



South Downs National Park
Local Development Scheme
(Ninth Revision)
March 2024

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The Local Development Scheme is also available on the SDNPA website:
www.southdowns.gov.uk

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I. INTRODUCTION

- I.1** The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable that the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) will follow in the preparation and adoption of planning policy documents.
- I.2** This is the ninth review of the LDS for the South Downs National Park. It provides a programme for the production of the following Local Plan Documents:
- South Downs Local Plan Review (LPR)
 - Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP)
 - Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)
 - Joint Minerals and Waste Plans
- I.3** An LDS is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). Paragraph 003 of the Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph (Reference ID: 61-003-20190315)¹ states that it must specify, among other matters, the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It must be made available publicly and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish their Local Development Scheme on their website.
- I.4** There are obviously a number of risks in preparing planning policy documents and a risk register is prepared and updated for the Local Plan Review. A significant risk is major changes to national legislation on planning. There is a considerable amount of uncertainty in plan making at the moment. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Assent in 2023. This sets out significant changes to plan-making and these requirements are expected to commence once supporting regulations and national policy have been produced by the Government. There are also a number of rapidly evolving issues that could have a significant impact on plan making particularly nutrient neutrality in the Solent area and water neutrality in the central area of the National Park.
- I.5** We also need to be mindful of pre-election periods commonly known as ‘purdah.’ The SDNPA will not launch public consultations on any of its plans during these periods and this may obviously impact on the LDS set out in this document.
- I.6** Progress on the LDS is reported annually in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)².

¹ [Plan-making - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

² [Authority Monitoring Reports - South Downs National Park Authority](#)

THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

2.1 The development plan for the South Downs is made up of the adopted South Downs Local Plan which covers the National Park in its entirety, a number of made Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) which cover individual parishes and several adopted minerals and waste plans prepared for each county in partnership with other local planning authorities. The detailed Local Development Scheme (LDS) for these Plans is set out in Appendix I of this document and the highlights are set out below.

Local Plan Review

2.2 The South Downs Local Plan was adopted in July 2019. The Planning Committee of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) agreed to start work on the Local Plan Review (LPR) in May 2022 and a revised timetable was agreed by the Authority in December 2022. It will take full account of other relevant strategies and plans including the Partnership Management Plan (2020-25) and its review, and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (updated 2024).

2.3 Evidence gathering for the LPR and the completion of a park-wide Land Availability Assessment will take place during 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Regulation 18 consultation is scheduled for Q4 2024-25 (during January to March 2025). The aim is to present the Pre-Submission version of the LPR to Planning Committee and a full Authority meeting in Q3 2025-26 (during October to December 2025). This would be followed by a public consultation in early 2026 and then submission for examination. The intention is that the LPR will be adopted early in 2027.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

2.4 The South Downs Local Plan established the strategic planning policy framework for the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) in the National Park. As of December 2022 there were a total of 61 areas designated for the purposes of neighbourhood planning and 43 NDPs made part of the development plan.

2.5 This LDS does not set out the timetables for individual NDPs and their reviews.

Minerals & Waste Plans

2.6 The SDNPA is responsible for planning for the future management of waste and production of minerals within the South Downs National Park. We are working in partnership with the mineral and waste planning authorities in Hampshire, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex Councils on a number of local plans. To avoid duplication we do not report separately on minerals & waste plans in this LDS. The highlights are set out below.

2.7 The SDNPA is working in partnership with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council on the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste

and Minerals Local Plan Review. Full details on the LDS can be found on the East Sussex website³.

- 2.8** The SDNPA is also working in partnership with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and the New Forest NPA. A Partial Review of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is underway. Full details on the LDS can be found on the Hampshire website⁴.
- 2.9** Finally, the SDNPA is working in partnership with West Sussex County Council. No plans are currently being prepared in West Sussex and full details on the LDS can be found on the West Sussex website⁵.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 2.10** Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide more detailed guidance to explain policies and proposals set out in the Local Plan. A number of SPDs have been prepared and adopted since the adoption of the Local Plan. The SDNPA also currently adopts Village Design Statements as SPDs for those parts of the National Park that they individually cover. Those for Selborne, Upham and West Meon are nearing completion and feature in the LDS.

³ [East Sussex waste and minerals monitoring reports | East Sussex County Council](#)

⁴ [Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Monitoring reports - West Sussex County Council](#)

APPENDIX I: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

	2023-24	2024-25				2025-26				2026-27				27-28			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Local Plan Review					18				19		S	E	M	A			
East Sussex, Hampshire, and West Sussex Waste and Minerals Plans	<i>Please see ESCC, HCC & WSCC websites for details</i>																
Selborne VDS SPD		A															
West Meon VDS SPD			A														
Upham VDS SPD				A													

Key to Local Development Scheme

Symbol	Stage in document preparation
S	Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State
E	Independent examination
M	Consultation on proposed modifications
A	Adoption
13	Representations on a supplementary planning document
18	Representations on the preparation of a local plan
19	Representations on a local plan

