

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – HIGH LEVEL TARGETS – Q1 + Q2 2024/25

NATURE RECOVERY

HLT1 To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25%

KPI

H1.1 Total hectares of habitat created for nature
 H1.2 Total hectares habitat improved for nature

TARGET

H1.3 Total hectares legally secured via the ReNature credits scheme

13,000 HA
by 2030

95 HA

H1.4 Total hectares land put forward for future nature recovery
 H1.5 Total hectares of habitat creation and improvement funded by The South Downs National Park Trust

TARGET

Will support delivery of 1.1/1.2/1.3 target

2,000 HA
by 2025

330 HA | **22 HA**

HLT2 Work to maintain, enhance and/or restore 30% of existing Core Nature sites and support key species recovery within the SDNP by 2030

KPI

H2.1 Total Core Nature sites where SDNPA is contributing towards favourable condition
 H2.2 Number of species recovery programmes developed for delivery from 2023

TARGET

3,541 HA
by 2025

TBC

26 HA | Reported Annually

HLT3 To prepare for and implement Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

KPI

H3.1 The requirement is for relevant applications to achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain increase from the pre-development biodiversity value

TARGET

+10%
BNG from pre-dev value

Reported Annually

HLT7 Work to make sure the landscape, scenery and tranquillity of SDNP is available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are

KPI

H7.1 Number of sessions facilitated by mobility equipment
 H7.2 Metres of new and/or improved accessible path

TARGET

100 SESSIONS | **TBC**

74 | **2,425m**

KPI

H7.3 Number of visits to the digital Accessibility Hub
 H7.4 Number of page views of the Seven Sisters Country Park Accessibility Guide

TARGET

5 K VISITS
to the digital hub

TBC

4,988 | **4,629** unique views

HLT8 Digitally engage 100,000 people per year with the SDNP

KPI

H8.1 Total number of e-newsletter subscribers
 H8.2 Total social media audience
 H8.3 Total visits to the hubs throughout the year

TARGET

11,500 SUBSCRIBERS

12,168

TARGET

110K | **20 K VISITS**

106,185 | **43,270**

A NATIONAL PARK FOR ALL

HLT6 Increase diversity of those engaging with the South Downs National Park

KPI

H6.1 Number of people from underrepresented audiences engaged through engagement & project activities
 H6.2 Number of engagement activities targeted at under-represented audiences

TARGET

100 | **30**
engagement activities to be delivered annually

5,443 | **149**

CLIMATE ACTION

HLT4 SDNPA to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target

KPI

H4.1 Total annual SDNPA carbon emissions

TARGET

150 (t CO2)
reduction on 2023/24

Reported Annually

HLT5 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the SDNP from the baseline reported in 2019

KPI

H5.1 Total tonnes Co2 reported year on year in annual LULUCF (forestry component) data

TARGET

1.5% reduction (t CO2)
annually from 2019 baseline

Reported Annually

**HOW WE WILL DELIVER
OUR HIGH LEVEL TARGETS:
CORPORATE PLAN
PRIORITIES – Q1 & Q2
PROGRESS 2024/25**

PLACE MAKING



CP1.1 Total CIL and S106 (£) distributed

£1.11m



CP2.1 AMR to include summary of service provided & case studies

Reported in Q4

GENERATING INCOME



CP3.1 Raise £2.5m total self-generated income in 2024/25

£2.68m



CP4.2 One new income generating pilot

3



CP4.1 Generate £805,945 from Green Finance in 2024/25

£173k



CP4.3 £200k via full cost recovery on external projects

£400k

ECONOMY



CP7.1 420 businesses signed up to 'Our South Downs' (OSD) network

407



CP7.2 35 Green South Downs certified businesses

29



CP7.5 Total unrestricted income (£) generated via OSD

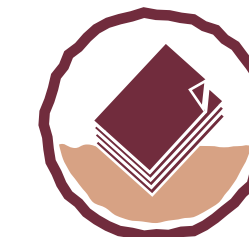
£80k



CP8.1 No. of businesses signed up to Visitor Giving

2

LAND MANAGEMENT



CP5.1 Estates with new endorsed WEPS

0



CP5.2 No. of estates working towards an endorsed WEP

5



CP6.1 Total FiPL funding (£) allocated to People/Place/ Nature/Climate

£983k

Summary of performance against High Level Targets in Q1-Q2 2024-25.

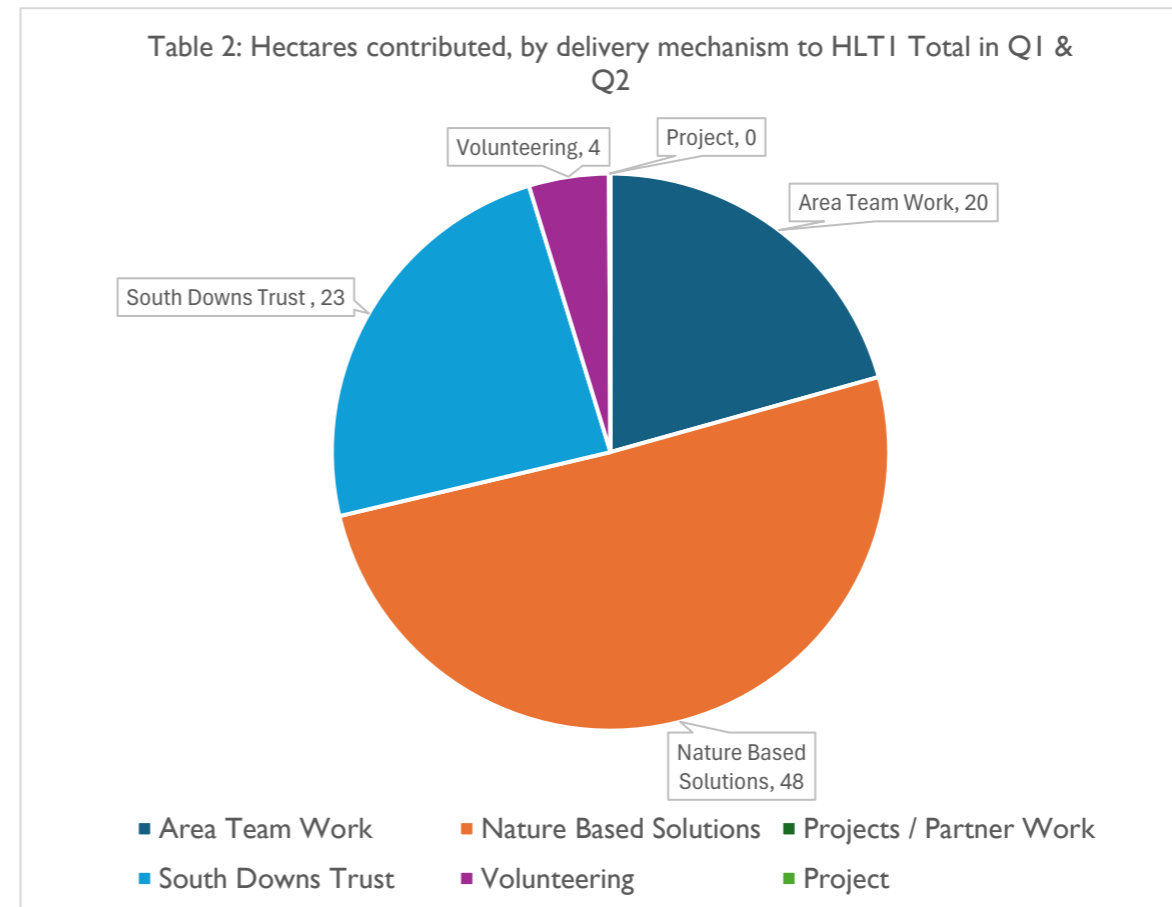
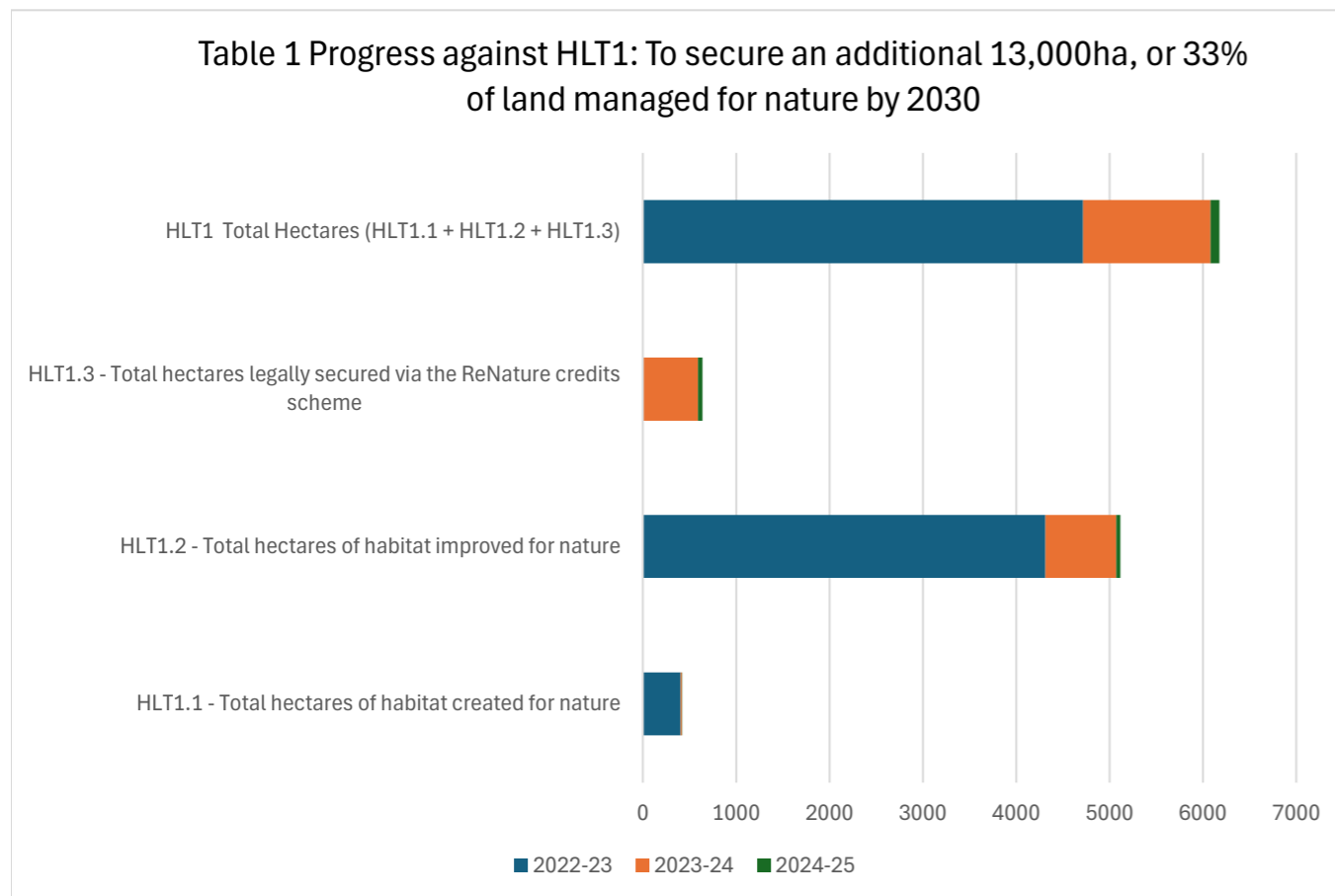
This dashboard highlights a selection of High Level Targets for which trend data is emerging and will be developed in line with data improvements.

Nature Recovery

HLT#1: To secure an additional 13,000ha, or 33% of land managed for nature by 2030 from a baseline of 25%.

	Cumulative progress to date (2022 start)	2024/25 Q1/Q2
HLT1.1 - Total hectares of habitat created for nature	421 ha	3.88 ha
HLT1.2 - Total hectares of habitat improved for nature	5,116 ha	42.8 ha
HLT1.3 - Total hectares legally secured via the ReNature credits scheme	640 ha	48 ha
HLT1 Totals (HLT1.1 + HLT1.2 + HLT1.3)	6,177 ha	94.68 ha

In Q1 and Q2 a total of 94.68 hectares of habitat has been created, improved or secured for nature recovery. Work in Q1 and Q2 has been focussed on habitat management through the removal of invasive species, bracken and scrub control and chalk grassland management. Q1 and Q2 also saw wildflower rich meadow creation and plug plant planting to improve floral diversity. Two new sites have been legally secured for nature via biodiversity net gain and nitrate offsetting schemes.

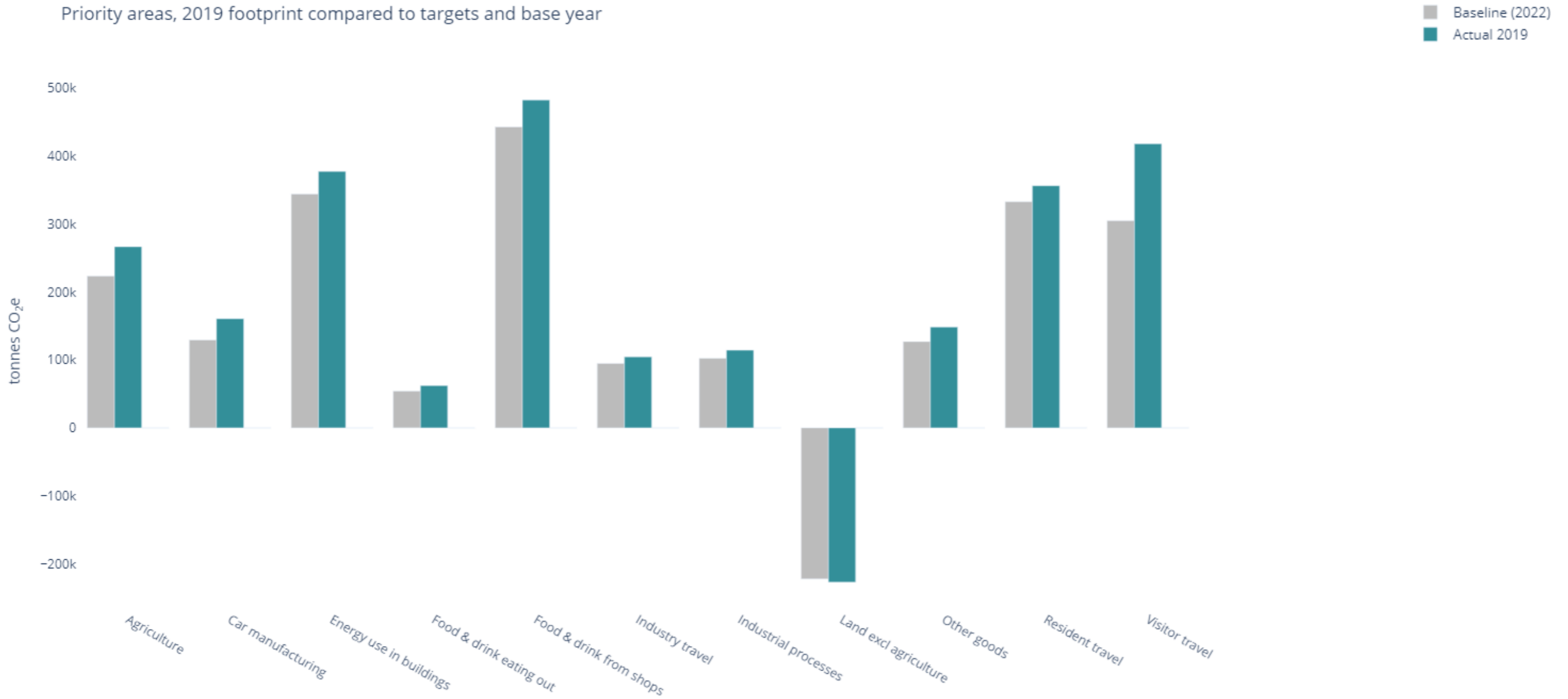


HLT#3: Applications to achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain increase from the pre-development biodiversity value. Reported annually in Q4

Climate Action

HLT#4: South Downs National Park Authority to reduce its carbon footprint by 150 tonnes per annum in line with the 2030 net zero target. Reported annually in Q4

HLT#5: 5% reduction per annum in the overall carbon footprint of the South Downs National Park from the baseline reported in 2019



Footprint changes since baseline year compared to target progress

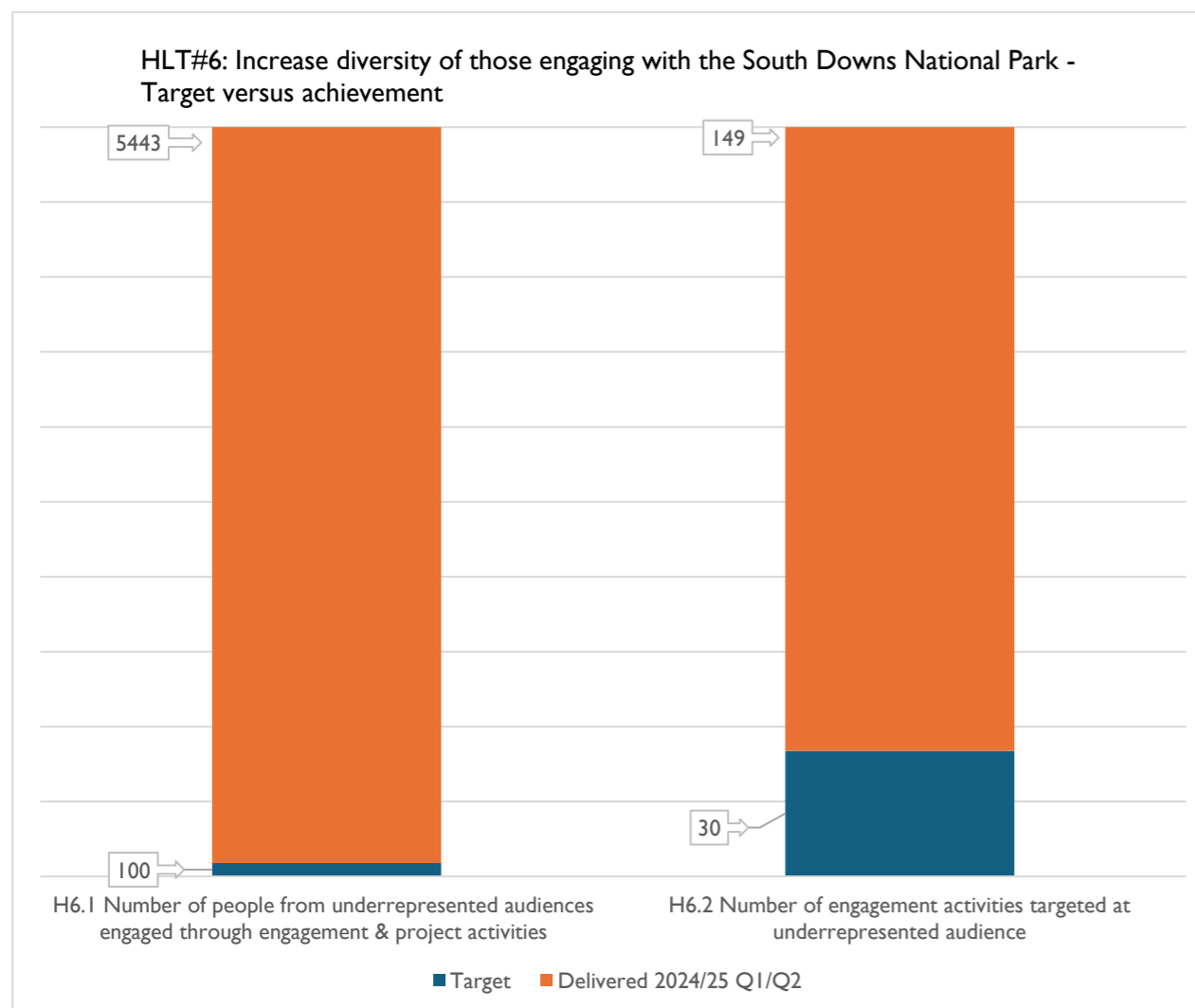
Baseline (2022) Footprint 2019 Target 2019 % change since baseline

Residents' footprint: priority subset	1,267,081.6	1,392,607.7	0.0	9.0
Visitors' footprint: priority subset	399,165.5	536,660.5	0.0	25.6
Land use (incl agriculture)	874.3	39,359.2	0.0	97.8

The above dashboard and chart has been created by Small World Consulting using Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) data. In 2019, the South Downs National Park carbon baseline was calculated. Subsequently in 2022, changes to datasets and calculation methodology by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero resulted in a new baseline being calculated. The chart and table above show the carbon foot print reduction since the initial baseline in 2019. Progress will be reported annually in Q1/Q2 on release of the latest LULUCF datasets. The SDNPA is awaiting a target to be agreed through the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework. Reporting against this will commence in 2024/25

A National Park for All

HLT#6: Increase diversity of those engaging with the South Downs National Park



In Q1 and Q2 ,over 5000 people from underrepresented groups were engaged through 149 engagement activities delivered by teams across the South Downs National Park. Some highlights include in: Q1, HeRe SAMM - Secrets of the Heath saw 2,250 visitors from the Bordon area participate in a community event focused on celebrating heritage and wildlife of our lowland heaths. Throughout Q1 and Q2, the Connecting People and Places team have engaged 1150 children and young people through school engagement events and Youth Action days . Mindful walks to improve nature connecion and wellbeing saw 117 people take part . Cultural Heritage Projects reached 1411 people through a programme of successful events such as Burpham Big Dig and the Fair Game pop up which engaged the public about fallow deer and biodiversity. Range and Communications Team events reached an additional 3513 individuals. The success of this KPI means the target will be revised upwards next year.

HLT#7: Work to make sure the landscape, scenery and tranquillity of SDNP is available to everyone, no matter what their access needs are

74 bookings in Q1 and Q2 for accessible equipment at Seven Sisters Country Park and **2425** metres of new and/or accessible path facilitating access to the landscape.

HLT# 8: Digitally engage 100,000 people per year with the SDNP

H8.1 Total number of E-newsletter subscribers are up **+1.5%** to **12,168**

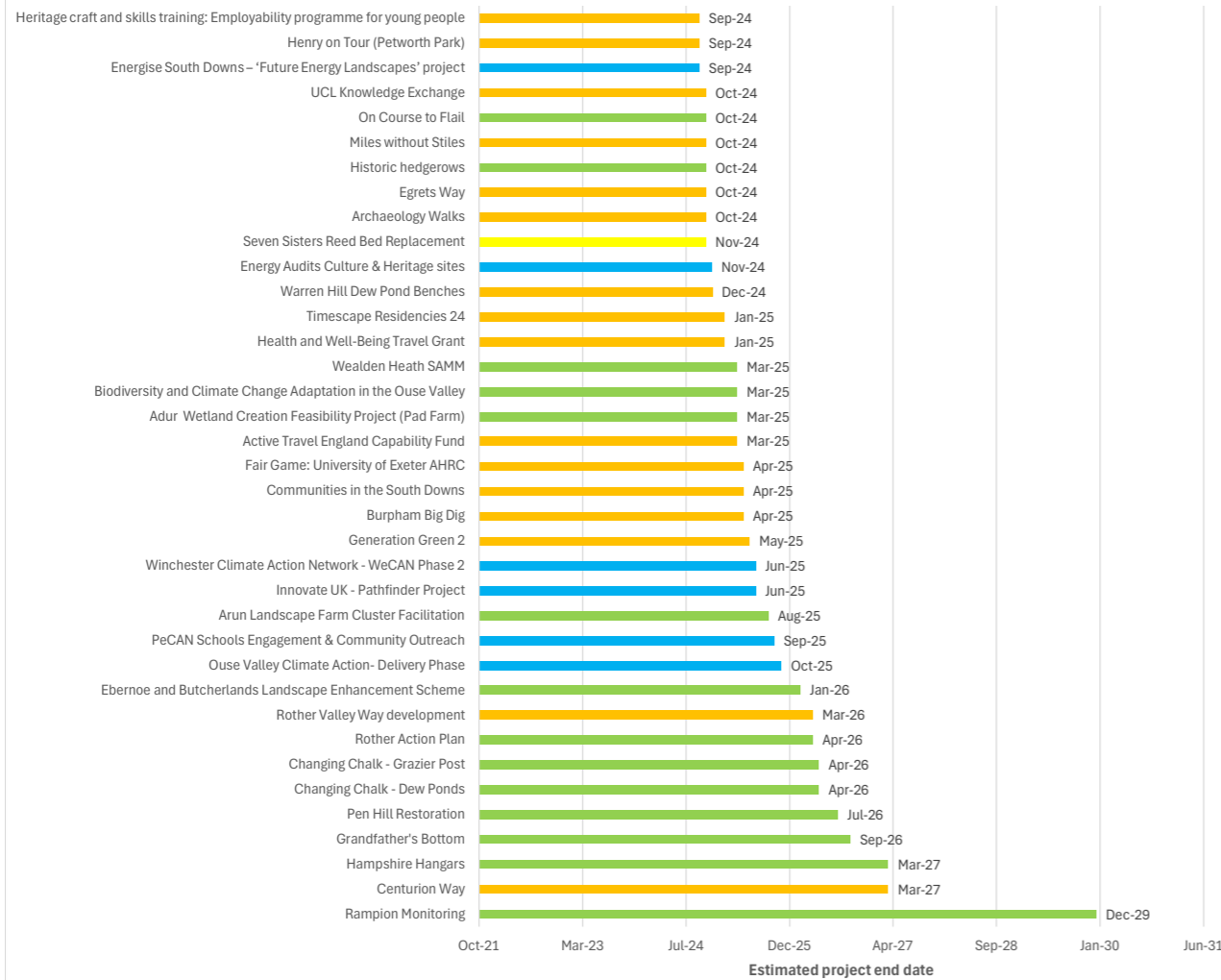
H8.2 Total social media audience has increased **+8.6%** to **106,185**

H8.3 Total visits to the hubs throughout the year: (Nature Recovery, Climate Change, Walking hub, Communities*) has increased **+56.2%** to **43,270**

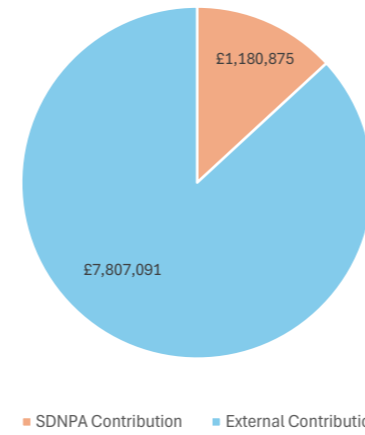
Summary of projects in Q2

No. of projects in delivery at end of Q2: 38

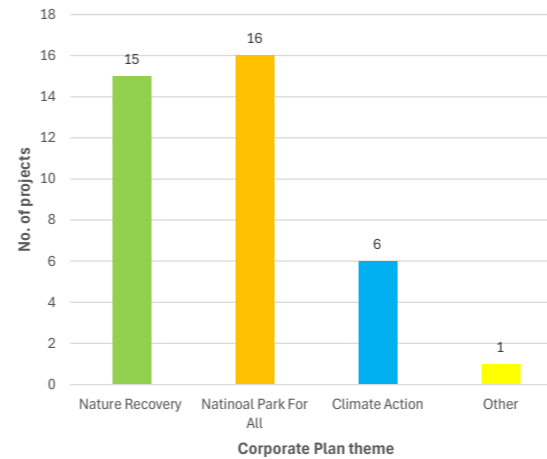
Project in delivery at end of Q2 2024/25



Finance contributions for projects in Q2. Total project cost = £8,987,965



Current projects by theme (by end of Q2)



Project Name	Overall Project Completion	RAG for Q2
Active Travel England Capability Fund	35%	Green
Adur Wetland Creation Feasibility Project (Pad Farm)	0%	Red
Archaeology Walks	85%	Green
Arun Landscape Farm Cluster Facilitation	0%	Amber
Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation in the Ouse Valley	20%	Green
Burpham Big Dig	90%	Green
Centurion Way	20%	Green
Changing Chalk - Dew Ponds	55%	Green
Changing Chalk - Grazier Post	70%	Amber
Communities in the South Downs	75%	Amber
Downs to the Sea (Development Phase)	100%	Green
Ebernoe and Butcherlands Landscape Enhancement Scheme	10%	Amber
Egrets Way	100%	Green
Energise South Downs - 'Future Energy Landscapes' project	60%	Green
Energy Audits Culture & Heritage sites	20%	Green
Fair Game: University of Exeter AHRC	60%	Green
Generation Green 2	50%	Green
Grandfather's Bottom	70%	Amber
Hampshire Hangars	8%	Green
Health and Well-Being Travel Grant	50%	Green
Henry on Tour (Petworth Park)	85%	Green
Heritage craft and skills training: Employability programme for young pe	90%	Green
Historic hedgerows	25%	Green
Innovate UK - Pathfinder Project	30%	Green
Miles without Stiles	100%	Green
On Course to Flail	95%	Green
Ouse Valley Climate Action- Delivery Phase	65%	Green
PeCAN Schools Engagement & Community Outreach	60%	Green
Pen Hill Restoration	80%	Green
Rampion Monitoring	53%	Green
Rother Action Plan	8%	Green
Rother Valley Way development	80%	Amber
Seven Sisters Reed Bed Replacement	85%	Amber
Timescape Residencies 24	80%	Green
UCL Knowledge Exchange	80%	Green
Warren Hill Dew Pond Benches	70%	Green
Wealden Heath SAMM	90%	Green
Winchester Climate Action Network - WeCAN Phase 2	40%	Green

ITEM 11 APPENDIX 4: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTIONS FOR 2024/25: Q2 UPDATE

Action	Commentary	Next steps and/or potential risks
Review of the Authority’s Fraud and Anti-corruption and Whistleblowing Policies (ongoing from 23-24).	Review of Whistleblowing Policy underway with revised policy currently being drafted.	Review of Fraud and Anti-corruption Policy during Q3 & Q4 2024/25.
Continue to ensure good governance mechanisms are in place to support the Authority’s evolving work in the area of Green Finance.	Significant work undertaken to ensure a clear legal basis for the Authority's work in the area of Green Finance. Recent report to the National Park Authority summarised the approach to Green Finance, the obligations that the Authority enters into through legal agreements, and how the Authority is ensuring these obligations can be met in the long-term.	As a nationally evolving area of opportunity, new aspects to Green Finance continue to emerge. The Nature-based Solutions Team work closely with the Head of Governance to ensure that governance matters are thoroughly considered in any new workstream.
Review the Authority’s Risk Strategy and Guidance, including the Authority’s risk appetite statement.	This has been completed. A revised Risk Management Policy and Guidance document was considered and approved by the P&R Committee in Sep 2024. This included a revised risk appetite statement.	Actions following the review, including the creation of a central record of key risks are currently being undertaken.
Review the Authority’s protocols, including the Local Protocol for Members and Officer Relations, which support the Member Code of Conduct.		Review of protocols and supporting documents to be undertaken during Q3 & Q4 2024/25.
Take appropriate actions to ensure the good governance of Seven Sisters Country Park (SSCP) following the review into the operating arrangements at SSCP which will report to the NPA in July 2024.	The review has been completed and the results and recommendations were thoroughly considered by the National Park Authority at its meeting in July 2024. The decision to bring the management of SSCP within the Authority has been implemented and a report was considered by the NPA at its meeting in Oct 2024 which set out various governance considerations relating to the management of SSCP and the future of the Company, South Downs Commercial Operations.	The new governance processes and procedures will continue to be embedded in the Authority over 2024/25 with monitoring of this done by P&R Committee. The accounts for the Company will be produced and then the Company will be allowed to fall dormant.
Support changes to the Senior Leadership team through close liaison, advice and training, as appropriate, to ensure the continued good governance of the Authority.	Thorough induction programme in place and introductory sessions already being undertaken on key issues with new Chief Executive.	Regular liaison with SLT to ensure a smooth transition over the coming months.

ITEM 11 APPENDIX 5: HUMAN RESOURCES HEALTH & SAFETY: Q2 UPDATE

Action	Commentary	Next steps and/or potential risks
Chief Executive recruitment process	Complete - Successful modified recruitment process working with external consultants and Members	
Reintroduction of apprenticeship programme	Interviews from Business Services Apprentices have taken place and candidate appointed. Working with Chichester college	Agree process with CPM Managers for Ranger apprentices who will be recruited in September 2025
Embed the new applicant tracking system	Applicant tracking system now implemented and now being used for all new posts. Good feedback from managers on ease of system. Increased number of applications received	Look into modifying system to include anonymised applications
Launch of corporate training programme	Programme agreed with OMT and providers sourced	Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment training for all staff Landscape training Roll out of corporate training sessions in Q3 / Q4
Finalise and launch staff survey action plan	Action plan communicated to staff at all staff meeting in May 2024.	Staff to be updated on progress at December all staff meeting
Review of Induction Process	Feedback sought from new starters and new managers	Review of probationary period guidelines
Next steps to embed Inclusive Leader and Teams EDI training	Cuurrently still confirming completion by staff and Members	Meeting with Account Manager of the system to analyse trends and seek recommendation on next steps. Proposal to be discussed with EDI Steering Group
Review recruitment process and put in measures to attract more diverse applicants	Introduction of applicant tracking system	Review of advertising, recruitment and process has commenced in Q3

