

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

## The Chalk Coast Partnership Super NNR

Lullington Heath National Nature Reserve Extension

Part of the Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project

Core Documents:

NNR Strategy: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6457692013723648>

NNR Selection Principles: [The Selection Principles for National Nature Reserves in England - NE808 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

NNR Management Standards: [Natural England Standard: National Nature Reserve Management Standards - NESTND029](#)

Partnership working	
<b>Are East Sussex County Council involved?</b>	ESCC are an essential stakeholder. NE met with Kate Cole, County Ecologist at ESCC on 12 July. Kate advised that we will need to involve the PROW team as we move forward. ESCC (Tourism, PROW and Public Health) attended the Sussex Heritage Coast meeting on 27 July.
<b>Which organisation is leading the project?</b>	The project can be led by any partner. Natural England have committed resources to developing the NNR extension with partners and stakeholders.
<b>What does partnership working actually look like, in terms of staff resourcing?</b>	The NNR offers the opportunity for partners to pool resources and skills and draw in additional resource through specific funding opportunities created by the NNR brand.
<b>Do we have to use the name Super NNR</b>	No, we could frame ourselves as a partnership NNR or landscape-scale NNR. Ultimately, each NNR is given a new name, e.g. Wild Ennerdale NNR, Purbeck Heaths NNR, Mendip NNR. The working name is currently <i>The Chalk Coast NNR</i> .
<b>What kind of funding is associated? How much? For how long?</b>	The Nature Recovery Project has a fund of £150k per annum for this Spending Review. NRPs are expected to be long-term projects. The NNR is an opportunity to attract other public, private and 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector funding.
<b>How much will it cost to run involvement? Including hidden costs.</b>	Staff time during declaration process: Monthly Teams meetings / quarterly face-face / Preparing papers for internal boards or committees to be part of the NNR / becoming an Approved Body After declaration: This will be decided by the partners but may include semi-regular meetings. See below and also the separate Governance document.
<b>How would partners work together?</b>	Partners would develop a joint over-arching management framework which would inform and guide how best to work together. There are a number of examples from other partnership NNRs to draw from. The aim is for the

	<p>meeting on 4 August to agree working arrangements up to the declaration in Nov 2024.</p>
<p><b>Who will be facilitating the on the ground projects?</b></p>	<p>Each partner can lead a project for the wider benefit of all partners</p>
<p><b>Where does the responsibility for the management plan sit?</b></p>	<p>Each Partner would continue to be responsible for the management plan for their own land/land that they manage. The over-arching joint management framework identifies where joint working adds value to the individual plans. It would be co-ordinated by the Partnership, facilitated by Natural England or another partner if they choose.</p> <div data-bbox="667 629 1007 1207" style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <pre> graph BT     A[Agri-environment agreements] --&gt; B[Partner Management Plans]     B --&gt; C[Management framework]             </pre> </div> <p>The NNR Management Standard: <a href="#">Natural England Standard: National Nature Reserve Management Standards - NESTND029</a> sets out the key principles for the management of National Nature Reserves (NNRs), and some specific expectations beneath them. It has been created by Natural England in consultation with Approved Bodies in order to support consistent quality of management across all NNR sites.</p> <p>Principle 2 A management plan for the NNR will be kept up-to-date.</p> <p>The NNR has a management plan that describes a site, identifies key features, analyses and sets objectives and specifies the management and monitoring prescriptions. The management plan is written within a year of the NNR being declared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The outcomes of management should be reviewed regularly against objectives and the Plan reviewed at least every five years to ensure it remains fit for purpose.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of key management activities are maintained that allow the effectiveness of management interventions to be monitored and reviewed.</li> </ul>
<b>Branding – concerns around multiple branding and fit with individual organisations brands, fit with the SDNP shared identity and fit with the Heritage Coast?</b>	<p>Section 5 of the NNR Management Standard: It must be clear to visitors when they arrive at the main entrances that the site is a National Nature Reserve. The NNR symbol should be used in new signage at main entrances and principal interpretation materials. Brand guidelines are available from Natural England.</p>
<b>Future funding, management, monitoring and delivery?</b>	<p>The NNR Strategy: <a href="https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6457692013723648">https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6457692013723648</a></p> <p>All NNR managing bodies invest in their reserves and will continue to do so. They are underpinned by a mix of public, charitable and private funding. We will work together to find additional sources of funding that broaden the resource base and improve its resilience.</p>
<b>What community engagement has been undertaken/ planned?</b>	<p>Any community engagement will be developed in consultation with the partners. Landowner consultation will happen before stakeholder engagement. This is starting to be planned.</p>
<b>What comms is planned? How will comms be coordinated with the key partners?</b>	<p>Partners will be developing their Comms Plan over the coming year. Other partnership NNRs have held launch events, for example the Lincolnshire Coronation Coast NNR. <a href="#">You can now watch the footage on BBC iPlayer (from 1:19:12 - 1:24:04): BBC One - Charles III: The Coronation Year</a></p>

<b>Designations and land use</b>	
<b>Is the NNR status compatible with others, eg SSSI, National Park, Heritage Coast, Country Park and Local Nature Reserve?</b>	<p>NNR is a tool within the nature recovery toolbox. The land does not have to have any other designation to become an NNR but can be used along-with other mechanisms whose purpose and/or functions may overlap in part.</p> <p>See Qs below re Country Park and Heritage Coast compatibility.</p>
<b>Does the land have to be a SSSI?</b>	<p>No. NNR land does not have to be within a SSSI to be included.</p>
<b>In terms of SSCP, would the land need to be declared an NNR to be part of the sNNR? If so, is this compatible with its status as a Country Park?</b>	<p>The land would need to be mapped as part of the NNR to be part of the NNR. Country Parks are accredited by Natural England against a set of criteria. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-accreditation-for-your-country-park">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-accreditation-for-your-country-park</a></p>
<b>Heritage Coast compatibility</b>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heritage-coasts-protecting-undeveloped-coast/heritage-coasts-definition-purpose-and-natural-englands-role">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heritage-coasts-protecting-undeveloped-coast/heritage-coasts-definition-purpose-and-natural-englands-role</a></p>

<p><b>What are we committing to?</b></p>	<p>Meeting the NNR Selection Principles: <a href="https://www.naturalengland.org.uk">The Selection Principles for National Nature Reserves in England - NE808 (naturalengland.org.uk)</a></p> <p>NNR Principles: New National Nature Reserves should:</p> <p>Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a significant contribution to nature recovery in the locality</li> <li>• and/or safeguard or recover nationally important biodiversity and geodiversity</li> </ul> <p>Science:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for conservation and environmental science</li> </ul> <p>People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage people to experience, engage with and enjoy nature in a variety of ways (where this does not compromise management for the conservation purpose)</li> </ul> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site’s purpose is to be a nature reserve and the primary land use is nature conservation</li> <li>• The site is declared NNR in perpetuity or for the long term (&gt;30 years)</li> </ul> <p>The site will be managed to exemplary standards (the NNR Management Standards - see below).</p>
<p><b>How does this fit in with the Nature Recovery Network?</b></p>	<p>NNRs are a tool that can be used to deliver the NRN. The NRN in East Sussex is being defined through the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy over the next 18 months/2 years, led by ESCC. The wider Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project is a delivery tool for the NRN now.</p>
<p><b>Does the NNR status change the legality of e.g. planning decisions in the area?</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>What is the difference between the sNNR and NRP?</b></p>	<p>The ‘super’ or partnership NNR has a smaller boundary than the NRP and is limited to land in ownership by organisations who are currently or able to become Approved Bodies and whose land’s primary purpose is nature conservation. The NRP is far wider reaching and includes towns within its boundaries, land that could not be included within the NNR. The NNR will form the ‘beating heart’ of the NRP. The aim is for other landowners to become affiliated members of the NNR partnership over time.</p>
<p><b>Will the NNR declaration affect the ability to set new byelaws on the Country Park?</b></p>	<p>The Country Park byelaws are underpinned by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which is the same Act which underpins both the NNR and the National Park.</p>

Approved Body status	
<b>How do we become an Approved Body?</b>	<p>A Managing (Approved) Body is one that has the capability and the control of land use to meet the following NNR requirements over the long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site’s purpose is to be a nature reserve and the primary land use is nature conservation</li> <li>• The site is declared a NNR in perpetuity or for the long term (&gt;30 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site will be managed to exemplary standards (the NNR Management Standards - see below).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each partner would approach its board/committee to agree ‘a letter of intent’</li> <li>2. New partners are then approved by the NE Board, under the WCA 1981</li> </ol>
<b>What are the advantages/disadvantages of becoming an Approved Body? What commitments does this place on us? Does it give what we say about what happened in the National Park part of the NNR more weight?</b>	<p>The 4 August Talk and Walk day slides, discussions and this series of Partner Questions seek to will cover this and will be added to by partners over the proceeding months.</p>
<b>If the sNNR did not include SSCP, would we still need/want to be an AB?</b>	<p>Approved Bodies are landowners or those who have long-term management control. If the SSCP wasn’t part of the NNR then there would be no reason for the SDNPA to be an AB.</p>
<b>Any additional/ new burdens on partners/ Authority?</b>	<p>Although designation is voluntary, the expectation is that Approved Bodies work to deliver the NNR Management Standards (below) in order to support consistent quality of management across all NNR sites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The NNR series will seek to represent the best places for England’s biodiversity and geodiversity.</li> <li>2. A management plan for the NNR will be kept up-to-date and will reflect the requirements of this standard.</li> <li>3. The management of designated features and the wider reserve is exemplary.</li> <li>4. The NNR contributes to safeguarding and restoring ecosystems beyond its boundaries.</li> <li>5. The management of the NNR provides opportunities for public enjoyment, quiet recreation and engagement.</li> <li>6. Research into the natural environment at an NNR is promoted and knowledge is shared.</li> <li>7. Communities and stakeholders are involved in the management of the NNR</li> <li>8. NNR managers will work collaboratively to promote the NNR series and wider goals.</li> <li>9. NNRs will support opportunities to demonstrate exemplary conservation management to others.</li> </ol>

Commercial activities	
<p><b>How would this impact our and the Company’s activities in that area? Commercial and operational implications for running the country park?</b></p>	<p>NNRs were established under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which specified that they were for “preserving flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area and/or for providing opportunities for the study of, and research into, those features”.</p> <p>The Natural Environment &amp; Rural Communities Act 2006 extended the role of NNRs to include the provision of opportunities for public enjoyment of nature and/or open-air recreation. This does not preclude commercial activities related to the enjoyment of nature or open-air recreation (tbc).</p> <p>Alternatively commercial activities on specific land areas would not be affected as that land would not be part of the NNR map.</p> <p>Operations related to the management of the nature reserve would also not be impacted. It would be useful to understand what other operations there might be.</p>

Timeframe	
<p><b>Is there a timeframe for the AB decision from the Board/Committee?</b></p>	<p>Currently pencilled in for November 2024.</p>