

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

2019–20



WELCOME



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK TRUST

This year has seen two unprecedented events that have shaken the very roots of our society. It was the year that Climate Change received, perhaps for the first time, even partial recognition for the danger that it presents to our environment and society.

Secondly, the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) has seen the virtual shutting down of global economies, and substantial changes to the way that society functions. However, this changed world does not reduce or dissipate the urgency with which we must tackle the Climate Crisis. Globally, this may seem like an insurmountable task, and an impossible thing to address. Nevertheless through addressing many smaller positive actions a little closer to home in the South Downs National Park, we have the opportunity to make a difference.

I am therefore pleased to be able to present this update on our progress. Building on our inaugural year, we have further increased funds for the South Downs National Park, funding new Apprentice Rangers, initiatives to share the benefits of the National Park with deprived families and also funding projects to help nature recover across the South Downs.

We successfully funded an endowment to give our communities long term support, launched Beelines and Trees for the Downs and established a number of new grass root funds, helping those who volunteer their time to the South Downs.

As we move into what will be a challenging year for everyone, we hope to continue to shine a light on the opportunities to support the South Downs. Here we have an opportunity to play a direct and visible part in the global effort to restore nature and by doing this locally, we can enjoy it too.

I look forward to working with you all in achieving this.

**Julie Fawcett,
Chair of South Downs
National Park Trust**



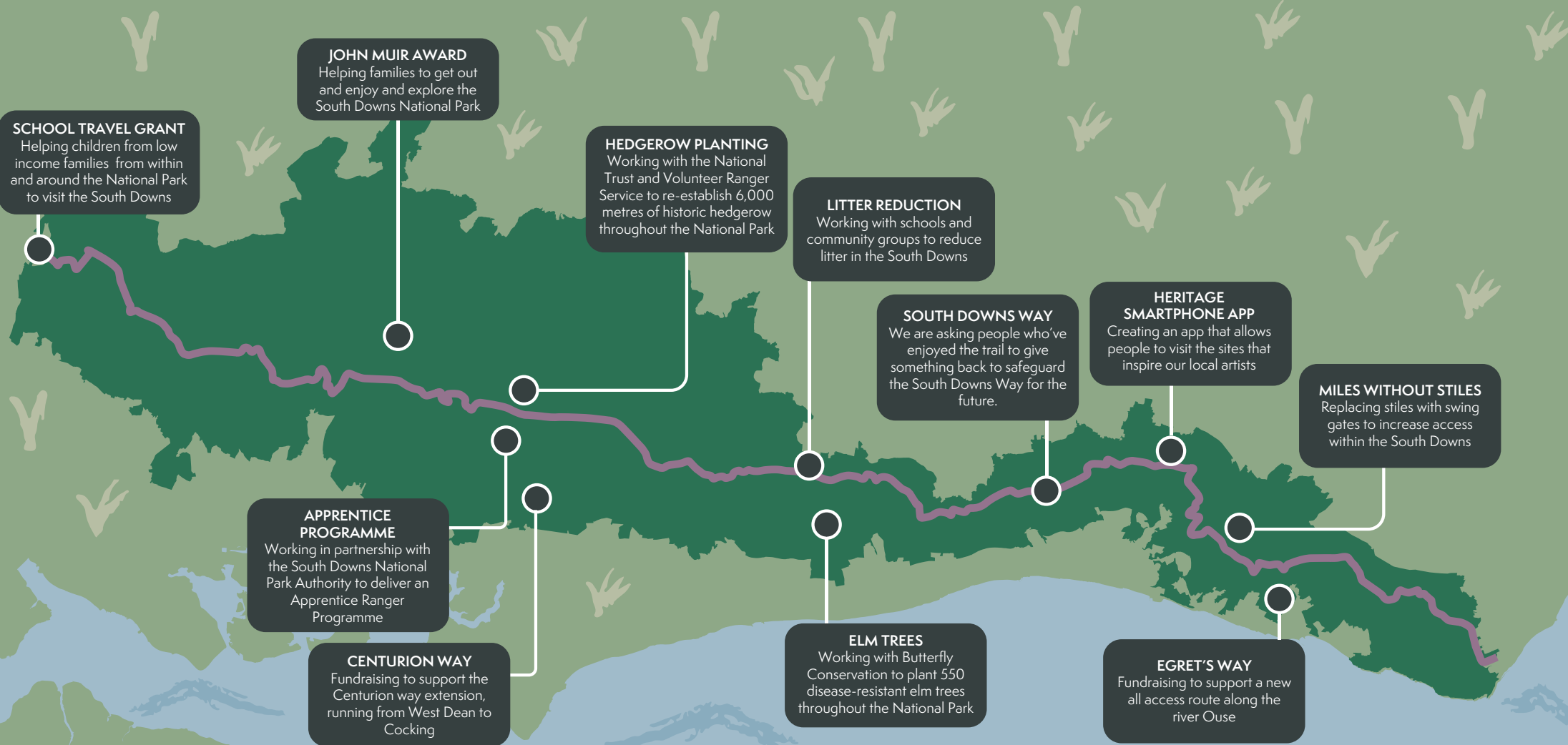
Chalkhill Blue heading to roost
at Moore

WHAT WE DO

We are the official charity of the South Downs National Park. We are small but have big ambitions.

We want to see more land managed for wildlife, more rare habitats protected, more local communities thriving and more people able to access and enjoy their National Park.

This requires more investment and we want to secure and direct the substantial goodwill that exists for the South Downs to places where it can make a real difference.



ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE FOUNDING

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK TRUST



Over
£1million

raised for projects in the
National Park



enabled

3,245

children to visit the
National Park



550

trees planted

5,000 ...more
planned



£82k

given in grants to 30
grass roots community
projects

3,651

metres of path
restored



2,500

metres of hedge planted



£75k

raised for pollinator
projects

500

metres of Watervole
habitat improved



8

youth volunteering
days setup



£320k

Endowment established



10 stiles replaced
with swing gates



5 apprentice
rangers employed



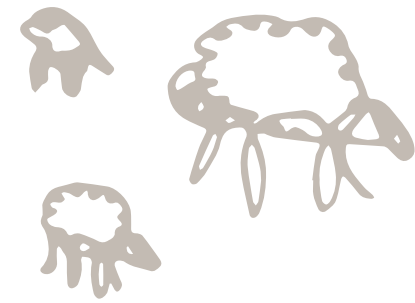
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NEW heritage
walking app

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE FOUNDING

5

OUR PRIORITIES



INCREASE LEARNING TIME IN THE NATIONAL PARK

Children today spend half as much time playing outside as their parents did. We want to change that, increasing the time spent learning outdoors in the National Park.



© SDNPA

IMPROVE AND INCREASE HABITATS

We want to improve and increase our habitats in grassland, heathland, woods, rivers and on the coast. They are home to millions of plants, bees, butterflies including many rare and threatened species.



© SDNPA

IMPROVE WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTES

We want to increase the network of family-friendly walking and cycling routes and encourage more disadvantaged people to visit, who live near the Park but rarely experience the many benefits it has to offer.



© SDNPA/Rebecca Saunders



HELP FOR COMMUNITIES VOLUNTEERING TO SUPPORT THEIR NATIONAL PARK

We support the grassroots groups already working to care for the National Park. We work with a number of supportive partners and donors to fund their work.

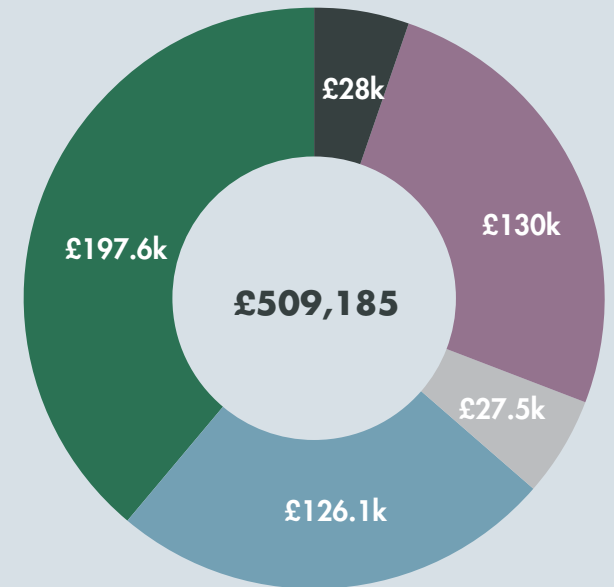


© SDNPA/Daniel Greenwood

FUNDING ALLOCATION

We are very grateful to the South Downs National Park Authority who have extended their commitment to our core operating costs (salaries and overheads) until 2023. This commitment allows us to focus on maximising funds to deliver projects within the South Downs National Park.

The Trust has had a fantastic second year increasing investment in the South Downs, raising over £509,185 across the following areas:



- Available funds
- Increasing Learning Outside
- Improving our Woodland, Heathland and Grassland
- Increasing Walking and Cycling Routes
- Supporting Volunteering



STAFF AND TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES

Our work is bolstered by a strong experienced staff and board of trustees



Julie Fawcett, Chair of Trustees – Trotton, West Sussex. Julie is Managing Director of QBic, an environmentally conscious hotel chain.



Josephine Carr, Trustee – Alfriston, East Sussex. Jo farms 160 acres at her family farm in Jevington.



Dan Montagnani, Trustee – Lyminster, West Sussex. Dan is a Fellow of the Royal Geological Society and Managing Director of Groundsure, an environmental land use data due diligence business.



Greg Mahon, Treasurer – East Dean, West Sussex. Greg is branch Principle of the Raymond James officer in Chichester.



Janet Duncton, Trustee – Petworth, West Sussex. Janet is Chair of West Sussex County Council and her family are farmers of the Leconsfield Estate.



Dean Orgill, Trustee – Horsham, West Sussex. Dean is Chairman of Mayo Wynne Baxter.





Vance Russell, Trustee
– New Forest National Park. Vance is a Wildlands and Climate Change Adaptation Consultant having previously been the California Director of programs for the National Forest Foundation.



Toni Shaw, Trustee – Basingstoke, Hampshire. Toni is a consultant to the Third Sector having previously spent 10 years as the CEO at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.



James Winkworth, Head of Charity – James has worked in the charitable sector for over 10 years, at charities including Amnesty International and Samaritans. James has lived in Hampshire for over 30 years.



Sophie Ritson, Fundraising Development Manager – Sophie who lives in Emsworth has over 20 years fundraising experience with national charities such as the PDSA, Campaign for National Parks and regional causes such as St Wilfrid's.



Mark Rose, External Funding Co-Ordinator – Mark is an experienced Grants manager having overseen multi-million grant programmes across a range of organisations.




STAFF



PROJECTS



INCREASE OUTDOOR LEARNING TIME IN THE NATIONAL PARK

 2,379	Visits funded for low income children to visit the South Downs
 5	Apprentice rangers employed
 1	Families outreach programme established

Apprentices – Working in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority we have now supported 5 Apprentice Rangers, who will help a new generation of South Downs Rangers protect the South Downs and our countryside traditions.



© SDNPA / Rachel Johnson

Families Outreach Officer – We have funded a new post to work with Sure Start Centres and Food Banks on the edge of the park to encourage those families using their services to participate in the John Muir Award. The award provides a flexible way for families to explore the outdoors, creating positive shared experiences and encouraging a long term relationship with the South Downs whilst benefiting from its therapeutic qualities.



School Travel Grant – During 19/20 we have supported almost 2,500 children from low income families to experience learning outside the classroom in South Downs National Park.





Youth Volunteering – We have secured funding for a part-time post for 6 months to administer, coordinate and to part deliver South Downs Youth Action Volunteer Activities for 16-25 year olds in the South Downs National Park. Planned for 2020 due to Coronavirus this will now take place in 2021.



© SDNPA



IMPROVE WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTES

	2,000	metres of footpath restored
	10	stiles replaced for swing gates
	1	South Downs Way Ranger funded
	1	new walking app developed

South Downs Way Improvements – We have now completed sections at Plumpton Plain, Old Winchester Hill and Hyden Lane. We have also increased staff resource for the South Downs Way in the form of a South Downs Way Western Ranger. This role, will play a part in maintaining and improving the western end of the National Trail.

Footsteps – In partnership with the National Park Authority, Ditchling Museum, Monk’s House and Charleston, we have funded a new app, free to download, that will allow visitors to walk in the footsteps of South Downs artists and visit the sites that inspired them.



© Columbia Sportswear



Old Winchester Hill; before © SDNPA







Old Winchester Hill; after © SDNPA



© SDNPA

IMPROVE OUR GRASSLAND, HEATHLAND AND WOODLAND

	430	metres of hedgerow funded
	500	metres of restored wolverine habitat
	2,000	acres (approximately); funding raised for wildflower meadows
	2,600	trees (approximately); funding raised to support planting

Tree Planting – In 2019 we launched a campaign, called Trees for the Downs, this project will fund the planting of 5,000 trees along the roadsides and pathways of the National Park. This will help to replace the 1 in 5 trees that we are expected to lose through ash die back.



Beelines Appeal – Also launched in 2019, with just over £30,000 raised to date, we are expecting to reach our target of £75,000 for habitat restoration to support our bees and butterflies. We will be working with Farmers, Schools and community organisations within specific nature corridors. Restoration projects are due to start in middle to late 2020.



New Hedgerows – Building on our work in 2018 with the National Trust, this year we funded the planting of 430 metres of hedgerow with Jamie's Farm, a charity that works with children, in Lewes.



Jamie's Farm, Lewes



White-letter hairstreak butterfly © Bob Eade



HELP FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS WHICH CARE FOR THEIR NATIONAL PARK

	£320k	endowment established
	£82k	given to grass roots projects
	30	groups supported with vital funding
	4	community grants programmes now in place.

We have now established a number of funders to support the communities and volunteers that help preserve the National Park

The Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF)

– In partnership with the National Park Authority, we have established an initial £320,000 endowment for the SCF. This endowment will provide a long term grant fund, meaning that we are able to provide support for community led projects for years to come.

This fund has already started allocating grants and has supported the following projects this year: Tuppenny Barn’s education programme (£1,500), Wild Flower Conservation Society’s wildflower propagation polytunnel (£1,500), Petworth Heritage Open Days (£750), Lavant Lives local heritage project (£5,000), Fittleworth Community Shop’s covered outdoor seating area (£2,000), Moulsecombe Forest Eco-Cabin (£1,998),

Hampshire Monday (voluntary) Group’s tool purchase for access improvements (£2,000).

The Volunteer Conservation Fund – In partnership with the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service we have established a new £30,000 fund which will provide small grants to voluntary groups who are working to improve our landscape. The fund supports a range of projects, from stile replacements and due pond restoration to wildlife hides.

In addition, we have also launched two micro grant programmes (under £300), one for schools working to conserve and support the National Park and one to support groups in litter picking activities.



Eco-cabin © SDNPA



Boardwalk © SDNPA

THANK YOU

PRESIDENTS AND PATRONS



The Duke of Richmond and Gordon

Chairman of the Development Board



Mrs Susan Pyper,

Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex
President of the South Downs
National Park Trust



Mr Tom Floyd,

Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire
Vice President of South Downs
National Park Trust



Mr Michael Rudman,

Deputy Lieutenant of East Sussex
Patron of South Downs National Park
Trust



Hugh Bonneville

Patron of South Downs National Park
Trust

CORE FUNDER

A BIG thank you to the South Downs National Park Authority. Their core support means that 100% of public donations go towards vital projects in the South Downs.

FOUNDING PATRONS

We are sincerely grateful to our founding patrons who have provided us with necessary and long term support, which has helped to establish the Trust and our programmes.

Oliver and Mala Haarmann
Simon and Harriett Patterson
The Manor of Bosham and the Hundred
James and Amelia Tuttiert
Guests, Bidders and Prize Donors from our first Charity Auction held at Rolls Royce

DONORS

The Banister Charitable Trust
Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust
BMC Access and Conservation Trust
The Boltini Trust

Boomtown Fair
M J Camp Charitable Foundation
Chalk Cliff Trust
Maureen Chowen DL
Michael Chowen CBE, DL
In loving memory of Dennis Dean
John Coates Charitable Trust
Joan Cullen Charitable Trust
Ernest Cook Trust
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Fawcett Charitable Trust
Forest Holidays
The Foyle Foundation
Gareth Neame, OBE
The Gerald Micklem Charitable Trust
Givergy
The Green Family
Worshipful Company of Grocers
The Gurney Charitable Trust
Hillier Garden Centres
In loving memory of John House
Mrs A Lacy Tate Charitable Trust
The Lynn Foundation
Midhurst Rother College
Nineveh Charitable Trust



DONORS (cont.)

South Downs Lottery Players
Southern Co-op
Sussex Community Foundation
Wates Foundation
William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust
Wine GB
F Glenister Woodger Trust
The Woolbeding Charity

VISITOR GIVING PARTNERS

Best of Brighton
Deans Place
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Hydro Hotel
The Crest, Droxford
The Star & Garter
The Village Inn, Buriton

PARTNERS

Butterfly Conservation Sussex
Egrets Way
Friends of the Centurion Way
Friends of the South Downs
The Garden Classroom
Goodwood Outdoor Classroom
Graffham Down Trust
Jamie's Farm
Learning Through Landscapes
National Trust
Plantlife
South Downs National Park Authority
South Down Farm Clusters
Sussex Green Living
South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK TRUST

Registered Charity 1174975

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