

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Welcome back to our latest newsletter. The worst of the winter is hopefully over and spring is round the corner. Whilst you have been busy, we have been keeping track of things going on in the National Park. Below is a synopsis along with notice of some upcoming events. If you have any issues or queries that you would like raised with the South Downs National Park Authority please contact your Liaison Officer Alison Tingley on sdlm@southdownsland.com, who can help you get in touch with the right person.

Dates for your diaries

Wednesday 22nd April South Downs Land Managers Annual General Meeting – Field Farm Barn, Colemore, Nr Alton, GU34 3PX. 19.00hrs to be followed by a talk by Jamie Cordery South East Liaison Officer for the Deer Initiative – Recognising the Signs & Dealing with Deer

Wednesday 24th June SDLM Summer Meeting, Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation – Midhurst

Wednesday 17th & 24th June CEVAS Training Chichester College, Brinsbury Campus. For more information please click on the following link <http://www.visitmyfarm.org/cevas-farmer-training> To book contact Ian Egginton-Metters 01373 302204 email cevas@face-online.org.uk

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th August South Downs Show and Wood Fair, QECP (see other news)

SDNPA News in brief

- The 101st barn owl box was put in place as part of a park wide project to help increase the population. Contact your area office for more details
- Volunteers carried out 25 days of scrub clearance and coppicing across the National Park
- Since last December farmers and land managers have completed nearly 10,000 meters of hedgerow restoration with the help of the operations teams providing grants, advice or volunteer assistance.
- As part of the NIA project scrub clearance of trial plots (designed by Kew) at France Bottom SNCI were completed and sown with wildflower seed mixes.
- Work is continuing to develop an index of semi-natural habitat connectivity across the National Park, as well as producing a habitat opportunity map for priority habitats.

Meeting updates

Farmer Breakfast Meetings

Members of SDLM were invited to breakfast meetings with NPA staff. Members were updated on the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Leader and the South Downs 'Shared identity'. Copies of the presentations are available on the SDLM website at: <https://www.southdownsland.com/noticeboard.php>

ERDF Water Seminar

Landowners joined other interested parties at a meeting in Midhurst hosted by the SDNPA on how to maximize water supplies and improve efficiency of irrigation. They were also updated on planned changes to irrigation licencing regulations.

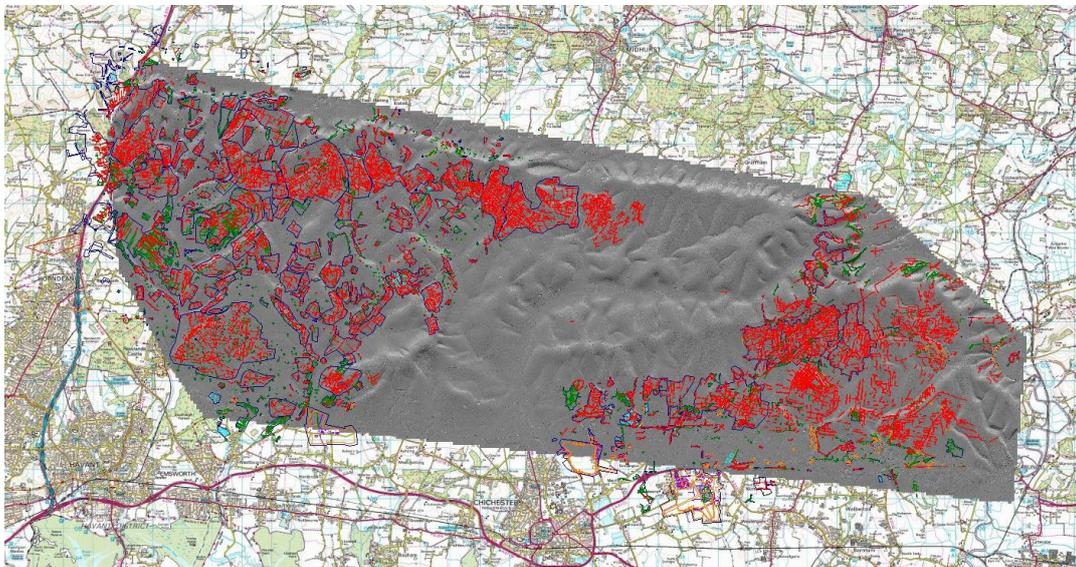
Project updates

‘Secrets of the High Wood’ -

The National Mapping Programme is progressing well, with over a thousand features transcribed to date, testifying to the depth and complexity of this multi-layered archaeological landscape. Transcription is anticipated to be completed by the autumn, and will provide a valuable resource to inform landscape management.

The programme of community fieldwork has also been proceeding apace. The support from project partners and the team of volunteers is greatly appreciated. Staff and volunteers have been ground truthing, which is proving invaluable in helping to classify and interpret the features revealed by the lidar survey. Over the next few weeks they will be working in the Goodwood and Norfolk Estates, with the programme of fieldwork anticipated to finish around mid April, when it is likely that the vegetation re-growth will begin to inhibit access to many areas. Following the end of the first season of volunteer fieldwork, the Archival and Documentary research element of volunteer programme will commence, allowing them to research and contextualise a range of features mapped during the field survey.

Contact: Alice Thorne Lidar & Heritage Mapping Officer alice.thorne@outhdowns.gov.uk



Feature transcription to date in East Hampshire and Chichester areas

Proud to be part of the National Park?

The South Downs National Park shared identity is designed to give the place itself, an identity all of its own. It is completely separate from the brand of the South Downs National Park Authority. It is not an accreditation – rather it says we are proud to be part of the amazing place that is the South Downs National Park. It allows businesses, partners and communities to benefit from being associated with the National Park. The identity includes graphics, fonts, photography and support with telling the story of the National Park. The identity is free to use for businesses, partners, communities within the National Park who want to use it in support of the National park’s purposes and duty. From April you will be able to log on and download the identity. Before then, if you are interested in finding out more about the shared identity then please contact: Ruth.james@southdowns.gov.uk 01730 819251 or carole.richmond@southdowns.gov.uk 01730 819257

Food & Drink Portal Open for Registration

Due to launch in May, the South Downs Food portal is being created to give FREE publicity and to promote the stunning food on offer in the South Downs National Park and a ten mile radius around it. Food and drink producers and the outlets which sell and promote local fare can enjoy a free listing as part of the South Downs Food showcase - register now at www.southdownsfood.org



Access issues

Farming representative needed for South Downs Local Access Forum

The South Downs LAF is seeking a farming representative from the Hampshire area. The Local Access Forum advises the Authority on how the public can best access the South Downs. The main function is to look at how the public rights of way network is managed and improved. Forum members are also be asked to comment on broader access, transport and countryside subjects.

There are four meetings a year which are usually in Midhurst, unless a site visit is required. In addition Members may be asked to get involved with task group sessions between full meetings, read and respond to consultations and disseminate information through their own networks.

If you are interested access issues, and are able to help out contact Tim.squire@southdowns.gov.uk 01730 814810

Walk and Ride Leaflets

The first of ten new walk and ride leaflets using the National Park shared identity was produced. The leaflet details a walk through the old iron-making countryside of Liphook and Milland. Nine more leaflets will be produced in the next two months providing routes accessible by sustainable transport for walkers and cyclists across the National Park.



Planning update

National Park Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation is due to start in May

CIL: There are currently over 140 projects on the emerging CIL Infrastructure Development Plan with a total value of £60M across the park. Projects vary from v small to very large and cover many issues including education, transport, greenspace, and community facilities. SDLM have been invited to put forward any infrastructure projects. The list is always open and more projects are needed particularly in West Sussex. SDNP contact Gareth.giles@southdowns.gov.uk

Other news

Leader

Four Leader Local Action Groups have received provisional approval for funding to support the rural economy. 'Fieldfare' (East Hants and Winchester areas); Sussex Downs and Coastal Plain; Horsham, Lewes and Mid-Sussex and WARR (Wealden & Rother). Funding is likely to support the following activities in rural areas:

- Increasing farm productivity
- Forestry production
- Business & farm diversification
- Tourism
- Cultural & heritage activity
- Provision of rural services

The total LEADER investment agreed is about £5.2 million, over six years.

Leader Contacts details:

Fieldfare: <http://www.fieldfareleader.org.uk> – kbrown@winchester.gov.uk

Sussex Downs & Coastal Plain: } www.westsussex.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8191

Horsham, Lewes & Mid Sussex } RDPELEADER@westsussex.gov.uk

WARR: www.warrpartnership.org.uk - don.cranfield@plumpton.ac.uk

Food Enterprise Zone

Defra announced that the area of the SDNP within the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership would be one of eleven proposed Food Enterprise Zones (FEZs) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/food-enterprise-zones-created-to-drive-growth>). A grant of £50,000 was awarded to SDNPA to set up a pathfinder FEZ. The FEZs are based around Local Development Orders and are designed to make it easier for food and farming businesses to expand

Forestry Comission Grants

You can find the latest information on the [Defra website](#)

The new woodland capital grants are now open for applications. They cover three areas:

- Woodland Creation - Deadline for 1st stage application: 30th April 2015

Areas to be planted must be over 3ha. Smaller blocks over 1ha might be considered where it would improve water quality or flood risk. Some woodland managers will then be able to apply for a 10 year maintenance plan under Countryside Stewardship.

- Woodland Management Plan - Deadline: 30th June 2015

This is essential for future applications if you wish to apply for Countryside Stewardship or Countryside Productivity Schemes (in certain situations) and will also be needed for any EWGS first claims after 1st April 2015 and any EWGS claims after the first of January 2016, except for creation. You need to use the FC management plan template and have over 3ha of woodland on your holding in order to receive a grant. There is a minimum grant of £1000. There is also an unfunded small management template, that can be used for any woodlands under 10 hectares.

- Plant Health - Deadline: 30th June 2015

There are grants to remove diseased plants and to restock. These are available to people who have already had a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) or who have had Chalara confirmed on their holding.

South Downs Show & Wood Fair – 15th & 16th August

www.southdownsshow.co.uk

This event brings the history of the Downs to the public eye and highlights the importance of the Downs explaining how this 'landscape' provides for our local communities—food, water, wood fuel, tourism, and more. At the same time the event will link local rural businesses together to improve local trade and link it to the market—the local community. If you are interested in a Trade stand contact TerenaPlowright@gmail.com or telephone 07918941398

You are receiving this newsletter as a member of the South Downs Land Managers. If you would like to receive it via email, along with event notifications or no longer wish to receive it, please email sdlm@southdownsland.com