

## South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan: Consultation Template

To submit your consultation response, please attach the completed word document and send to:

[managementplan@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:managementplan@southdowns.gov.uk)

Firstly, please tell us the name of your organisation, who your submission represents.

**This question is required.**

The Country Land and Business Association

We would like to be able to contact you in order to keep you updated about the final South Downs Partnership Management Plan, to be approved in December 2025. Please list any email addresses below that would be happy to be contacted.

Lucy.charman@cla.org.uk

## Section 1: Vision & Aims

### The Vision:

*"The South Downs National Park is a vibrant place with nature everywhere, for everyone, where wildlife flourishes, clean water flows and the dark night skies are filled with stars. The landscape is adapted to climate change and sits at the heart of thriving communities and a green rural economy. Shaped by stories old and new, this place inspires everyone to connect, enjoy, care and belong."*

1. How far do you agree that the vision encompasses and reflect how you would like the South Downs National Park to be in 2060? *Please highlight your answer.*
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:

Agree – it is both refreshing and reassuring to see support and recognition in a Designated Landscape management plan that the rural economy is central to delivering the vision for 2060.

## Aims:

We have spoken with partners, farmers, residents, communities, parishes, local authorities and other public bodies, visitors, businesses and specialists to help identify a clear set of shared and challenging priorities for the next five years to help us work together to make this vision a reality.

Two key, intertwined themes have emerged – Nature & Climate and People & Place.

Below these themes sit 7 aims:

- Aim 1: Nature Recovery: The National Park is a nature-rich, resilient working landscape where wildlife flourishes
- Aim 2: Climate Action: The South Downs National Park is on track to become net zero by 2040 by mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- Aim 3: Clean Water: Clean, abundant water supports nature and communities in the South Downs and beyond.
- Aim 4: Young People: Young people will have opportunities to access training and skills to enable them to take action to care for and enhance the National Park.
- Aim 5: Welcome and Access: A valued South Downs is welcoming and accessible to all
- Aim 6: Arts and Heritage: Cultural Heritage is conserved, understood, valued, created and passed on for future generations.
- Aim 7: A thriving, greener place: A thriving rural economy and local communities sit at the heart of the National Park

2. Looking at the complete list of aims above, do you agree that this is an appropriate list of priorities for the National Park over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

Yes

**THE NEXT SECTIONS COVER EACH AIM IN DETAIL. PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE THE QUESTIONS FOR THE AIMS YOU WISH TO COMMENT ON. NONE ARE MANDATORY.**

## Section 2: Nature & Climate

Three key aims have been identified to focus collective action for Nature & Climate over the next five years. Each aim has a set of clear objectives that will help us to achieve the overall aim. Each objective has measurable targets that will help us to monitor progress and evaluate success.

### **Aim 1: The National Park is a nature-rich, resilient working landscape where wildlife flourishes**

**Objective 1.1:** To improve, expand, connect and increase the resilience of wildlife-rich habitats and land managed for nature to ensure we are on track to reach 60% managed for nature by 2060.

**Objective 1.2:** To support land-based businesses to thrive as economically viable, nature-friendly food and drink producers.

**Objective 1.3:** Improve and manage existing nature-rich sites – protected sites and priority habitats.

#### Targets for Objective 1.1

**Target 1.1a:** Restore or create more than 3,260ha hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within the South Downs National Park, outside protected sites by 2031 (PLTOF target 1\*)

**Target 1.1b:** 60% of the South Downs National Park is managed for Nature by 2060

**Target 1.1c:** By 2031, long-term monitoring data for south downs priority species shows a stable or increasing trend at sites where habitat management or creation is taking place.

#### Targets for Objective 1.2

**Target 1.2a:** Offer advisory support to farmers, foresters and landowners aiming to increase the proportion of farms with any diversified activity across the National Park by 7.5% by 2031.

#### Targets for Objective 1.3:

**Target 1.3a:** Bring 80% of SSSIs within the National Park into favourable condition by 2042 (PLTOF Target 2\*).

**Target 1.3b:** For 60% of SSSIs within the National Park assessed as having ‘actions on track’ to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028 (PLTOF Target 3\*).

**Target 1.3c:** Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042 (PLTOF Target 4\*).

*\*The Government has developed the [Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework \(PLTOF\)](#) with ten targets for protected landscapes*

3. How far do you agree that Aim 1 is a priority for the National Park for the next 5 years?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:

Page 21 mentions that these Targets will “be delivered by Local Nature Recovery Strategies for each county”. LNRS are spatial strategies rather than delivery mechanisms. Perhaps amend to – LNRS will identify areas of opportunity where delivery mechanisms can be located.

**Objective 1.1:**

**To improve, expand, connect and increase the resilience of wildlife-rich habitats and land managed for nature to ensure we are on track to reach 60% managed for nature by 2060.**

4. Do you agree that Objective 1.1 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 1 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why

5. Does Objective 1.1 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

6. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards Objective 1.1? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

**Objective 1.2: To support land-based businesses to thrive as economically viable, nature-friendly food and drink producers.**

7. Do you agree that Objective 1.2 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 1 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

Objective 1.2a Interested to know how this is measured and would also add that energy production and eco tourism should be included here.

8. Does Objective 1.2 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

Supporting land managers and rural business and enabling them to thrive is a principle that lies at the heart of the CLA.

9. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 1.2? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

Target 1.2a - The ongoing commitment to provision of advisory support to farmers and land managers is vital and a welcomed inclusion to this management plan.

**Objective 1.3: Improve and manage existing nature-rich sites – protected sites and priority habitats**

10. Do you agree that Objective 1.3 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 1 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

11. Does Objective 1.3 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

12. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 1.3. *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

Ongoing management to enhance conditions of priority habitats is important, however the plan does not identify how and by whom this can be achieved.



**Aim 2: The South Downs National Park is on track to become net zero by 2040 by mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change**

**Objective 2.1:** To support businesses and local communities to take positive climate action to ensure they are adapted and resilient to climate change.

**Objective 2.2:** To support land managers, farmers, foresters and landowners in their aspirations to deliver nature recovery and climate action on their land.

*Targets for Objective 2.1*

**Target 2.1a:** Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in South Downs National Park to net zero by 2040 relative to 1990 levels (this goes beyond PLTOF Target 6 which aims to reach net zero by 2050)

**Target 2.1b:** By 2031, community groups from each parish in the National Park to have signed up to a nature and climate pledge (e.g. establish a repair café, community orchard)

**Target 2.1c:** By 2031, businesses from each parish in the National Park signed up to a nature and climate pledge

**Target 2.1d:** By 2031, community groups from each parish in the National Park to be registered and utilising the climate action knowledge hub (accessing resources about retrofit / rain gardens / flood mitigation, community energy plans)

*Targets for Objective 2.2*

**Target 2.2a:** Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030 (PLTOF Target 5)

**Target 2.2b:** Support farmers and landowners to implement regenerative farming practices across 8,000 hectares of the National Park by 2031.

**Target 2.2c:** Increase tree canopy and woodland cover across the National Park by 888ha by 2031 (PLTOF Target 8)

**Target 2.2d:** By 2031, collaborate with partners to help farms and landowners create carbon literacy and climate resilience plans—covering soil health and flood management—for 100 farms and landowners throughout the National Park

13. How far do you agree that Aim 2 is a priority for the National Park for the next 5 years?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:

**Objective 2:1 To support businesses and local communities to take positive climate action to ensure they are adapted and resilient to climate change.**

14. Do you agree that Objective 2.1 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 2 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

15. Does Objective 2.1 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

16. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 2.1? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

**Objective 2.2: To support land managers, farmers, foresters and landowners in their aspirations to deliver nature recovery and climate action on their land.**

17. Do you agree that Objective 2.2 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 2 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

18. Does Objective 2.2 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

19. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 2.2? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

2.2a – Ensuring at least 65% to 80% doesn't make sense – better wording would be “to see over 65% of land managers...

As mentioned previously, all support, advice and guidance provided to land managers by the National Park is welcomed by the CLA in order to work collaboratively to achieve mutual goals.

**Aim 3: Clean, abundant water supports nature and communities in the South Downs and beyond**

**Objective 3.1:** To support catchment-based partnership approaches to water management so that nature and communities can thrive, and flood risk is reduced.

**Objective 3.2:** To improve the condition of the water environment to ensure enough clean water for nature and people, and water habitats are restored.

Targets for Objective 3.1

**Target 3.1a:** By 2031, all catchment partnerships to have the resources to develop a pipeline of deliverable projects.

Targets for Objective 3.2

**Target 3.2a:** Achieve a 10% improvement in Water Framework Directive status for waterbodies across the National Park by 2031.

20. How far do you agree that Aim 3 is a priority for the National Park for the next 5 years?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Strongly Agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:

There is no mention of supporting measures to safeguard against water shortages, through support for developing rainwater harvesting, water recycling and on farm reservoirs/underground storage tanks

**Objective 3.1: To support catchment-based partnership approaches to water management so that nature and communities can thrive, and flood risk is reduced.**

21. Do you agree that Objective 3.1 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 2 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

22. Does Objective 3.1 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

23. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 3.1? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

**Objective 3.2: To improve the condition of the water environment to ensure enough clean water for nature and people, and water habitats are restored.**

24. Do you agree that Objective 3.2 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 2 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

25. Does Objective 3.2 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

26. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 3.2? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

### Section 3: People & Place:

Four key aims have been identified to focus collective action for People & Place over the next five years. Each aim has a set of clear objectives that will help us to achieve the overall aim. Each objective has measurable targets that will help us to monitor progress and evaluate success.

**Aim 4: Young people will have opportunities to access training and skills to enable them to take action to care for and enhance the National Park.**

**Objective 4.1:** To provide opportunities for young people to take positive action for nature, climate and heritage.

**Objective 4.2:** To support young people on the pathway to green careers.

Targets for Objective 4.1

**Target 4.1a:** Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the National Park boundary per year (PLTOF Access for All metrics)

**Target 4.1b:** Work in partnership to deliver 125 youth action days taking positive action for nature, climate and heritage in the National Park by 2031

Targets for Objective 4.2

**Target 4.2a:** Work with partners to deliver 100 work experience placements, 20 apprenticeships and 10 work placements within the National Park.

27. How far do you agree that Aim 4 is a priority for the National Park for the next 5 years?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:



**Objective 4.1: To provide opportunities for young people to take positive action for nature, climate and heritage.**

28. Do you agree that Objective 4.1 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 4 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

29. Does Objective 4.1 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

30. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 4.1? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

**Objective 4.2: To support young people on the pathway to green careers.**

31. Do you agree that Objective 4.2 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 4 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

32. Does Objective 4.2 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

33. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 4.2? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

### **Aim 5: A valued South Downs is welcoming and accessible to all**

**Objective 5.1:** To improve the accessibility of the National Park to enable everyone to actively travel and connect with nature and cultural heritage.

**Objective 5.2:** To maintain our International Dark Sky Reserve to support nature recovery and improve understanding of and access to dark skies for all.

#### Targets for Objective 5.1

**Target 5.1a:** Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all (PLTOF Target 9)

#### **Access for All programme metrics:**

**Target 5.1b:** By 2031, deliver 25 kilometres of accessible path

**Target 5.1c:** By 2031, ensure 50 gates/stiles have been made more accessible

**Target 5.1d:** 2,500 visits to the National Park facilitated by funded equipment by 2031

**Target 5.1e:** By 2031, 5 easy access routes for which wayfinding has been newly created or improved

**Target 5.1f:** By 2031, key partners to have considered or adopted the active travel plan.

#### Targets for Objective 5.2

**Target 5.2a:** By 2031 – maintain the percentage of the National Park with the highest quality skies of E0 and E1a standard (20 magnitude per arcsecond<sup>2</sup> and above) as defined by International Dark Sky Reserve guidelines

**Target 5.2b:** Work in partnership to reach 1 million people through online and 10,000 people through in-person dark night skies engagement activities by 2031

34. How far do you agree that Aim 5 is a priority for the National Park for the next 5 years?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Strongly Agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:

Accessibility and inclusion is important however the CLA has concerns over the suggestion on page 40 that During the lifetime of the plan the **Access Land Open Country mapping will be reviewed and made more usable.** Farming businesses across the United Kingdom are having to rapidly adapt to wholesale changes to the farm support schemes. They continue to produce food of the highest standard while competing in world markets. Against this backdrop there can be no justification for additional acres for open access if this is the intention of the objective.

**Objective 5.1: To improve the accessibility of the National Park to enable everyone to actively travel and connect with nature and cultural heritage.**

35. Do you agree that Objective 5.1 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 5 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

However. It is important that any improvements to access consider impacts on the landowner/ manager and also incorporate education in responsible access, interaction between PROW users and livestock and the principles incorporated in the Countryside Code. This is particularly important on areas of Access land that are likely to be subject to ongoing agricultural practices or have grazing livestock.

36. Does Objective 5.1 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

37. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 5.1? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

**Objective 5.2: To maintain our International Dark Sky Reserve status to support nature recovery and improve understanding of and access to dark skies for all.**

Do you agree that Objective 5.2 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 5 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

38. Does Objective 5.2 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

39. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 5.2? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

**Aim 6: Cultural Heritage is conserved, understood, valued, created and passed on for future generations.**

**Objective 6.1:** To enhance the cultural heritage of the National Park and tell its diverse stories as a dynamic and ever-changing landscape.

**Objective 6.2:** To support partnerships that enable people to connect to the landscape and its special qualities through creative arts and heritage.

Targets for Objective 6.1

**Target 6.1a:** Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes (PLTOF Target 10).

**Target 6.1b:** 115 scheduled monuments to have enhanced records by 2031.

**Target 6.1c:** By 2031, to have increased the number of heritage assets covered by agri-environment schemes

Targets for Objective 6.2

**Target 6.2a:** Work in partnership to support 150 number of participants through creative arts/heritage mechanisms in the National Park by 2031 (set baseline based on previous 5 years of delivery)

**Target 6.2b:** Provide advisory input into 25 creative arts and heritage Projects in the National Park by 2031

40. How far do you agree that Aim 6 is a priority for the National Park for the next 5 years?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:

**Objective 6.1: To enhance the cultural heritage of the National Park and tell its diverse stories as a dynamic and ever-changing landscape.**

41. Do you agree that Objective 6.1 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 6 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

42. Does Objective 6.1 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans?

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

43. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 6.1? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

6.IC this target is difficult to anticipate given the decreasing Agricultural budget and instability in Agri Environment schemes. Higher Tier stewardship is not accessible to everyone and therefore this may create a barrier to delivery of this target.

**Objective 6.2: To support partnerships that enable people to connect to the landscape and its special qualities through creative arts and heritage.**

44. Do you agree that Objective 6.2 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 6 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

45. Does Objective 6.2 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

46. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 6.2? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here



**Aim 7: A thriving rural economy and local communities sit at the heart of the National Park**

**Objective 7.1:** To support the growth of a greener economy across the National Park while providing outstanding visitor experiences that benefit our communities and landscape.

**Objective 7.2:** To support the needs of local communities through affordable, accessible and low-carbon housing.

Targets for Objective 7.1

**Target 7.1a:** 5% Growth in Green Economy by 2031 from 2024 baseline

**Target 7.1b:** Support Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEPs) to achieve Tourism GVA growth by increasing Tourism £GVA within the SDNP by 25% by 2030 from 2024 baseline.

**Target 7.1c:** Visitor experience: 99% of visitors to rate their enjoyment of the National Park as “high” or “very high”

**Target 7.1d:** Income from visitor giving to increase by 100% by 2031

**Target 7.1e:** Promote and connect sustainable business through growing the Our South Downs business network to over 700 members by 2031

**Target 7.1f:** 50% increase in the number of B Corp. within the SDNP from 2024 baseline

Targets for Objective 7.2

**Target 7.2a:** 300 affordable dwellings to be completed by 2031 (60 per year).

**Target 7.2b:** Extant permission for 500 affordable dwellings granted by 2031 (100 per year).

**Target 7.3c:** Extant permission for 1,000 accessible homes to be granted by 2031.

47. How far do you agree that Aim 7 is a priority for the National Park for the next 5 years?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do so here:

**Objective 7.1: To support the growth of a greener economy across the National Park while providing outstanding visitor experiences that benefit our communities and landscape.**

48. Do you agree that Objective 7.1 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 7 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

A greener economy (para 2 page51) shouldn't be limited to farmers and land managers producing food or drink, there are many other diversification enterprises that could be listed including green energy, timber, textiles, eco tourism etc

49. Does Objective 7.1 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

50. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 7.1? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

**Objective 7.2: To support the needs of local communities through affordable, accessible and low-carbon housing.**

Do you agree that Objective 7.2 is an appropriate objective that will help to achieve Aim 7 over the next 5 years? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please could you explain why?

However the needs of local communities is not limited to affordable housing. There is also a need for rural workers and seasonal workers accommodation, as well as housing for older adults and first time buyers, all of which ensure thriving communities and a reduction of local people being displaced. The CLA advocates planning authorities enabling a small number of homes to be built in a large number of villages in order to support local employment and strengthen the community

51. Does Objective 7.2 align with your organisational strategy or delivery plans? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No - this objective isn't relevant to my organisation
- No – this focus is relevant to my organisation but our objectives differ

If you'd like to explain your answer, or share a URL/link to a relevant document, please do so here.

52. Overall, do you agree that the targets identified will help to monitor and demonstrate progress towards this Objective 7.2? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No

If you wish to explain your answer, or if you have alternative suggestions for targets, or how the objective could be measured, please tell us here

The Targets do not reflect any ambition for provision of homes for local workers as mentioned in the final paragraph of page 53.

## Section 4: Planning Principles

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 1:** We will support development that is landscape-led, follows regenerative development and design principles and has an overall positive impact on landscape character, natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 2:** We will support development proposals that protect and take opportunities to enhance designated sites, support protected species, follow the mitigation hierarchy and take opportunities to deliver bigger, better and more joined up nature.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 3:** In implementing biodiversity net gain, we will seek to ensure that enhancements to biodiversity are appropriate to their landscape, cultural and ecological context, and that any off-setting of negative impacts takes place within the National Park to ensure that it meets the Purpose 1 requirement to conserve and enhance the wildlife.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 4:** We will support proposals for small scale renewable energy schemes that are appropriately located and designed, especially where such proposals are community-led and serve communities and businesses within the National Park.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 5:** We will support new development and the retrofitting of existing development, that achieves net zero operational carbon, minimises embodied carbon, utilises sustainable materials that support the circular economy, and is resilient to the impacts of climate change.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 6:** We will support a catchment-based approach to water and wastewater management that protects and enhances surface and groundwater quality, restores natural functions and processes, uses nature-based solutions to manage flood risk, and enhances public access to blue infrastructure.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 7:** We will support water efficiency measures and more sustainable patterns of water use to protect our water supply, aquifers, rivers and the habitats and species that depend on them.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 8:** We will support the provision of facilities and infrastructure that enable the delivery of training and education for young people.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 9:** We will support development that improves the accessibility of the National Park, reduces car travel and facilitates sustainable modes of transport including active travel through better and new public rights of way and access land, safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes and improved public transport.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 10:** We will protect and enhance the tranquillity and dark skies of the National Park by supporting development that avoids unnecessary light pollution and utilises good design to mitigate the impact of any lighting and glazing.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 11:** We will support development that recognises the significance of the cultural heritage of the National Park, conserves and enhances heritage assets and improves their ongoing management, especially where they are 'at risk'.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 12:** We will support green economic growth that enables regenerative land management, particularly farming and forestry, provides local employment, and supports the production and sale of sustainable food, drink and other products of the National Park.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 13:** We will support development that provides visitor experiences that benefit our communities and landscape, encourages the use of the National Park as a place for healthy outdoor activity and relaxation and supports a regenerative visitor economy.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 14:** We will support development that enhances the role of towns and villages as social and economic hubs and improves access to essential community services, infrastructure and facilities, especially where this is community-led.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 15:** We will support development that provides affordable housing that meets the needs of local communities in perpetuity and explore innovative ways of increasing delivery, including through community-led development, exception sites and Whole Estate Plans.

**PLANNING PRINCIPLE 16:** We will support new homes that increase the stock of smaller dwellings, improve people's health and opportunities, are accessible and adaptable, and meet the diverse needs of our communities throughout all life stages.

53. If you wish to comment on any of the planning principles, please use the space below, making sure you refer to the relevant principle in your answer.

Planning Principle 7 should include support for the development of water scarcity prevention measures like reservoirs, storage tanks etc.

Planning Principle 8 – A really important principle that the CLA wholeheartedly supports as many land managers aspire to offer educational facilities but see planning especially within a protected landscape as a barrier.

Planning Principle 11 – This should be widened to include repurposing a redundant heritage building that transforms a liability into a maintained and viable asset that contributes to the enterprise.

Planning Principle 16 – This should include specific mention to rural workers accommodation and starter homes.

## Section 5: General Principles

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 1:** We will prioritise nature recovery that achieves multiple benefits and favour natural functions. We will create bigger, better managed and more connected areas of habitat in and around the National Park.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 2:** We will support farm businesses to access and maintain agri-environment schemes that deliver ecosystem services on the ground, encouraging those that will support regenerative farming, and to access nature-based solutions schemes to deliver nature recovery and climate mitigation.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 3:** We will enhance the landscape, connect habitats, store carbon and manage flood risk through naturally regenerated woodland and tree planting, ensuring the right tree in the right place.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 4:** We will support activities that give the public a chance to learn more about farming and the important benefits it provides – high-quality food, recreation, wellbeing, nature conservation, the historic environment, landscape and a thriving rural economy.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 5:** We will protect the qualities and character of the Heritage Coast.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 6:** We will raise awareness of the importance of chalk streams and rivers and support their restoration and rehabilitation.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 7:** We will promote and encourage the responsible use of the National Park to enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLE 8:** We will support the conservation and enhancement of the historic and cultural environment of the National Park and its adaptation to climate change through best practice guidance, promoting an uptake in green skills and the use of suitable sustainable materials.

54. If you wish to comment on any of the general principles, please use the space below, making sure you refer to the relevant principle in your answer.

General Principle 2 should be widened to “land based” businesses as there are instances (viticulture / cut flower / education) that would also benefit from support by the authority.

## Section 6: Using the PMP

55. Do you think the proposed Partnership Management Plan will be of use to your organisation?

*Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

To help us improve and learn, we'd be interested to understand the reason for your answer.

To assist our ability to offer advice and guidance to landowning and professional members in the SDNP area.

56. Please tell us if, or how, the South Downs National Park Authority can support you to celebrate and/or communicate your achievements.

57. Please tell us how else can South Downs National Park Authority support you regarding the 2026-2031 PMP.

## Section 7: General Questions

58. Please tell us how far you agree with the following statements by putting **X** in the relevant box:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The Plan is easy to read	x				
The Plan is easy to navigate		x			
The Plan is easily understood		x			

If you have any suggestions for how we can improve the accessibility of the plan, please tell us here:

59. What format of the PMP would be most useful to you? *Please highlight any answers that apply.*

- Full printed document
- Full online document available for download
- Printed short summary/pocket guide
- Video clips
- Anything else?

60. Would you like to meet with someone at the South Downs National Park Authority to discuss your feedback? *Please highlight your answer.*

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes, please confirm the name and contact details of the contact(s) below and we will be in touch to arrange a meeting.



61. If you have any further comments you wish to share about the draft Partnership Management Plan, please do so here.

The management plan is written in a positive inclusive style without reference to further restrictions or creation of new barriers. It is refreshing to see recognition of the ongoing uncertainty and challenges that the agricultural and land based businesses are facing and to see the commitment of support from the SDNP Authority to advise and support these businesses.

There will of course be development that is necessary for the purposes of agricultural enterprises which is designed to be functional and future proof rather than landscape led and recognition of support for this kind of necessary development is not held within this plan and should be.