Company number: 10719031

Charity number: 1174975

The South Downs National Park Trust

Report and Financial Statements

1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020

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1. Reference and administrative details

This report has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Company number	1174975		
Charity number	10719031		
Governing Document	Memorandum and Articles Incorporated 10 April 2017		
Registered office	South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH		
Trustees	Trustees, who are also directors under company law, wh served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:		
	Julie Fawcett (Chair) Greg Mahon (Treasurer) Dean Orgill Dan Montagnani Helen Jackson Josephine Carr Vance Russell Toni Shaw	Appointed on 15/06/17 Appointed on 08/03/18 Appointed on 15/06/17 Appointed on 15/06/17 Appointed on 15/06/17 Appointed on 08/03/18 Appointed on 15/06/17 Appointed on 15/06/17	
Company Secretary	Robin Parr from 15/6/17	to present	
Senior staff	James Winkworth, Direct Sophie Ritson	or 15/6/17 to present	
Bankers	LLOYDS TSB BANK PLC City Office, PO Box 72, Ba Park, Kent, ME8 0LS.	iley Drive, Gillingham Business	
Independent Examiner	H.G. Barron, CPFA 10 Downside, Westdene, Brighton, BN1 5EQ		

2. Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. These accounts cover the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The comparable 2018/19 financial year covers the period 1 May 2018 to 31 March 2019.

The reference and administrative information set out in the previous section forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP FRS 102).

2.1 Structure, governance and management

The South Downs National Park Trust was established by the South Downs National Park Authority. The South Downs National Park Authority is a founding donor and has committed to supporting the Trust via a formal management agreement whilst it develops sustainable income in its first years of operation.

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10th April 2017 and registered as a charity in September 2017. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Trustees meet quarterly and the Board meetings work to an agenda, which allows ample time for open discussion on issues related to SDNPT's areas of interest and public benefit.

The Trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. In 2017 the Trustees developed a 2017-20 strategic framework including setting a vision, mission, key strategies and objectives.

This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work for the year ending 31 March 2020. The Trustees report highlights the success of each key activity and the benefits the charity has brought to those groups of people that it is set up to help. The review also helps the Trustees to ensure that the charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated purposes.

2.2 Objectives and activities

In the inaugural South Downs National Park Trust Business Plan (2017-20), we share the vision for the South Downs National Park developed by the South Downs National Park Authority that by 2050:

- The iconic English lowland landscapes and heritage will have been conserved and greatly enhanced. These inspirational and distinctive places, where people live, work, farm and relax, are adapting well to the impacts of climate change and other pressures.
- People will understand, value, and look after the vital natural services that the National Park provides. Large areas of high-quality and well-managed habitat will form a network supporting wildlife throughout the landscape.
- Opportunities will exist for everyone to discover, enjoy, understand and value the National Park and its special qualities. The relationship between people and landscape will enhance their lives and inspire them to become actively involved in caring for it and using its resources more responsibly.
- Its special qualities will underpin the economic and social well-being of the communities in and around it, which will be more self-sustaining and empowered to shape their own future. Its villages and market towns will be thriving centres for residents, visitors and businesses and supporting the wider rural community.
- Successful farming, forestry, tourism and other business activities within the National Park will actively contribute to, and derive economic benefit from its unique identity and special qualities.

The Trust's mission is to work with delivery partners to enhance and protect the South Downs National Park for current and future generations. Within this, we focus on specific projects which deliver:

• Improved 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 their National Park has to offer

- Improved Grassland, Heathland and Woodland We want to improve and increase our grassland, heaths and woods which are home to millions of plants, bees, butterflies including many rare and threatened species.
- Learning Outside Children today spend half as much time playing outside as their parents did. We want to change that, increasing the recreational and learning time young people spend in the South Downs.
- Help for communities that live in and around the South Downs to care for their National Park We support the grassroots groups already working to care for their National Park. We work with a number of supportive partners and donors who help fund their work.

The direct beneficiaries of the South Downs National Park Trust are the thousands of people that live in and visit the South Downs National Park. Our work is delivered with our partners who are experienced, non-profit, delivery organisations operating in and around the South Downs National Park. Trustees are therefore satisfied that the Trust ensures its work is in the public benefit.

Our 2017 - 2020 business strategy states the following 3 year objectives, intended to establish the charity as a sustainable organisation and to deliver against the mission:

- 1. **Partnership** The South Downs National Park Trust will work with partners to develop, initiate and support projects that deliver the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan.
- 2. **Philanthropy** The South Downs National Park Trust will champion philanthropy for the South Downs National Park and increase resources invested in it.
- **3.** Awareness The South Downs National Park Trust will seek to increase awareness and understanding of the South Downs National Park with under-represented groups.
- **4. Financial sustainability** The South Downs National Park Trust will aim to achieve financial sustainability beyond 2020.
- 5. **Governance** The South Downs National Park Trust will have exemplar governance procedures and practices.

2.3 Achievements in the past year

Objective 1: Partnership

Target: By April 2020 deliver those projects initiated in 2018/19 and develop new projects from the Shelf to maximise delivery against our charitable objects.

- a. Projects initiated over our first full year have continued to be successfully progressed, this includes:
 - a. Mend our Way Our first public appeal, which successfully raised £120,000 for the South Downs Way, was completed via the final works to Winchester Hill and Hyden Lane.
 - Apprenticeship Programme Initiated in 2018 our first cohort successfully completed their studies, with 2 going on to take up full time roles at the South Downs National Park Authority.
 - c. Tracing inspirations The app has been completed and soft launched with plans to add new partners and walks over 2020/21
- Project Shelf Our "Project Shelf", which contains those projects approved by Trustees for our support, is well developed with 29 projects from 13 different partners. As of March 2020, 5 of these were completed, 9 were in progress with the remaining 15 in development/fundraising.

Objective 2: Philanthropy

Target: By April 2020 develop and deliver a fundraising strategy securing £500,000 for projects across the National Park. Increase awareness of the South Downs National Park Trust, in the South East, to 5%.

a. Income - In total, £506,931 was raised by the South Downs National Park Trust. This includes a £40,000 grant from the South Downs National Park Authority to cover our fundraising costs. The total excluding this was £466,931. This funding contributed to key projects including the following:

- Apprentices Working in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority we supported another 2 Countryside Apprentice Rangers and are now seeking to expand the programme with 2 future Apprentices focused on forestry.
- Youth Volunteering We have funded 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.
- South Downs Way Improvements We have 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.
- 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 to 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 meters of hedgerow with Jamie's Farm, a charity that works with disadvantaged children, in Lewes.
- The Sustainable Communities Fund In partnership with the National Park Authority, we have established an initial £320,000 endowment for the Sustainable Communities Fund. 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 poly tunnel (£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 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.

Objective 3: Awareness

Target: Seek to increase awareness in the below groups (Young Adults, 25/34, C2DE)

The awareness objective has proved more challenging for the Trust to deliver, as priorities for fundraising have developed and the distinction between the South Downs National Park Trust and the South Downs National Park Authority has become further clarified. Trustees are of the view that promoting Awareness in terms of marketing is broadly the role of the Park Authority. Conversely, the Trust's role in promoting awareness will generally be delivered through those project we support. This will be a key consideration when the organisation strategy is delivered for the forthcoming 2020/2023 session. In the current year our work included:

- a. Travel Grant Our continuing support for this programme enabled 2,500 children from low income families to experience learning, outside the classroom, in the South Downs National Park.
- b. Families Outreach Officer During the year we secured funding to establish 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.

Objective 4 Financial sustainable

Target: By April 2020 build reserves to a level of 9 months' expenditure and develop unrestricted income of £40,000 per annum.

- a. Unrestricted income £132,330 in unrestricted income was raised, this included over £60,000 which was raised through our Rolls Royce Fundraising Dinner and designated to the Apprentice and SCF endowment.
- b. A 9-month reserve of £120,000 has been invested in the endowment. This is not a time bound investment and can be made available at the request of Trustees.
- c. The South Downs National Park Authority has agreed to cover the core costs of the Trust for a further 3 years, alongside the provision of a £40,000 fundraising grant. This is a fantastic result and allows the Trust to focus on fundraising for tangible projects within the South Downs, instead of salaries and expenses. However, the Authority is looking to reduce the fundraising grant over subsequent years, placing further need to develop our unrestricted income.
- d. We are therefore continuing to develop a number of new opportunities to contribute to our passive income including
 - A new lottery, which contributes to our passive income and has secured 100 players with a monthly income of £300
 - Car Parks To continue developing our unrestricted income streams we have identified a number of opportunities to take on Car Parks along the South Downs Way, introducing a modest charge. In order to develop these and implement the necessary infrastructure, Trustees have designated a potential investment of £24,000

Objective 5: Governance

Target: By April 2020 the South Downs National Park Trust's governance will follow the principles of the Charity Governance Code for Smaller Charities.

- a. **Committees** The Grants and Investment Committee are now meeting regularly, with their terms of reference in place.
- b. **Risk Register** During the year the Trust developed a comprehensive Risk Register, which was review in light of the guidance from the Charity Commission.

2.4 Future plans and changes

Given COVID-19, we enter the next year with a high degree of uncertainty. We will therefore need to be flexible in our strategy and approach. Whilst the pandemic will clearly have an impact on some of our programmes such as education, our hope is that within areas such as Conservation and Walking and Cycling we will still be able to make good progress in delivering our key projects. Our main approach during this period will be to a) fundraise for tangible deliverable projects avoiding those for the time being that may be delayed due to COVID b) focusing on delivering our Appeals and Campaigns which are already underway and c) Prepare our other Grants Programmes for new submissions at the end of the Summer, when we anticipate volunteering and communities to be looking for support as they restart their projects.

In addition, we look to deliver the following

- Review our strategic 3-year plan, developing a new strategy for the 2020/23 period.
- **C**ontinue raising funds for Trees for the Down and Beelines, allowing us to open for applications during late 2020.
- Begin to consider long term opportunities to work with the South Downs National Park Authority regarding their plans to develop Seven Sisters, whilst identifying any short term opportunities to enhance the works through philanthropic funds.
- Launch a new and long term and ambitious appeal focused on Nature Recovery and seeking to make a substantial step change towards enhanced wildlife within the South Downs National Park.
- Take on and introduce charging at two car parks along the South Downs Way, using any raised funds to aid further improvements to this important National Trail.
- Hold a Development Board Meeting in October and seek to secure 2 new Founding Patrons
- Continue our application to the Climate Action Fund in Lewis, developing a substantive project which works with the communities and charities within the Ouse Valley to take a number of steps to target

climate change.

- Launch a new fund to target litter on the South Downs, supported by the Boltini Fund. This fund will include a competition for Schools, highlighting the problems associated with waste plastic in the National Park and run an associated grants scheme which seeks to support Litter Picking initiatives within the South Downs.
- Increase our fundraising support for the completion of both the Egrets Way and Centurion Way cycle routes, with improvements planned to begin in 2021.

The Trustee Report was approved by the Trustees on 19.10.2020

Julie Fawcett, Director and Chair of Trustees

3. Independent examiner's report

I report on the accounts of the South Downs National Park Trust for the year ended 31 March 2020 which are set out on pages 9 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

H.G. BARRON

Date: 24.12.20 **H.G. Barron, CPFA** 10 Downside Westdene Brighton BN1 5EQ

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2019/20 £	Restricted Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2018/19 £
Income and endowments:					
Donations Earned from charitable activities	6.2 6.3	106,980 192,728	335,601 0	442,581 192,728	330,595 168,250
Total		299,708	335,601	635,309	498,845
Expenditure on:					
Raising Funds Charitable activities	6.4 6.5	118,580 92,850	1,000 119,219	119,580 212,069	86,342 229,367
Total		211,430	120,219	331,649	315,709
Net income/(expenditure)		88,278	215,382	303,660	183,136
Other Recognised gains/losses Gains/(losses) on investment					
assets	6.6	0	(36,700)	(36,700)	0
Net Movement in funds		88,278	178,682	266,960	183,136
Reconciliation of funds:					
Funds balance brought forward		143,620	202,148	345,768	162,632
Funds balance carried forward		231,898	380,830	612,728	345,768

4. Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

5. Balance sheet

		£	2019/20 £	£	2018/19 £
Fixed Assets					
Long Term Investments	6.6	294,618		0	
NET FIXED ASSETS			294,618		0
Current Assets: Cash at Bank and in hand		318,110		498,868	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			318,110		498,868
Currents Liabilities:					
Creditors falling due within one year	6.7	0		153,100	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			0		153,100
					,
NET ASSETS			612,728		345,768
The Funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds:					
Apprenticeship Programme			627		8,000
Apprenticeship Woodland			25,000		0
Beacon Hub Project			1,000		6,000
Bee Line			47,367		0
Boltini Litter Fund			10,000		0
John Muir Post			15,000		4,000
Mend Our Way			539		0
South Downs Way			79 <i>,</i> 065		100,050
Sustainable Communities Fund			285,002		40,000
Swing Gate for Stiles			5,000		10,000
Travel Grant			0		5,000
Trees for the Downs			32,869		0
Volunteer Ranger Service			24,688		29,098
Youth Volunteering Initiative			10,000		0
10 th Anniversary Schools			3,500		0
Unrestricted funds			73,071		143,620
		:	612,728	:	345,768

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

No members have required the company to obtain audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The director acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies' subject to the small companies' regime.

The Financial Report was approved by the Trustees on 19.10.2020

Julie Fawcett, Director and Chair of Trustees

6. Notes to the financial statements

6.1 Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland for (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015)' and applicable accounting standards.

a. Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

b. Income and endowments

Income received is accounted for on a receivable basis.

c. Expenditure

All expenditure is allocated between the principal headings raising funds and charitable activities.

Charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and governance associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity.

d. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those amounts received for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subject to specific restricted conditions imposed by donors and include monies raised for specific projects.

e. Donated Services and Facilities

Donated services and facilities are recognised as income when the economic benefit that flows from the donation has passed to the charity, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity is probable and the economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

6.2 Income from Donations

	Unrestricted Funds 2019/20 £	Restricted Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2018/19 £
Unrestricted funds	106,980	0	106,980	31,580
Restricted funds:				
Apprenticeship Programme	0	51,627	51,627	23,000
Beacon Hub Project	0	0	0	6,500
Bee Lines	0	39,367	39,367	0
Boltini Litter	0	10,000	10,000	0
Chalk Grassland Event	0	0	0	1,050
Dark Skies	0	0	0	10,000
Elms for Adur	0	0	0	2,500
John Muire Post	0	28,000	28,000	4.000
Mend Our Way	0	21,343	21,343	37,717
South Downs Way	0	719	719	100,050
Sustainable Communities Fund	0	141,126	141,126	40,000
Swing Gates for Stiles	0	0	0	10,000
Tracing Inspirations Projects	0	0	0	18,600
Travel Grant	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
Trees for the Downs	0	24,869	24,869	0
Volunteer Ranger Service	0	50	50	29,098
Woolbeding Hedge Planting	0	0	0	11,500
Youth Volunteering Initiative	0	10,000	10,000	0
10 th Anniversary Schools	0	3,500	3,500	0
Total	106,980	335,601	442,581	330,595

6.3 Income Earned from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2019/20 £	Restricted Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2018/19 £
Grant	40,000	0	40,000	40,000
In-Kind Salary Contribution	128,378	0	128,378	128,250
Other	24,350	0	24,350	0
Total	192,728	0	192,728	168,250

The grant from the South Downs National Park Authority of £40,000 is for purpose of furthering the objectives of the Trust having regard to the South Downs National Park Authority Partnership Management Plan.

The in-kind contribution is the value of resource provided by the South Downs National Park Authority in the form of salary costs towards the activities defined within the Memorandum of Understanding between the South Downs National Park Authority and South Downs National Park Trust.

6.4 Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds 2019/20 £	Restricted Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2018/19 £
In-Kind Salary Contribution	79,160	1,000	80,160	79,065
Other	39,420	0	39,420	7,277
Total	118,580	1,000	119,580	86,342

The in-kind salary is the value of resource provided by South Downs National Park Authority towards raising funds

6.5 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2019/20 £	Restricted Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2019/20 £	Total Funds 2018/19 £
In-Kind Salary Costs	49,218	0	49,218	49,185
Website Development	0	0	0	6,984
Other	43,632	0	43,632	4,548
Restricted Funds:				
Apprenticeship Programme	0	33,000	33,000	18,500
Beacon Hub Project	0	0	0	500
Chalk Grassland Event	0	0	0	1,050
Dark Skies	0	0	0	10,000
Elms for Adur	0	0	0	2,500
John Muir	0	22,000	22,000	0
Mend Our Way	0	20,804	20,804	100,000
South Downs Ways	0	21,703	21,703	0
Sustainable Communities	0	1,998	1,998	0
Swing Gates for Stiles	0	5,000	5,000	0
Tracing Inspirations Project	0	0	0	18,600
Travel Grant	0	10,000	10,000	6,000
Volunteer Ranger Service	0	4,714	4,714	0
Woolbeding Hedge Planting	0	0	0	11,500
Total	92,850	119,219	212,069	229,367

The in-kind salary is the value of resource provided by South Downs National Park Authority towards charitable activities including governance.

The South Downs National Park Trust has no employees.

Charitable Activities relating to Restricted Funds include grant payments to the South Downs National Park Authority totalling £112,507 (Mend our Way £20,804, Apprenticeship Programme £33,000, Travel Grant £10,000, South Downs Way £21,703, Swing Gates for Stiles £5,000 and John Muir £22,000).

None of the Trustees or any person connected with them has received or is due to receive any remuneration or expenses during the year.

There were no related party transactions during the year.

6.6 Investments

The investments are held with Quilter Cheviot and are written into the accounts at market value as at 31st March 2020. The investment has reduced due to the inherent volatility of the markets, because of the impact of Covid-19.

6.7 Creditors falling due within one year

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Amounts owed to South Downs National Park Authority	0	153,100
Total Creditors falling due within one year	0	153,100