

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY Corporate Plan 2020–2025

YEAR 4 & 5 ACTION PLAN 2023-25

South Downs National Park Authority

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An Evening at Cissbury © Robert Maynard

Contents

- 1. INTRODUCTION..... 2
- 2. HIGH LEVEL TARGETS 4
 - KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS..... 5
 - 2.1 NATURE RECOVERY 6
 - NATURE RECOVERY: EVIDENCING SUCCESS..... 7
 - 2.2 CLIMATE ACTION..... 8
 - CLIMATE ACTION: EVIDENCING SUCCESS..... 9
 - 2.3 A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL.....10
 - A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL: EVIDENCING SUCCESS11
 - 2.4..... ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF OUR HIGH-LEVEL TARGETS12
 - HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR HIGH-LEVEL TARGETS..... 13
- 3. THE CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH WE WORK18
- 4. NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND THE DUTY ON THE SDNPA.....19
- 5. OUR RESOURCES.....20

1. INTRODUCTION

The South Downs National Park covers over 1,600km² of England's most valued lowland landscapes shaped, over millennia, by the people who have lived and worked here.

Its inspirational and varied landscapes, internationally important wildlife, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant market towns and villages hold a special place in the hearts of many millions. If we want it to remain a special place, we need to make sure that its landscapes are conserved and enhanced, provide benefits to all of society, and that people can enjoy, understand, and take action to support it.

The world is changing rapidly, and external factors are having a significant impact on our landscapes and communities, not least climate change. Much is changing with national policy – on the environment in general and with respect to Protected Landscapes (National Parks and AONBs) in particular. The Environment Act 2021 includes commitments to statutory Biodiversity Net Gain through the Planning system and the creation of mandatory Local Nature Recovery Plans for every part of England. The entire system of support for farming is in transition as the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme replaces the old EU CAP (Common Agricultural Policy). For two years we have successfully delivered the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme – unique to NPs and AONBs – and this will now continue for a fourth year. New markets for nitrate, biodiversity and carbon offsets have been created through planning policy and may provide opportunities for our landowners to secure investment for nature recovery and carbon sequestration. They may also help in generating some income for the SDNPA itself in our role as broker and monitoring authority.

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) has defined three high-level targets: Nature Recovery, Climate Action and a National Park for All, coupled with and underpinned by the delivery of our statutory planning service. In addition, recent reductions in government grant and the underlying cost pressures of running

an organisation, meant we had to take the difficult decision to reduce our ongoing revenue costs by 10% and reduce staffing levels. The likelihood of flat cash grant settlements or even further cuts over the next two years, combined with continuing inflation and cost of living increases, mean that our room for manoeuvre could be considerably reduced by 2025/26. Meantime, we will build on our successful track record through the South Downs Trust to generate new income streams to complement the core funding from Defra, and continue to ensure that the CIL receipts we generate are directed to outcomes that relate clearly to the high-level targets above.

The Authority continues to deliver real impacts on the ground which improve our landscape, restore nature, cut carbon, and benefit our communities, businesses and all those who visit and enjoy the Park. This comes from a combination of our statutory planning powers, a significant lever given the levels of growth and pressure for development we face and the array of work we carry out directly and indirectly through other mechanisms we have working with Partners to deliver the Partnership Management Plan.

We are awaiting new guidance on National Park Management Plans and new indicators for measuring the contribution we make to national goals – in particular, on nature, climate and people. We are, however, confident that high-level targets and priorities set out in this plan are strongly aligned with Government's expectations of what National Parks should be doing. This was well summarised by Julian Glover in 2019 as a new vision for Protected Landscapes:

‘A coherent national network of beautiful, nature-rich spaces that all parts of society can easily access and enjoy. Protected landscapes will support thriving local communities and economies, improve our public health and wellbeing, drive forward nature recovery, and build our resilience to climate change’

This Corporate Plan translates that vision into practical action by the Authority.

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2022/23

FARMING IN A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE (FiPL)

26 ...projects approved, **£383,822** awarded & **3,735ha** secured for nature recovery

FARMING

178 ...farmers in **6** farm clusters covering 2/3 of the NP

CIL FUNDING

£412k ...awarded to **9** projects

CLIMATE ACTION

TOTAL TREES

56.5k ...planted across the SDNP covering approx. **2,656ha**

24.5km HEDGEROW restored/created

PONDS

28 restored/created

NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

EDUCATION

5,830 ...school children from our more deprived communities visited thanks to our grants for schools and colleges

25 YOUTH ACTION days ...engaging **172** young people in positive environmental action

VOLUNTEER RANGERS

369 Rangers spent...
1,587 ...days supporting national park work
104 ...hours spent by **13** wardens surveying and minor maintenance

SOUTH DOWNS WAY **3** new Waymarkers

11 ...gates repaired **2** ...gates replaced

MOBILITY SCOOTERS

6 ...for hire at 5 locations.

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

...at Seven Sisters:

106 ...creatives, artists & specialists

144 ...participants New products or commissions: **53**
Number of days employment: **220**

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

79,349+10% Total followers
20.3% Youtube subscribers

WEBSITE VISITORS

1.60m 2% unique visits

10,638 21% E-NEWSLETTER signups to date

EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

VIRTUAL **741k** Total content reach
37k Video views

IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

5,091 at Pop Up Events ReNature and Dark Skies Festival. Over **600** ReNature packs sent to community groups

NATURE RECOVERY

ADDITIONAL HABITAT

5,565ha

iNATURALIST/NPUK LOOK WILD PROJECT

23,059 ...species observations were made inside the SDNP by **1,069** observers clocking up a total of **11,530** volunteer hours

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

36% ...on largest scale development sites
8 ...nature based solution initiatives secured **531ha** for nature recovery

RURAL ECONOMY

152 ...members Our South Downs business network

19 ...Green South Downs Sustainability Certified businesses

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

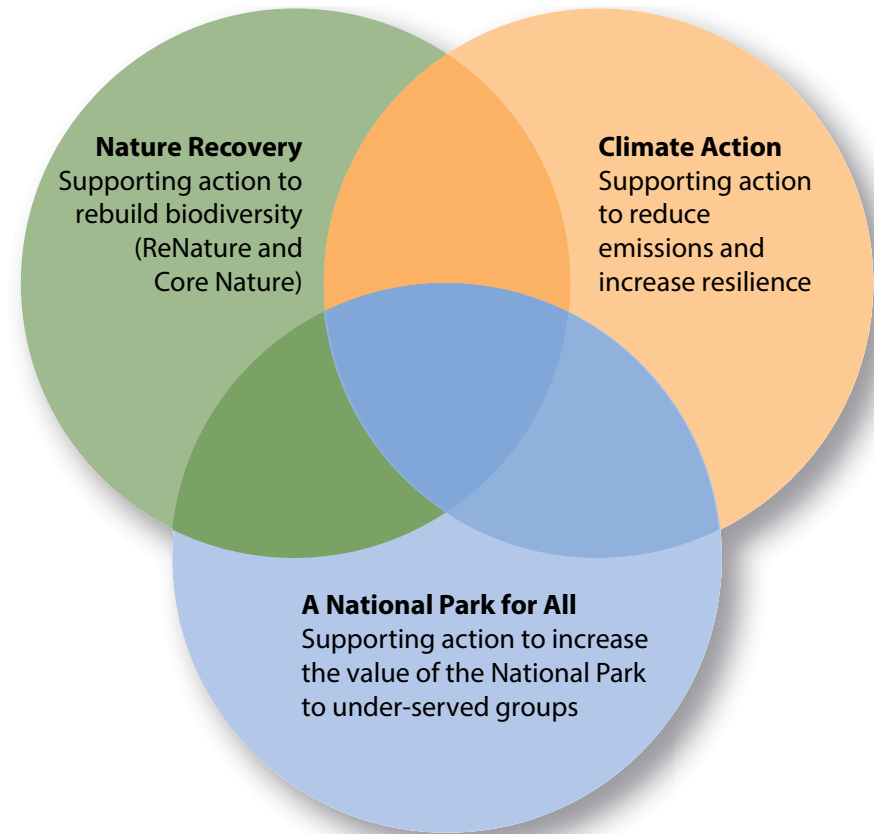
(major, minor and other) dealt with within agreed timescales **90%**
16% Affordable housing ...of homes built in the National Park

2. HIGH LEVEL TARGETS

The long-term ambitions of the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) and the Local Plan are very broad – it is therefore essential that we focus on those areas where we know we can make the most impact against the priorities in the PMP, the Public Affairs Strategy and Government’s Glover response.

This does not mean abandoning the entire range of the PMP. We will maintain the breadth of its ambition with the associated partnerships so that we can respond swiftly when circumstances change and/or funding is secured.

It is for this reason that we are putting in place a single set of high-level targets for this Corporate Plan. This is how we will measure the overall effectiveness of the South Downs National Park Authority between 2022 and 2025 in terms of its impact on the ground. We will expect every team to maximise its contribution towards these targets.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A series of Key Performance Indicators and targets have been developed to measure progress towards the High-Level Targets.

Core work and Project delivery by all parts of the organisation will not be itemised in the Corporate Plan but will contribute to the High-Level Targets and will be monitored against agreed delivery plans and be part of the overall figures we report.

These Key Performance Indicators and Targets are subject to change according to, but not limited to, Government directives such as the implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain, the forthcoming Defra targets for Protected Landscape and Natural England species recovery targets as well as our own experiences and feedback. It is likely that comprehensive datasets will be made available by Defra and Natural England in line with the Environment Improvement Plan work.

The Key Performance Indicators have been developed according to what is currently measurable. Meanwhile, significant work is taking place to develop baselines and improve systems to better evidence the impact of the South Downs National Park Authority's work towards Nature Recovery, Climate Action and A National Park for All. We will continue to develop qualitative measures of impact.

2.1 NATURE RECOVERY

Nationally and globally, nature is under intense pressure, with fresh evidence every week about declines in insect populations, farmland birds, soils, water and air quality, and the onset of new pests and diseases (such as ash dieback). All these trends are evident in the South Downs; however, there is also hope. Superb examples already exist across the National Park of action to manage and expand biodiversity, often by farmers, estates, businesses, and communities in addition to the dedicated work of environmental NGOs and Public Bodies. Awareness of the value of nature's intrinsic value soared during the pandemic, and restoring biodiversity will also bring social, health and wellbeing, and economic benefits as well as being key to tackling climate change.

Framed by the South Downs National Park Wildlife Delivery Plan and Campaign for Nature Recovery #ReNature, our goal is to have 33% of the South Downs National Park for nature and 67% to be nature friendly, in a connected and joined up network of habitats.

**Nature Recovery = ReNature + Core Nature
+ Connecting people with nature**

- **Core Nature** – the sites/initiatives which already have a primary objective for nature or managing biodiversity. For example, designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and ancient semi-natural woodland. This is the existing 25% of land for nature.
- **ReNature** – the sites/initiatives where there is a significant change of land management whereby nature's recovery or managing for biodiversity becomes the/a primary objective. The uplift from 25% of land for nature to 33%.
- **Connecting people with nature** – ensuring that society benefits from nature – ecosystem products and services

NATURE RECOVERY: EVIDENCING SUCCESS

It is important to note that nature will not be “recovered” instantly. These key performance indicators evidence that nature recovery action has been taken and will, in time, lead to Nature Recovery through improved habitat condition, species abundance and biodiversity.

| | High Level Target | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| HLT1 | To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25% | <p>H1.1 Total hectares of habitat restored, improved or created</p> <p>H1.2 Total hectares of habitat restoration funded by the South Downs National Park Trust</p> | <p>H1.1 2,600 hectares – This is a cumulative target over 10 years towards 13,000ha</p> <p>H1.2 2,000 hectares funded by the South Downs National Park Trust</p> |
| HLT2 | Work to maintain, enhance and/or restore 30% of existing Core Nature sites and support key species recovery within the SDNP by 2030 | <p>H2.1 Total extent of Core Nature sites where SDNPA activity is contributing towards favourable condition</p> <p>H2.2 Number of species recovery programmes developed for delivery from 2023</p> | <p>H2.1 3,541 hectares – This is a cumulative target based on 30% of the SDNP’s existing 25% Core Nature (in hectares). This figure is divided by 7 to give an annual figure (based on the 7 years remaining to 2030)</p> <p>H2.2 Target to be developed on announcement of Natural England Species Recovery Targets</p> |
| HLT3 | To prepare for and implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) | <p>H3.1 Relevant applications to achieve at least a 10% BNG increase from the pre-development biodiversity value. [Additional indicators from BNG regulations are likely to be implemented in once delivery commences]</p> | <p>H3.1 At least 10% BNG increase from the pre-development biodiversity value</p> |

2.2 CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Change is one of the principal drivers of environmental change for the South Downs National Park. Its impacts are likely to be significant and profound across a whole range of areas and assets.

The South Downs National Park Authority has a key role in meeting the challenges arising from the climate and nature emergency in terms of advocacy, influence and delivery. Climate change is having a fundamental effect on biodiversity, agriculture, water resources and communities in the South Downs National Park. We are already experiencing more unpredictable weather events causing drought, soil erosion and flooding.

Action to reduce emissions and react to existing climate change will help to make South Downs communities and businesses more resilient, bring people together with a shared purpose, and stimulate jobs and economic activity. Reducing land-based emissions and scaling up on the ability of both agricultural land and habitats to sequester more carbon will be crucial for addressing both the climate and nature recovery crisis. We will also act as an exemplar by demonstrating best practice in our corporate response to climate change. We want to be recognised as a leading player in managing the impacts of climate change on the South Downs National Park and contributing to a low carbon economy. The delivery of technical and nature-based solutions, to draw down and sequester greater amounts of carbon will be the main mechanism that will get us to our Net-Zero target.



CLIMATE ACTION: EVIDENCING SUCCESS

Work to develop a habitat carbon inventory of the South Downs National Park is underway.

This resource will provide a baseline for carbon sequestration across the National Park and ensure that Nature Recovery is viewed through a carbon lens – meaning that initiatives will not just perform for biodiversity but will also have the best possible impact for carbon.

| | High Level Target | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| HLT4 | South Downs National Park Authority to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target | H4.1 Total annual SDNPA carbon emissions | H4.1 150 tonnes (Co2) reduction on the previous year |
| HLT5 | 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the South Downs National Park from the baseline reported in 2019 | H5.1 Total tonnes Co2 reported year on year in annual LULUCF (Forestry component) data | H5.1 5% annual reduction (tonnes Co2) from 2019 baseline |

Key definitions:

The Forest Information System for Europe provides a simple definition for LULUCF: “LULUCF stands for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. The LULUCF sector includes the land use categories: Forest land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements and Other land...The LULUCF sector comprises emissions and removals from the forest carbon pools above- and below-ground biomass, deadwood, litter, mineral and organic soils. Carbon stored in wood products (sawn wood, panels and paper) is reported in the Harvested Wood Product pool (HWP) and is estimated separately.”

A greenhouse gas emissions assessment and target scenario was completed by Small World Consulting for the South Downs National Park in 2019. The report sets out the minimum target which results in a net zero date of 2045 for the South Downs National Park.

2.3 A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

National Parks were created for everyone, and they have a power to nourish, inspire and connect everyone with nature – whether in person or remotely.

We want the South Downs to be a welcoming accessible place for everyone, whether living in the National Park, close to its boundaries or travelling from further afield, to connect with nature, the landscape and our rich cultural heritage. We want it to be a place that supports physical and mental health and well-being. We want to inspire individuals and communities to experience the South Downs National Park and take action to care for it. We want to work with individuals and communities to break down the barriers that stop them from feeling that the National Park is not for them, or which make it difficult for some to visit. We want to continue working to make the landscape more accessible and inclusive to people of all ages and abilities and from all backgrounds.

Our work on connecting people to the South Downs National Park is varied and complex. We will target specific audiences, who face the greatest barriers to access:

- Young people (aged 16-24);
- People from Black, Asian and ethnically diverse/ global majority communities;
- People facing forms of health and access inequalities including disabled people;
- People living in urban areas, especially people facing socio-economic barriers to inclusion.



A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL: EVIDENCING SUCCESS

A National Park for All high level targets, corporate priorities and key performance indicators will be refined following a Theory of Change exercise. We will use temporary measures until the next Corporate Plan in 2025. In the meantime, we will establish baselines and devise more relevant measures where necessary.

| | High Level Target | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| HLT6 | Increase diversity of those engaging with, the South Downs National Park | <p>H6.1 % of people from under-represented audiences engaged through delivery activities (Volunteering and Projects)</p> <p>H6.2 Number of engagement activities targeted at under-represented audiences</p> | <p>H6.1 Baseline to be established in 2023/24. The % of people from under-represented audiences may not increase year on year, nevertheless, this small dataset will provide a snapshot of participation by under-represented audiences in Volunteering and Projects.</p> <p>H6.2 30 engagement activities to be delivered in 2023/24</p> |
| HLT7 | Work to make sure the landscape, scenery and tranquillity of SDNP is available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are. | <p>H7.1 Number of sessions facilitated by mobility equipment</p> <p>H7.2 Metres of new and/or improved accessible path</p> <p>H7.3 Number of visits to the digital Accessibility Hub</p> <p>H7.4 Number of downloads for the Seven Sisters Country Park Accessibility Guide</p> | <p>H7.1 100 sessions facilitated per piece of accessible equipment</p> <p>H7.2 Baseline to be established in 2023/24</p> <p>H7.3 5,000 visits in 2023/24</p> <p>H7.4 Baseline to be established.</p> |
| HLT8 | Digitally engage 100,000 people per year with the SDNP | <p>H8.1 Total number of E-newsletter subscribers</p> <p>H8.2 Total social media audience</p> <p>H8.3 Total visits to the digital hubs throughout the year: (Nature Recovery, Climate Change, Walking hub, Communities)</p> | <p>H8.1 Achieve 11,500 subscribers in 2023/24</p> <p>H8.2 Grow social media audience to 75,000 in 2023/24</p> <p>H8.3 20,000 visits to the digital hubs in 2023/24</p> |

2.4 ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF OUR HIGH-LEVEL TARGETS

The High-Level Targets provide the ultimate measures of success for the whole Corporate Plan. Below this are many strands of work.

We have statutory functions – for example in delivering our planning service and managing open access land. Our support for cultural heritage activities provides tangible benefits both economic and in terms of the wellbeing of people who engage creatively. We focus our work on the rural economy within the National Park to inspire businesses to positively contribute to the South Downs National Park purposes. Our planning service needs to strike the balance between protection of landscape character and enabling much needed affordable housing and economic activity, and our innovative communications programme continues to broaden our reach and engage new audiences with the National Park.

To deliver our priorities for the National Park it is essential that the Authority is as efficient and effective as possible – making the right decisions, based on the right information and with the confidence that these decisions will deliver across our priorities. The purpose of this area of work is to ensure that we have robust processes in place to support this wider delivery and maximise the impact of the Authority’s actions for the National Park.



HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR HIGH-LEVEL TARGETS

1. PLACE MAKING

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| | Corporate Plan Priority | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|------------|---|---|---|
| CP1 | Administer the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 – key income streams for delivery | CP1.1 The total CIL and S106 distributed (in £) across the three themes of Nature Recovery, Climate and A National Park for All. | CP1.1 No target required. CIL and S106 distribution to be reported, with case studies. |
| CP2 | Provide specialist advice in respect of Conservation, Design and Landscape across the organisation | CP2.1 Summary of service provided to be included in the Authority's Annual Monitoring Report | CP2.1 No target required. Qualitative case studies to be produced to support AMR |

2. GENERATING INCOME



| | Corporate Plan Priority | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|------------|---|--|---|
| CP3 | Aim to raise £2.5 million self-generated income per annum, supporting Partnership Management Plan delivery through bids to Statutory sources and support for the South Downs National Park Trust in continuing to build a philanthropic income stream. | CP3.1 Total self-generated income raised (£) | CP3.1 £2.5 million N.B Income Generation Targets are for the Year 2023/24 and will be adjusted for 2024/25 |
| CP4 | Incubate a number of income generating initiatives, building on Seven Sisters and the South Downs Trust, scaling these up to generate £200k per annum | CP4.1 Total income (£) generated through the new Green Finance Off Set and Brokering service CP4.2 Number of new income generating pilots, for example, LA Consultancy linked to Green Finance and WEPS, Carbon Platform and commercialisation of conservation services CP4.3 Total income (£) generated through core cost recovery on externally funded projects | CP4.1 £805,945 from Green Finance (based on 25% of pilot sites) CP4.2 One new income generating pilot CP4.3 £200K full cost recovery |

3. LAND MANAGEMENT

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| | Corporate Plan Priority | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|
| <p>CP5</p> <p>Facilitate and support the endorsement, actions and key priorities through the process of Whole Estate Plans (WEPs)</p> | | <p>CP5.1 No. of Estates with new endorsed WEPS</p> <p>CP5.2 No. of estates working towards an endorsed WEP</p> | <p>CP5.1 4 WEPs endorsed</p> <p>CP5.2 A number (to be agreed) of estates working towards an endorsed WEP</p> <p>WEP contributions to the High-Level Targets will be captured in the SDNPA Annual Review</p> |
| | | <p>CP6</p> <p>Deliver the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in the National Park</p> | <p>CP6.1 Total funding (£) allocated across the Defra themes of People/Place/Nature/Climate</p> |

4. ECONOMY

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| | Corporate Plan Priority | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| <p>CP7</p> <p>Develop the 'Our South Downs' enterprise network</p> | | <p>CP7.1 No of businesses signed up</p> <p>CP7.2 No. of Green South Downs certified businesses</p> <p>CP7.3 No. of businesses signed up to South Downs Guardian</p> <p>CP7.4 No. of businesses signed up to South Downs Protector</p> <p>CP7.5 Total unrestricted income generated in £</p> | <p>Baseline established in 2022-23 and targets currently being set</p> |
| | | <p>CP8</p> <p>Tourism in the South Downs National Park</p> | <p>CP8.1 No. of businesses signed up to Visitor Giving</p> |

5. AUTHORITY PROCESS

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| | Corporate Plan Priority | Key Performance Indicator | Years 4-5 target |
|------------|--|--|--|
| CP9 | Ensure that the organisation is more diverse and representative both in its staff and Members and considers Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in service delivery and policy development | CP9.1 Total percentage of required EDI impact assessment forms complete | CP9.1 100% of EDI forms are completed |

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – HIGH LEVEL TARGETS

NATURE RECOVERY

HLT1 To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25%



| KPI | |
|---|--|
| H1.1 Total hectares of habitat restored, improved or created. | H1.2 Total hectares of restoration funded by the South Downs National Park Trust |
| TARGET | |
| 2,600^{HA} by 2025 | 2,000^{HA} by 2025 |

HLT2 Work to maintain, enhance and/or restore 30% of existing Core Nature sites and support key species recovery within the SDNP by 2030



| KPI | |
|---|---|
| H2.1 Total Core Nature sites where SDNPA is contributing towards favourable condition | H2.2 Number of species recovery programmes developed for delivery from 2023 |
| TARGET | |
| 3,541^{HA} by 2025 | TBC |

HLT3 To prepare for and implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)



| KPI | |
|--|--|
| H3.1 The requirement is for relevant applications to achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain increase from the pre-development biodiversity value | |
| TARGET | |
| +10% BNG from pre-dev value | |


A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

HLT6 Increase diversity of those engaging with the South Downs National Park



| KPI | |
|--|--|
| H6.1 % people from under-represented audiences engaged through delivery activities | H6.2 Number of engagement activities targeted at under-represented audiences |
| TARGET | |
| Baseline to be established in 23/24 | 30 engagement activities to be delivered annually |

HLT7 Work to make sure the landscape, scenery and tranquillity of SDNP is available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are



| KPI | |
|---|---|
| H7.1 Number of sessions facilitated by mobility equipment | H7.2 Metres of new and/or improved accessible path |
| TARGET | |
| 100 SESSIONS per piece of equipment | TBC |
| KPI | |
| H7.3 Number of visits to the digital Accessibility Hub | H7.4 Number of downloads for the Seven Sisters Country Park Accessibility Guide |
| TARGET | |
| 5^K VISITS to the digital hub | TBC |

HLT8 Digitally engage 100,000 people per year with the SDNP




| KPI | |
|---|---|
| H8.1 Total number of e-newsletter subscribers | |
| TARGET | |
| 11,500 SUBSCRIBERS in 2023/24 | |
| KPI | |
| H8.2 Total social media audience | H8.3 Total visits to the hubs throughout the year |
| TARGET | |
| 75^K in 2023/24 | 20^K VISITS to the hub in 2023/24 |

CLIMATE ACTION




HLT4 SDNPA to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target



| KPI | |
|---|--|
| H4.1 Total annual SDNPA carbon emissions | |
| TARGET | |
| 150 (t CO₂) reduction on 2022/23 | |

HLT5 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the SDNP from the baseline reported in 2019



| KPI | |
|--|--|
| H5.1 Total tonnes Co2 reported year on year in annual LULUCF (forestry component) data | |
| TARGET | |
| 1.5% reduction (t CO₂) annually from 2019 baseline | |

HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR HIGH LEVEL TARGETS: CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES

PLACE MAKING



CP1.1 Total CIL and S106 (£) distributed



CP2.1 AMR to include summary of service provided & case studies

GENERATING INCOME

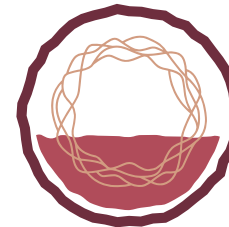


CP3.1 Raise £2.5m total self-generated income in 2023/24



CP4.1 Generate £805,945 from Green Finance

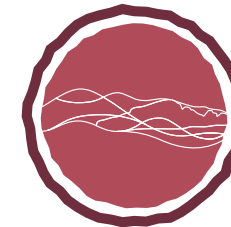
ECONOMY



CP7.1 No of business sign ups to 'Our South Downs' (OSD) network



CP7.2 No. of Green South Downs certified businesses



CP7.3 No. of businesses signed up to 'South Downs Guardian'

AUTHORITY PROCESS



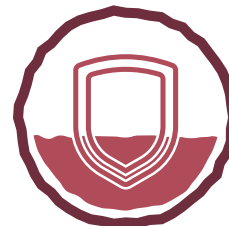
CP9.1 100% completed EDI impact assessment forms



CP4.2 One new income generating pilot



CP4.3 £200k via full cost recovery on external projects



CP7.4 No. of businesses signed up to 'South Downs Protector'



CP7.5 Total unrestricted income (£) generated via OSD



CP8.1 No. of businesses signed up to Visitor Giving

LAND MANAGEMENT



CP5.1 4 estates with new endorsed WEPS



CP5.2 No. of estates working towards an endorsed WEP

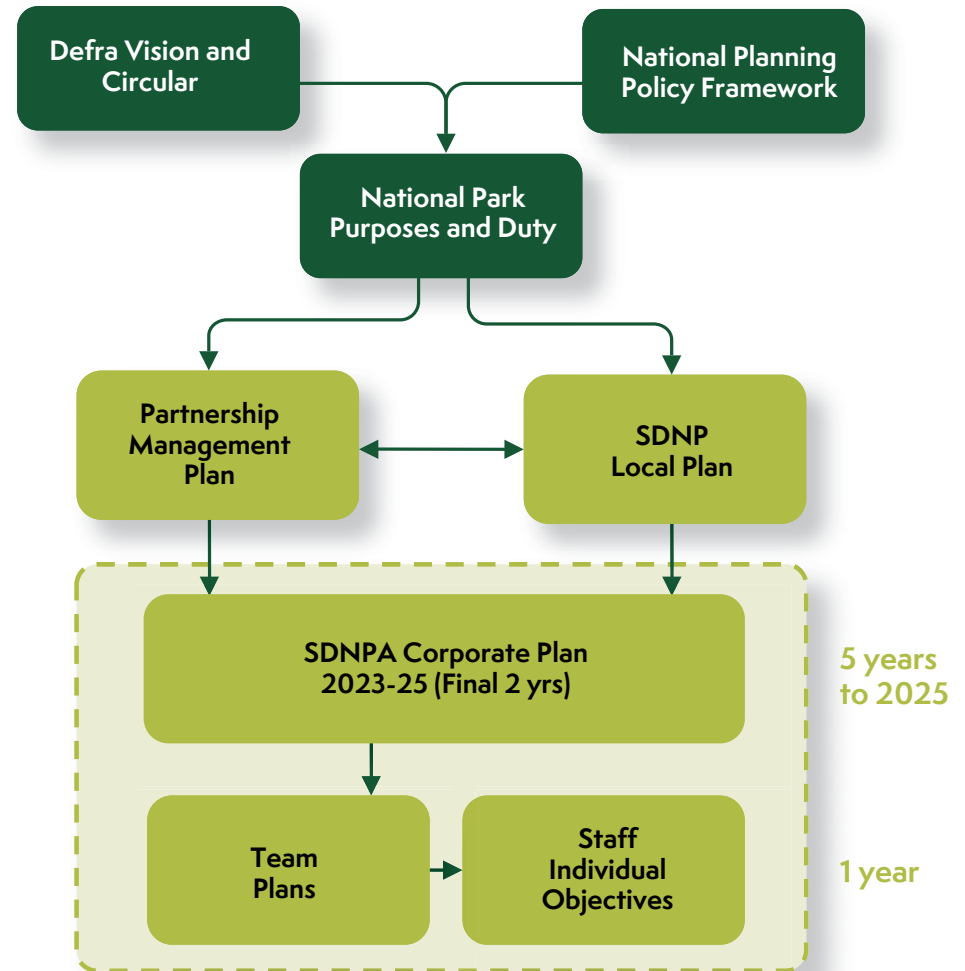


CP6.1 Total FiPL funding (£) allocated to People/Place/Nature/Climate

3. THE CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH WE WORK

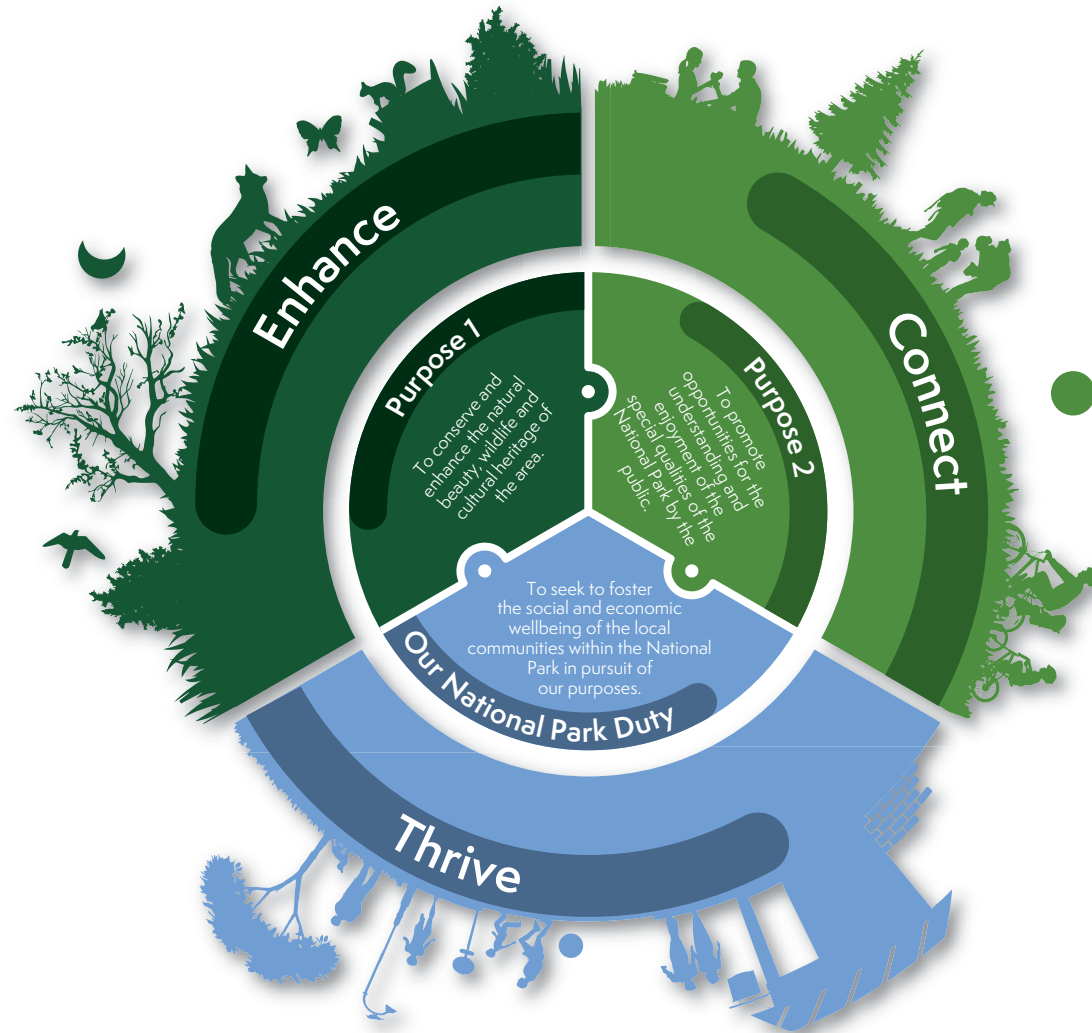
The South Downs National Park Authority's Corporate Plan sets out how we will deliver those elements of the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan (PMP) for which we are responsible. All relate back to the 10 Outcomes in the PMP.

The Corporate Plan is one of our key management tools to ensure delivery of our Purposes and Duty. Progress towards demonstrating that we have delivered on our Corporate Plan priorities will be monitored by the South Downs National Park Authority Policy & Resources committee every quarter and published in the Annual Review for 2023/24.



4. NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND THE DUTY ON THE SDNPA

- **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 Par in pursuit of our purposes.

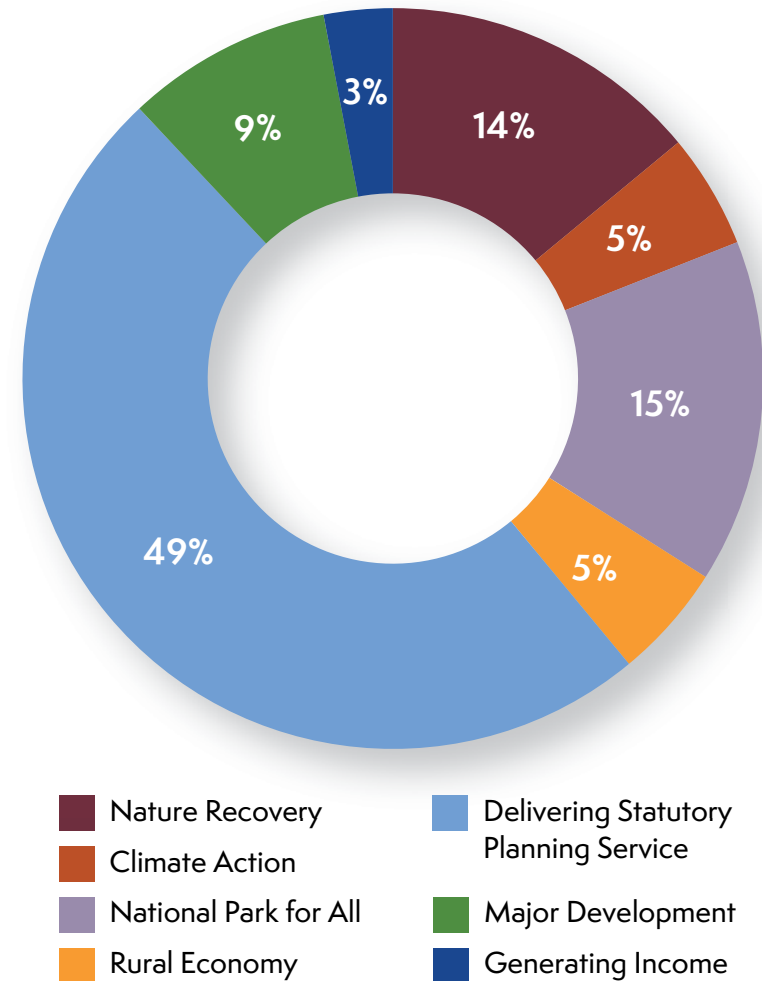


5. OUR RESOURCES

The Authority’s budget¹ for the financial year 2023/24 is £14.9 million. This is funded from the National Park Grant from Defra of £10.5 million, £1.3 million from Planning Fees and £0.6m from the new Nature Recovery Initiative, with the remainder being made up from specific grants.

On the expenditure side the overwhelming majority of our budget is deployed on core staffing (49%), delivery of the planning service through s101 agreements with host authorities, and underpinning contracts for corporate services such as IT, finance and GIS. The amount of discretionary spend available to fund projects, programmes and partnerships in support of the High-Level Targets is therefore very limited, and it is the use of our officer time across the staff structure which is the biggest factor in aligning resources with priorities.

The chart shows how the core funding from the National Park Grant supports the operation of the Authority and contributes to the corporate priorities.



¹ Seven Sisters Country Park expenditure is recovered. The chart excludes support costs.



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