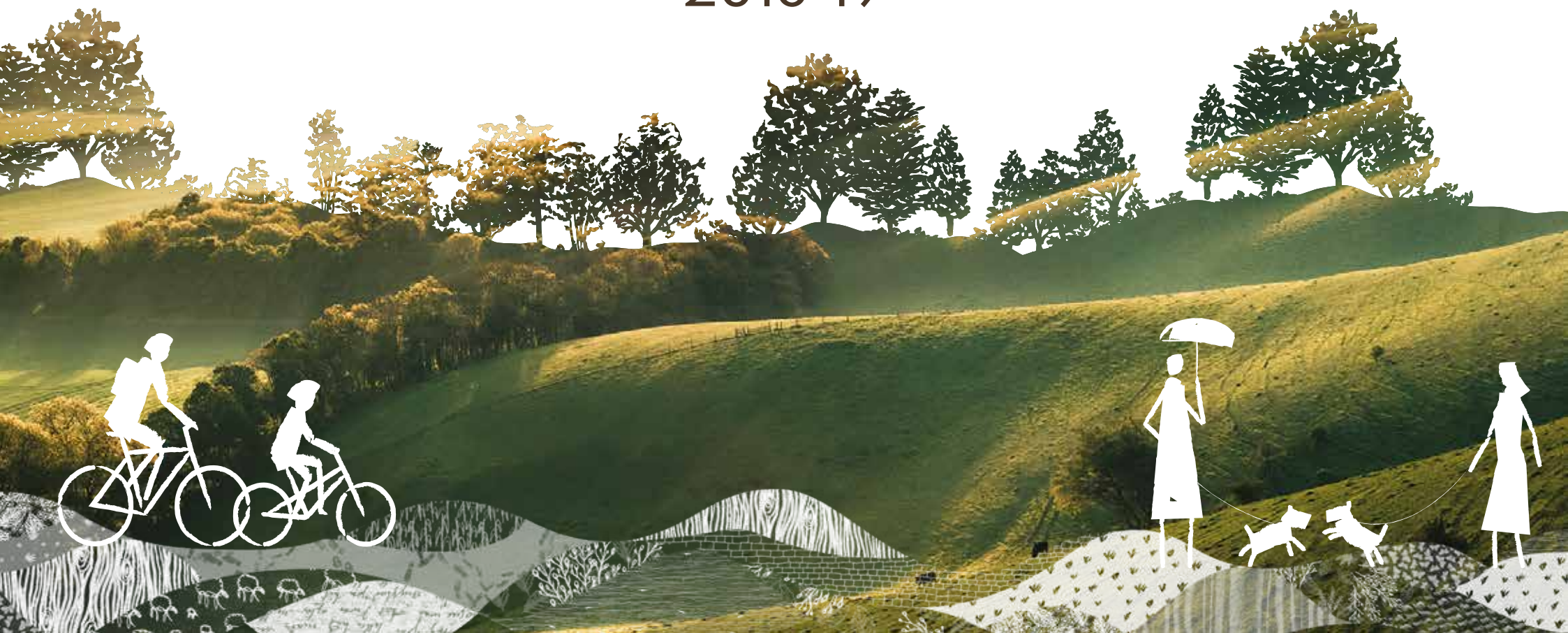


SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK TRUST

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST YEAR 2018-19



WELCOME



SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK TRUST

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of the South Downs National Park Trust I feel honoured to present this report of its first full year. Situated in the busy South East of England, the South Downs gives so much to so many people and the Trust represents an opportunity to give a little back, conserving and enhancing it for generations to come.

Over the year the Trust has made great progress in raising funds for important projects, that wouldn't happen without our support. Alongside this, we are setting up a number of endowed funds that will ensure this support stretches into the future. Our small staff team is continuing to deliver a great return for the National Park and our ambition is to maintain this as our funding grows, ensuring we maximise those funds for the National Park.

In the coming year, along with the Trustees, I look forward to initiating practical projects to address some of the challenges facing the landscape, while pursuing new ways to ensure that the South Downs is enjoyed by all.

Julie Fawcett,
Chair of South Downs National Park Trust



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

£344,000

First year
income



1,312

Kids in the park



4

Apprentices funded

1,600

Metres of path
restored



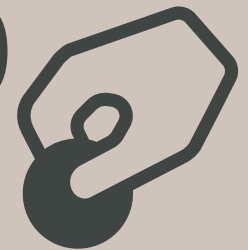
550

Trees
planted



400

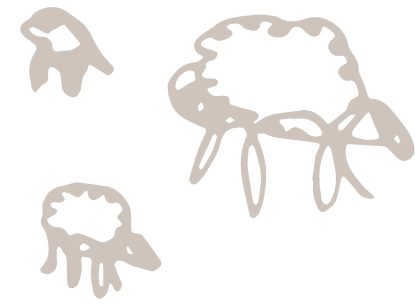
Over 400
donations



2,500

Metres of hedge planted

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 outdoor learning time for young people in the National Park.



IMPROVE OUR GRASSLAND, HEATHLAND & WOODLAND

We want to improve and increase our grassland, heaths and woods – which are home to millions of plants, bees and butterflies including many rare and threatened species.



IMPROVING 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.



HELP FOR COMMUNITIES VOLUNTEERING TO SUPPORT THEIR NATIONAL PARK

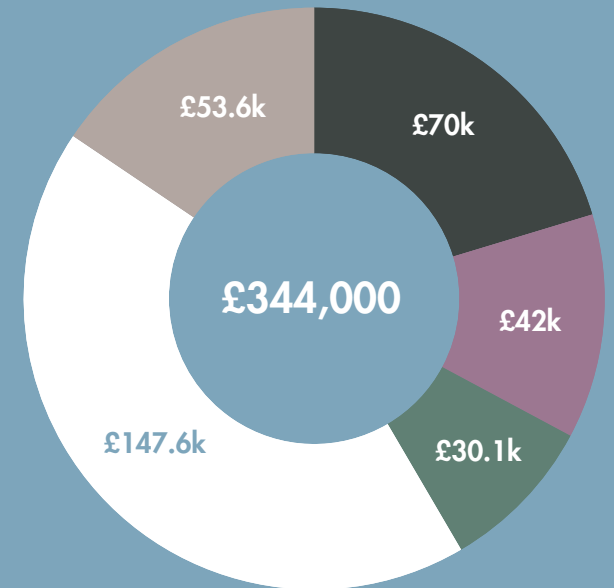
We support the grassroots groups already working to care for the National Park. We work with a number of supportive partners and donors to fund their work.



FUNDING ALLOCATION

Our operating costs are secured until 2021, meaning all funds raised are focused on delivering projects within the South Downs National Park.

The Trust has had a fantastic first year increasing investment in the South Downs, raising over £344,000 across the following areas:



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



STAFF AND TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES

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



Julie Fawcett, Chair of Trustees

Julie is Managing Director of QBic, an environmentally conscious and award winning hotel chain. She has had an extensive career working in the Private Equity Sector as an “Entrepreneur in Residence”, for herself through the set up and sale of a retail ecommerce business and the Third Sector, as Managing Director of Llamau Housing Association. Julie is a keen sailor and walker and lives in East Meon, Hampshire.



Josephine Carr, Trustee – Born in the South Downs at Winton Street, Alfriston, Jo has been closely connected to and lived on the South Downs all her life.

Her family has farmed the Downs in East Sussex for over four generations and she now farms 160 acres at Jevington, and her immediate family still farms over 1000 acres in the area.



Dan Montagnani, Trustee – Dan is Managing Director of Groundsure, an environmental and land use data due diligence business. Dan has spent 23 years working in the environmental sector mainly in the risk advisory and property transaction areas. He lives in Lyminster, West Sussex with his family and is Chair of Lyminster & Crossbush Parish Council. Dan is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and at weekends enjoys walking in the National Park with his family and dogs.



Greg Mahon, Treasurer – joined Rathbones in 2002 as an investment director before becoming regional director in 2010. With nearly 30

years investment management behind him, Greg has worked for SNC (now Merrill Lynch), Murray Johnstone Private Investors and Premier Asset Management. He’s a Chartered Wealth Manager and Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment, as well as an IMC member of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Society of the UK. Greg enjoys the many benefits of the South Downs living in Petworth, West Sussex.



Helen Jackson, Trustee – Until 2014 Helen was Chief Executive of the Campaign for National Parks, the independent charity campaigning to protect and promote National Parks in England and Wales. For 7 years previously she was Chief Executive of Museums, Libraries and Archives South East, a not-for-profit agency supporting regional museums, libraries and archives.



Dean Orgill, Trustee – Dean Orgill is Chairman of Sussex solicitors Mayo Wynne Baxter. He is also Chair of Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership, Chair of IoD Sussex and Vice-Chair of Sussex Chamber of Commerce as well as a member of the Greater Brighton Economic Board. Dean lives in Horsham and is a keen cyclist, and has been tested on some of the muddier sections of the South Downs Way!





Vance Russell, Trustee – Vance Russell is a Wildlands and Climate Change Adaptation Consultant. Prior to this he was the California Director of Programs for the National Forest Foundation where he managed community forestry projects throughout the state. He has nearly 30 years of experience working in agriculture and natural resources management. Vance now lives in the New Forest National Park.

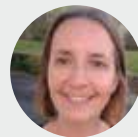


Toni Shaw, Trustee – In 2007, Toni became CEO at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation where, with the support of the Board of Trustees, she established the Foundation and built an endowment of nearly £11 million for the long term support of communities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Toni is a keen walker, having walked extensive sections of the South Downs Way and lives in Basingstoke.

STAFF



James Winkworth, Head of Charity – Starting out in commercial sales and sponsorship, James has worked in fundraising for over 10 years, consistently increasing income at charities including Amnesty International and Samaritans. James has lived in Hampshire for over 30 years and is a lifelong user of the South Downs, he is also a Trustee at the Hampshire Cultural Trust.



Sophie Ritson, Fundraising Development Manager – Sophie has over 20 years of fundraising experience with national charities such as the PDSA and the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) and regional causes including St Wilfrid's Hospice. Sophie worked for SNP in the years leading up to the designation of the South Downs as a National Park and she is very happy to be working to further enhance the South Downs.



Mark Rose, External Funding Co-Ordinator – Mark is an experienced Grants Manager having managed multi-million grant programmes across a range of organisations. Mark supports the Sustainable Communities Fund grant panel and prides himself as a purveyor of the best pubs in the South Downs.



PROJECTS



IMPROVING WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTES

	£147k	raised for projects
	1,600	metres of path restored
	1,800	tonnes of stone laid
	25,000	South Downs Way improved for users

Apprentice Ranger Programme – Some of the traditional skills and knowledge needed to preserve our landscape, such as flint stone walling or traditional hedge laying, are in decline. Working in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority we have funded 3 Countryside Rangers, who will help a new generation of National Park Rangers protect the South Downs and our traditions.



BEFORE RESTORATION: Plumpton Plain, South Downs Way



AFTER RESTORATION: Plumpton Plain



MEND OUR WAY

SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



SOUTH DOWNS WAY

Improving the South Downs Way –

Through the **Mend our Way** appeal we raised £120,000 for critical improvements on the South Downs Way. Last year we completed the first section of the Trail identified for improvement at Plumpton Plain, this is the longest single piece of South Downs Way restoration ever completed!

It transformed a muddy, water-logged track into a brand-new, weather-resistant path. As a result of the appeal, three other sections of the 100 mile National Trail are also scheduled to be improved in the coming months.

INCREASE LEARNING TIME IN THE NATIONAL PARK



£43k

raised for projects



1,312

visits funded for low income children to visit the South Downs



4,100

engaged at event supported by the Trust

School Travel Grant – We are supporting more children from low income families to experience learning outside the classroom in the South Downs National Park. In 2018, 1,312 more disadvantaged school children experienced their National Park.

“Thank you for the Travel Grant to Plumpton College Children’s Rural Education Centre, it made the trip affordable for families. We couldn’t have run the trip without your support.”

Hangleton Primary School

Educational Events – We supported ‘Wild Chalk’ a brand new event for the South Downs National Park near Brighton, celebrating the wildlife, history and amazing water filtering properties of our chalk downland.

We also funded the development of a new Virtual Reality Night Skies Tour for the South Downs Dark Skies Festival bringing the value of our precious dark skies to a whole new audience.



Colouring wall at ‘Wild Chalk’ near Brighton July 2018 © SDNPA



Virtual reality bringing the outside in at the South Downs Dark Skies Festival 2019 © SDNPA

IMPROVE OUR GRASSLAND, HEATHLAND AND WOODLAND



£30k

raised for projects



2,500

metres of hedge
row laid



550

trees planted



3

Centres engaged in
the development of
a new heritage app

Hedge planting in Woolbeding – Working with the National Trust and Volunteer Ranger Service we planted 2,500 metres of historic hedgerow, providing wildlife corridors for a range of species.

Providing new habitat for the white-letter hairstreak butterfly – Working in partnership with Butterfly Conservation we planted 550 disease-resistant elm trees in the Adur Valley to support the recovery of this rare butterfly.



White-letter hairstreak butterfly © Bob Eade



Volunteers hedge planting © SDNPA

HELP FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS WHICH CARE FOR THEIR NATIONAL PARK



£70k

raised for community projects



£90k

in future commitments

2 NEW FUNDING STREAMS ESTABLISHED FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

1. In partnership with the National Park Authority, this year we established an **endowment for the Sustainable Communities Fund**. This endowment will provide long term income for the fund and mean that we are able to provide support for community projects within the South Downs National Park for years to come.
2. In partnership with the South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service (VRS) we have developed a further funding stream, **'The Volunteer Conservation Fund'** that comes with volunteer support. This fund, generously supported by the VRS will provide small grants to groups within the National Park who are working to improve our landscape.



Volunteers working with Sussex Wildlife Trust to clear vegetation at Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve
© SDNPA

THANK YOU

PRESIDENTS AND PATRONS



President
Susan Pyper
Lord Lieutenant, West Sussex



Patron
Michael Rudman
Deputy Lieutenant, East Sussex



Vice President
Tom Floyd
Deputy Lieutenant, Hampshire

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.

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

DONORS

The H. B. Allen Charitable Trust
Mr E Aphorpe
The Ian Askew Charitable Trust
The Banister Charitable Trust
Andrea Bassett
Boltini Trust
Calleva Foundation
M J Camp Charitable Foundation
Chalk Cliff Trust
Maureen Chowen DL
Micheal Chowen CBE DL
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Fawcett Charitable Trust
The Foyle Foundation
Friends of South Downs
The Gerald Micklem Charitable Trust
Hall Hunter Foundation
Hdh Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
HF Holidays Pathways Fund
The late John House and his family
Langham Brewing Company Limited
Ninevah Charitable Trust
People's Postcode Lottery
Rathbone Brothers Foundation
Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust
The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851
Simon & Harriet Patterson

Sussex Community Foundation
Trail Riders Fellowship
James & Amelia Tuttiett
The Woolbeding Charity

VISITOR GIVING PARTNERS

Best of Brighton
Deans Place
Fizz on Foot
Hydro Hotel
The Star & Garter, East Dean
The Village Inn, Buriton

PARTNERS

Butterfly Conservation Sussex
Friends of the South Downs
National Trust
South Downs National Park Authority
Volunteer Ranger Service



SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK TRUST

Registered Charity 1174975

CONTACT US

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