

# South Downs Land Managers



## Spring 2019 Newsletter

Below is a synopsis of what the South Downs Land Managers have been doing over the past 6 months, what has been happening in the South Downs National Park, along with notice of some upcoming events. If you have any issues or queries that you would like us to raise with the South Downs National Park Authority on your behalf, please contact your Liaison Officer, Alison Tingley on [sdlm@southdownsland.com](mailto:sdlm@southdownsland.com).

## South Downs Land Managers Executive Committee Members Needed

Do you farm or manage land within the South Downs National Park? Can you spare up to four mornings per year to attend Liaison meetings with the National Park Authority? If so please contact Alison Tingley [info@southdownsland.com](mailto:info@southdownsland.com) prior to the AGM on 25th June in order to put your name forward for election.

## Dates for your diaries:

South Downs Land Managers Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 25th June - Midhurst Agenda to follow

South Downs National Park Authority Environmental Land Management Tests and Trials Workshops

Weds 2nd Oct (08.30—11.30) - The Holt, Nr Corhampton, Hampshire, SO32 1HR

Weds 2nd Oct (18.00—21.00) - South Downs Centre, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

Thurs 3rd Oct (8.30—11.30) - Sullington Manor Farm, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 4AE

Thurs 3rd Oct (18.00—21.00) - The Star Inn, Alfriston, East Sussex, BN26 5TA

See below for further details

## Meeting updates

### Farmer Breakfast Meetings

In February Landowners were invited to breakfast meetings with NPA staff. Members were updated on the South Downs' participation in the Defra tests and trials of the Environmental Land Management Scheme, the Woodland Trust hedgerow planting scheme and a farmers guide to permitted development. Copies of the presentations are available on the SDLM website under events at:

<https://www.southdownsland.com/noticeboard.php>

### SDLM/SDNPA Liaison Meetings

Two meetings have been held since the last newsletter discussions have centred around the Glover Review of funding and governance of National Parks, Ash die back, the SD Partnership Management Plan Review, progress with the SD Local Plan and the Defra

trials of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme. Minutes of meetings can be found on the SDLM website <http://www.southdownsland.com/Meeting>

## SDNPA News

### Environmental Land Management Scheme Tests and Trials

DEFRA have appointed the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) to run a series of workshops to invite views and opinions on scheme design resulting from the South Downs Farming community. To facilitate this, three workshops were held in May and further workshops will be held in the autumn across the National Park

Each workshop is limited to 20 places on a first come first served basis. To help ensure the best use of time for workshop attendees and to help them formulate their thoughts in advance, details will be sent out prior to the events outlining the questions and topics that will be discussed.

To book your place please contact Natacha Bricks-Yonow via email [Natacha.Bricks-Yonow@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:Natacha.Bricks-Yonow@southdowns.gov.uk) or call 01730 819330

For further information contact [Nigel.James@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.James@southdowns.gov.uk) (01730 819301) or [Bruce.Fowkes@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:Bruce.Fowkes@southdowns.gov.uk) (07557 563944)

#### In Brief

- Otters return to the River Meon
- Entry signs to the South Downs have been erected at 19 pilot sites at or near the National Park boundary across Sussex and Hampshire.
- Conservation work is underway to save the Field Cricket under the Heathland Reunited Project.

## Planning update

### National Park Local Plan

The Local Plan is on track for adoption by the South Downs National Park Authority by July

### South Downs National Park Design Awards

The SDNPA have launched a new award scheme which recognises and promotes high standards of design, and raises awareness of the positive contribution that good design can make to the quality of our local environments. It is an opportunity for the Authority to reward developments where extra thought and care has been taken to make a significant difference to the finished product.

Nominations for the 2019 awards are open from March 11 to June 30 in the following categories:

- Residential (individual building/housing development small/large)
- Non-residential (commercial/industrial/infrastructure)
- Conservation (landscape/buildings/gardens/craftsmanship)

There will also be a People's Choice – voted for by the general public as their favourite across these three categories

### Farm Diversification Schemes approved

Two innovative farm diversification schemes have been given the green light by the South Downs National Park Authority.

The Planning Committee has approved plans at the Wiston Estate, North Farm, Washington, to create a rural business park anchored by the Wiston Estate Winery, and at Sky Park Farm in West Harting. an educational and visitor enterprise which will diversify the existing agricultural operation of the site as a working Deer Farm. Supported by a new farm shop, visitor café, and outdoor children's activity area.

Both landscape-led schemes were approved following pre-application discussions, giving careful consideration to design and impact.

## Other news

Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier applications close 31st July. The dead line for requesting an application packs is 31st May.

### Ash Die Back

Forestry Commission Guidance on dealing with Chalara Ash Die Back is available on the Defra website



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As a member of the CLA farming within the South Downs National Park area you are automatically a member of the South Downs Land Managers Group

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