
Beaqsars Bush Walk F..	01/05/2018	01/11/2022
Archaeology Walks P..	01/11/2021	01/12/2022
Artist in Residence S..	01/11/2020	01/12/2022
Arun Vision	01/10/2019	01/03/2023
Earets Wav- Phase 6	01/04/2020	01/03/2023
Floodplain Meadows ..	01/10/2019	01/03/2023
Shifting the Gaze (ex..	01/04/2021	01/04/2023
Wealden Heath SAMM	01/06/2019	01/04/2023
Seven Sisters	01/06/2021	01/08/2023
Hamshire Hedgero..	01/03/2022	01/09/2023
Priory Thruve (Allen ..	01/04/2020	01/09/2023
SUDS for Schools	01/07/2021	01/10/2023
PeCAN project	01/02/2021	01/02/2024
Cut and collect	01/02/2021	01/03/2024
Greenspaces	01/03/2022	01/06/2024
WeCAN	01/09/2021	01/09/2024
Farm Carbon Project	01/09/2020	01/09/2024
Lullington Heath	01/04/2020	01/03/2025
TAP	01/06/2017	01/05/2025
Watercress and Wint..	13/01/2020	01/04/2026
Changing Chalk - Dew..	13/01/2020	01/04/2026
Changing Chalk - Gra..	01/09/2021	01/09/2026
Grandfathers Botto..	21/01/2022	01/01/2027
We Love Yew Project	01/01/2019	01/12/2022
Rampion Monitoring		



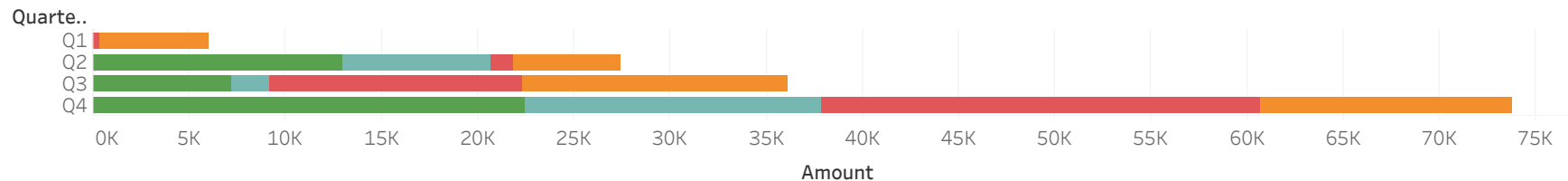
Grass Roots and Open Access Ranger Projects in 2021/22

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

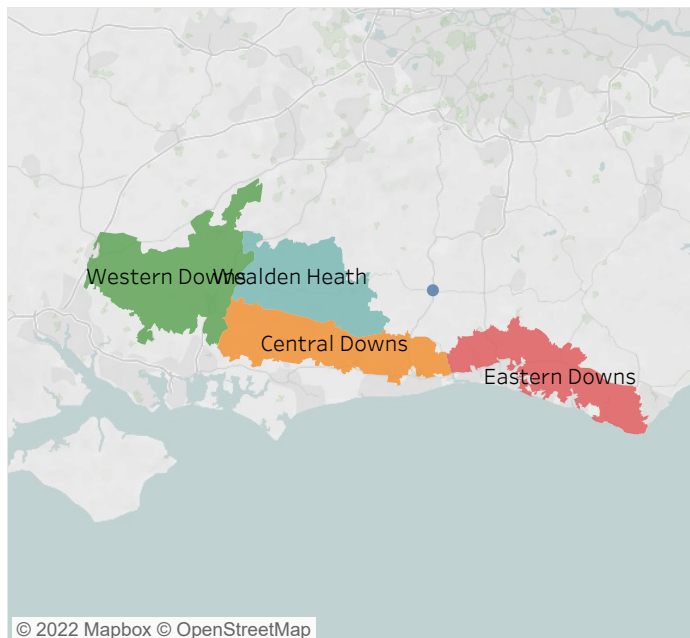
Total Amount Spent: £143,262

Number of Grassroots and Open Access projects:
 105

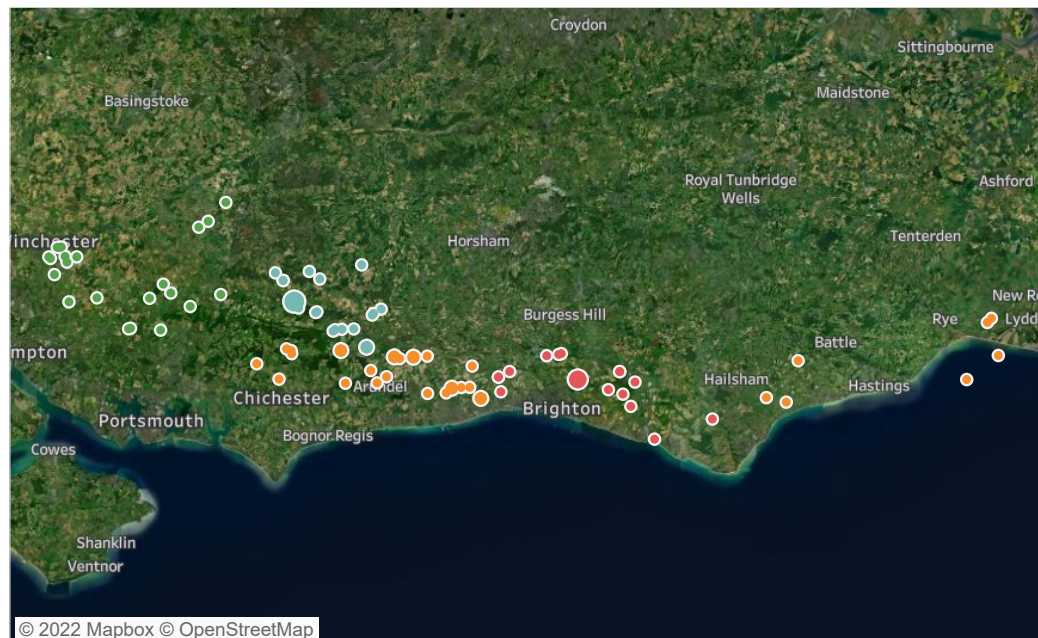
Quarter Breakdown



Team Areas



Grass Roots and Open Access Project Locations in 2020-2021



Item 10, Appendix 10

Compliments, Comments and Complaints 2021/22 Summary

Compliments

The Compliments, Comments and Complaints (CCC) panel have high standards of expectation in relation to reviewing submitted compliments. Compliments included in the recorded data reflect services provided above the expected day-to-day function of an Officers' role. In all instances, the CCC panel ensure line managers and Officers are informed of any feedback received.

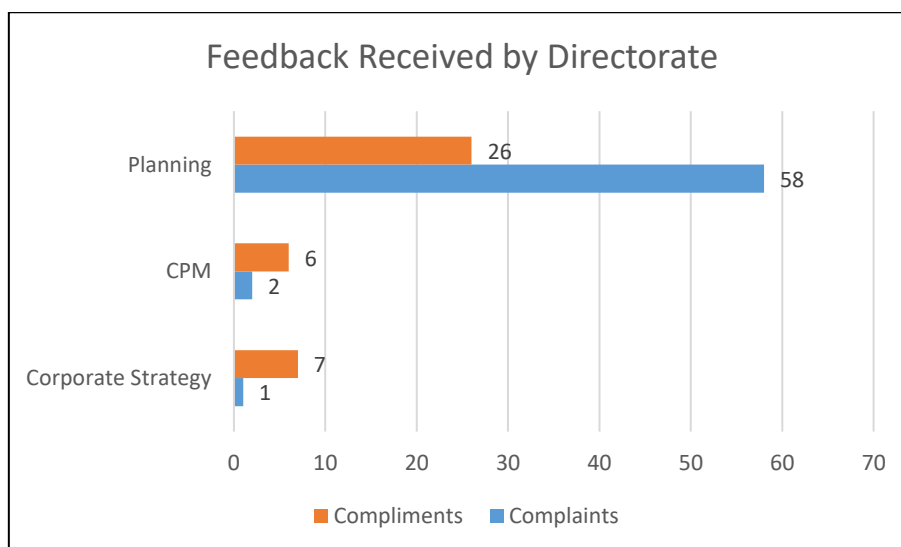
Complaints

The number of complaints received this year has shown an increase on the 2020-21 data (39 for 2020-21, 61 for 2021-22). This year has seen a slight increase in the number of complaints reported for Countryside Policy Management (CPM) and Corporate Services. Whilst there has been an upturn in the number of planning complaints, 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.

For the 2021-22 reporting period, 58% of complaint responses were issued on time continuing a downward trend in meeting complaint response timeframes. Response rates for previous years were 66% in 2020-21 and 77% in 2019-20. Actions are now being taken to address this and improve timeliness.

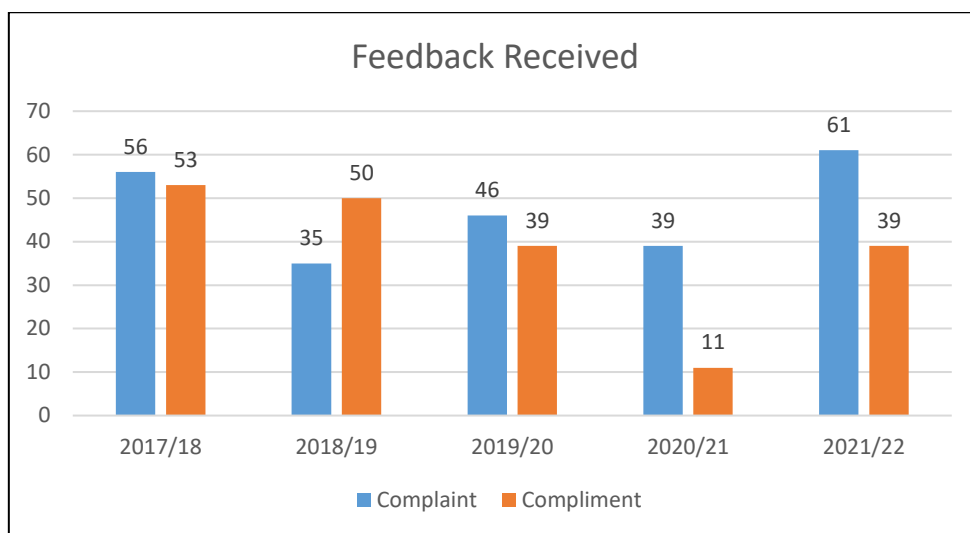
Feedback Received by Directorate 2021-22 (data table followed by graph)

Directorate	Number of Complaints	Number of Compliments
Corporate Services	1	7
CPM	2	6
Planning	58	26



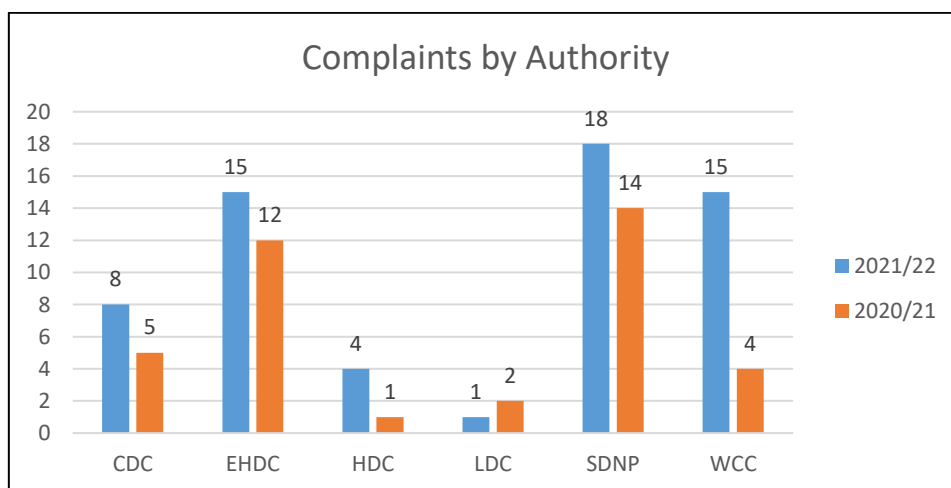
Feedback Received – 5 Year Comparison (data table followed by graph)

Reporting Year	Number of Complaints	Number of Compliments
2017/18	56	53
2018/19	35	50
2019/20	46	39
2020/21	39	11
2021/22	61	39



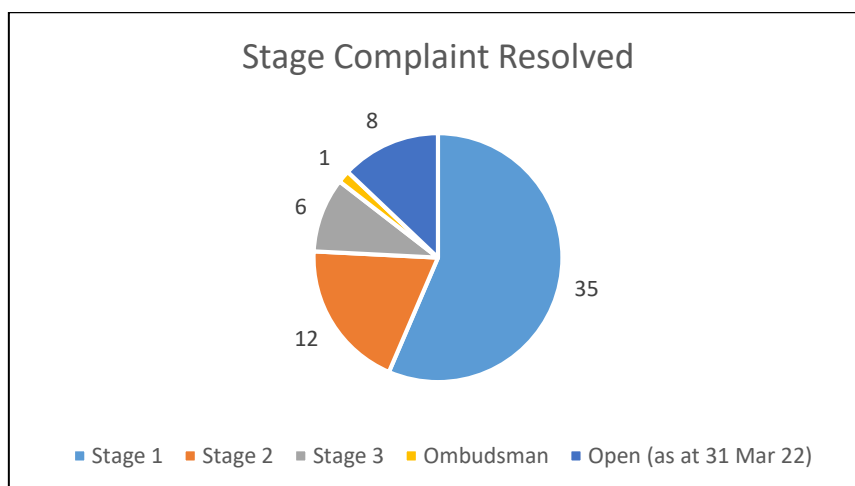
Complaints By Authority (data table followed by graph)

Authority	2021/22	2020/21
CDC	8	5
EHDC	15	12
HDC	4	1
LDC	1	2
SDNP	18	14
WCC	15	4
Total	61	38



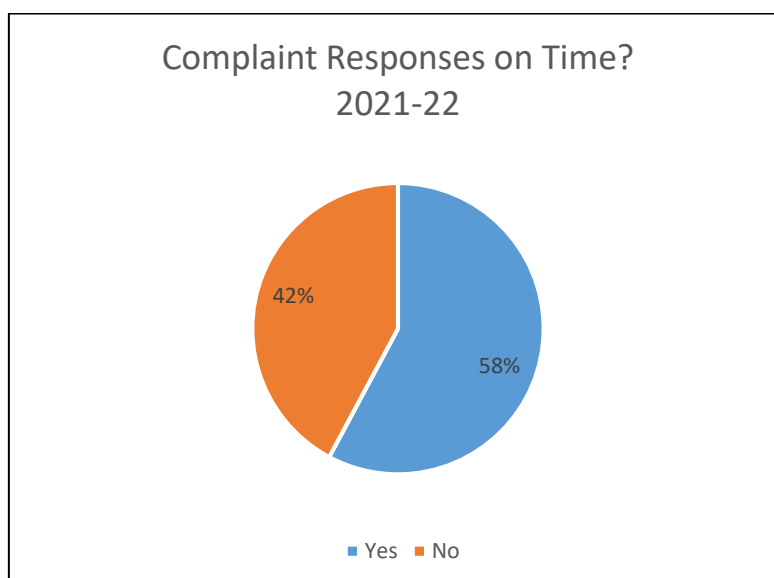
Stage Complaint Resolved 2021-22 (data table followed by graph)

Stage Resolved	Number of Complaints
Stage 1	35
Stage 2	12
Stage 3	6
Open (as at 31 March 22)	8
Ombudsman (received in previous year)	1



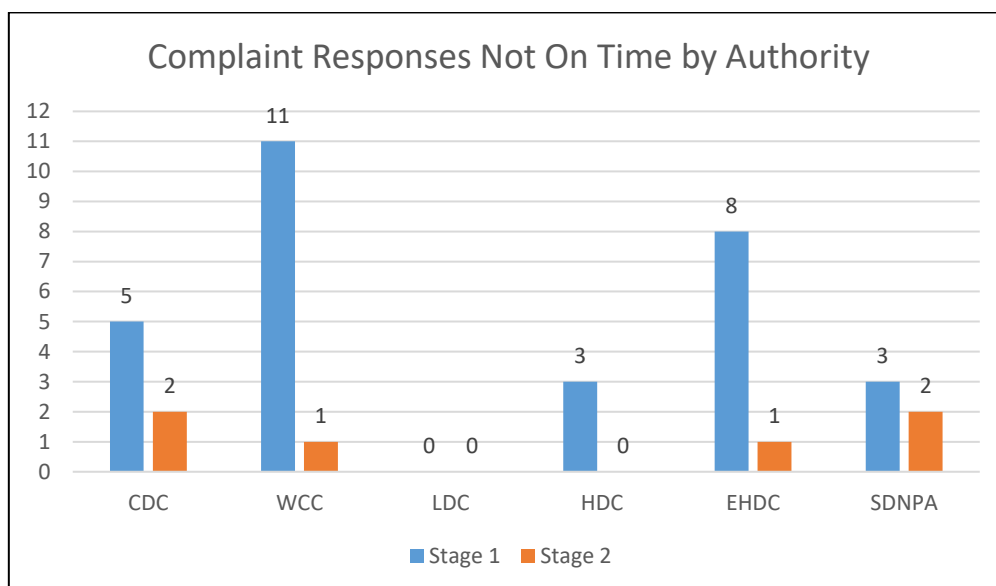
Percentage of Complaint Responses sent within time 2021-22 (data table followed by graph)

Yes	No
58%	42%



Complaint Responses not on time by Authority (data table followed by graph)

Authority	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
CDC	5	2	N/A
WCC	11	1	N/A
LDC	0	0	N/A
HDC	3	0	N/A
EHDC	8	1	N/A
SDNPA	3	2	0



SDNPA Complaints – Ombudsman Decisions 2021-22

Ombudsman Reference:	20 013 932
Ombudsman Decision:	Closed after initial enquiries – not investigated
Decision Date:	24 May 2021

The Complaint

- A case was brought against a Host Authority by Mr X who stated the Local Planning Authority misled residents of his village, lied, made contradictory claims and misled the Host Authority's own planning committee.

Ombudsman's Conclusion

- The Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration and service failure and considers whether any fault has had a significant adverse impact on the complainant. They may decide not to start or continue an investigation if it is believed that the injustice is not significant enough to justify their involvement.
- The complainant confirmed to the Ombudsman that the injustice suffered was, "an unsuitable new dwelling now existing", and that the complaint was not a matter of personal injustice but concerned fault and maladministration.
- The Ombudsman concluded that whilst Mr X may have disagreed with the suitability of the development no significant personal injustice was suffered and the complaint was not investigated.

Full transcripts of the Ombudsman's reports are available on the [Local Government Ombudsman website](#).

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTIONS FOR 2021/22: Q4 UPDATE		
Action	Commentary	Next steps and/or potential risks
Further embedding of processes related to paperless meetings as face to face meetings return	Sharepoint based paperless system developed, demonstrated to Members and feedback received. Approach endorsed by NPA at its meeting on 19 May 2022.	Next steps: Members will be asked to indicate their individual preference to use the new paperless system or not, or to adopt a hybrid approach. Members to trial the new system during autumn 2022.
Delivery of Member Code of Conduct training	Training was successfully delivered in March 2022	Action complete
Implementation of changes arising from the review of the staff PDR process	See the Q3 HR update	
Embedding necessary governance changes as a result of the establishment of a Teckal company	this action is considered complete. The NPA is due to consider some changes to the management of reserved matters at its meeting in July as part of the ongoing review of Authority Governance arrangements	Action complete
Review of governance structures to ensure learning from Covid 19 Pandemic is embedded in governance arrangements	Governance changes arising from et member survey were considered and approved by the NPA in MY 2022	Action complete
Review the position regarding the use of byelaws at Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP)	this work is ongoing and is unlikely to be completed this year	Next steps: action to carry forward to next year
Review organisational policies as part of new ways of working as part of a move to a blended style of working	Policies requiring change have not been reviewed and changes agreed	Action complete
Consideration of model councillor code of conduct recently published by the Local Government Association to identify whether further revision of the Member Code of Conduct is needed	work is ongoing and is unlikely to be completed this year	Next steps: action to carry forward to next year
Finalising the operating agreement with the Authority's Teckal company		Action complete

HUMAN RESOURCES & HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIONS 2021/22: Q4 UPDATE		
Action	Commentary	Next steps and/or potential risks
Review of HR processes and procedures to support the new blended working model, including a comprehensive training programme for managers and staff	Review of HR processes and procedures to support new blended working model is now complete and a Blended Working Policy has been implemented. Managers attended training in Managing Hybrid Teams at beginning of Q3	Next steps: The new blended working model will be reviewed using a staff questionnaire, which will be sent at the end of Q4 2022/23
Continuing the review of the PDR (Performance and Development Review Process) and Competency Framework	This is ongoing in respect of the outcome of the various organisational changes	Next steps: Finalise the model and train staff
Development of a training module within the PIER Management System as this was delayed from last year	Support from Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) has been delayed due to Covid. We have therefore been exploring other options	Next steps: our e-learning system ELMS now has the capability to process and record all training requests and will be part of our current agreement therefore no extra cost.
Continuation of the work on internal health and wellbeing	Monthly wellbeing e-mails sent to all staff. Mental Health first aid training delayed due to Covid.	Next steps: Reschedule mental health first aid training. Trial of a health and wellbeing learning portal. Activities and resources to support Mental Health Awareness Week in May 22
Ongoing development of the apprenticeship scheme	Continued support for current apprentices to the end of their apprenticeship	Next steps: Apprenticeship scheme has been suspended due to budgetary constraints
IOSH (Internal Occupational Safety and Health) training for OMT and H&S Committee Reps		Next steps: None. This action is complete
Introduction and monitoring of new lone working devices	Both the Central Area Ranger team and Enforcement team will not be going ahead with the system as they do not believe any risk would be significantly minimised and the cost outweighs the risk. They wish to continue using their existing systems which have proven to be robust and effective.	Next steps: working with the Heathlands Reunited team to introduce devices
Implementing the HR responsibilities relating to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) action plan, to be finalised in October 2021	Please refer to the EDI action plan for progress updates	