



South Downs National Park
Local Development Scheme
(Ninth Revision) (post consultation)
March November 2024

Post Consultation Version

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The Local Development Scheme is also available on the SDNPA website:
www.southdowns.gov.uk

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CONTENTS

CHAPTERS	PAGE
Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	1
2. The development plan for the South Downs National Park	3

APPENDICES	PAGE
A. Local Development Scheme	5

Post Consultation Version

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable that the South Downs National Park Authority will follow in the preparation and adoption of planning policy documents.

South Downs Local Plan Review

The South Downs Local Plan was adopted in July 2019. Planning Committee agreed to start work on the Local Plan Review in May 2022.

There is a considerable amount of uncertainty in plan making at the moment. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) sets out significant changes to plan-making and these requirements are expected to commence once supporting regulations and national policy have been produced by the Government. Alongside this, following the General Election in July 2024, the new Labour Government has consulted on proposals for a revised National Planning Policy Framework. These changes are still draft, and a finalised version is expected by the end of 2024. We will monitor the progression of planning reforms and new national policy and address these as necessary through the plan-making process.

Key milestones:

- A non-statutory consultation to support early participation in the Plan was undertaken between 8th July and 16th September 2024.
- January – March 2025: The Regulation 18 consultation is scheduled for Q4 2024-25.
- October – December 2025: Present the Pre-Submission version of the Plan to Planning Committee and a full Authority meeting
- Early 2026: The Regulation 19 consultation scheduled for Q4 2025-26.
- 2026 – 2027: Submission for examination during 2026 and adoption during 2027.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

As of October 2024, there were a total of 62 areas designated for the purposes of neighbourhood planning and 44 Neighbourhood Development Plans made part of the statutory development plan. This Local Development Scheme does not set out the timetables for individual Neighbourhood Development Plans and their reviews.

Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents provide more detailed guidance to explain policies and proposals set out in the Local Plan. The Authority also currently adopts Parish/Village Design Statements as Supplementary Planning Documents for those parts of the National Park that they individually cover. The Village Design Statement for Upham is nearing completion and is anticipated to be adopted in Q4 2024-25.

Joint Minerals and Waste Plans

The SDNPA is responsible for planning for the future management of waste and production of minerals within the South Downs National Park. We work in partnership with the mineral and waste planning authorities in Hampshire, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex Councils on a number of local plans. The timetables for these plans are set out on the County Council's websites.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets out the timetable that the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) will follow in the preparation and adoption of planning policy documents.
- 1.2 This is the ninth review of the LDS for the South Downs National Park. It provides a programme for the production of the following Local Plan Documents:
- South Downs Local Plan Review (LPR)
 - Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP)
 - Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)
 - Joint Minerals and Waste Plans
- 1.3 An LDS is required under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). Paragraph 003 of the Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph (Reference ID: 61-003-20190315)¹ states that it must specify, among other matters, the documents which, when prepared, will comprise the Local Plan for the area. It must be made available publicly and kept up-to-date. It is important that local communities and interested parties can keep track of progress. Local planning authorities should publish their Local Development Scheme on their website.
- 1.4 There are obviously a number of risks in preparing planning policy documents and a risk register is prepared and updated for the Local Plan Review. A significant risk is major changes to national legislation on planning. There is a considerable amount of uncertainty in plan making at the moment. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act received Royal Assent in 2023. This sets out significant changes to plan-making and these requirements are expected to commence once supporting regulations and national policy have been produced by the Government. **Alongside this, following the General Election in July 2024, the new Labour Government has consulted on proposals for a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The changes to the NPPF are still draft, and a finalised version is expected by the end of 2024.** There are also a number of rapidly evolving issues that could have a significant impact on plan making particularly nutrient neutrality in the Solent area and water neutrality in the central area of the National Park. **We will monitor these matters and address these as necessary through the plan-making process.**
- 1.5 We also need to be mindful of pre-election periods commonly known as ‘purdah.’ The SDNPA will not launch public consultations on any of its plans during these periods and this may obviously impact on the LDS set out in this document.

¹ Plan-making - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

- 1.6 Progress on the LDS is reported annually in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)².

THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

- 2.1 The development plan for the South Downs is made up of the adopted South Downs Local Plan which covers the National Park in its entirety, a number of made Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) which cover individual parishes and several adopted minerals and waste plans prepared for each county in partnership with other local planning authorities. The detailed Local Development Scheme (LDS) for these Plans is set out in Appendix A of this document and the highlights are set out below.

Local Plan Review

- 2.2 The South Downs Local Plan was adopted in July 2019. The Planning Committee of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) agreed to start work on the Local Plan Review (LPR) in May 2022 and a revised timetable was agreed by the Authority in December 2022. It will **integrate work undertaken on the Shoreham Cement Works Area Action Plan** and take full account of other relevant strategies and plans including the Partnership Management Plan (2020-25) and its review, and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (updated 2024). **More details about the scope and process for the LPR can be found in the Project Initiation Document.**
- 2.3 Evidence gathering for the LPR and the completion of a park-wide Land Availability Assessment will take place during 2023-24 and 2024-25. **A non-statutory consultation to support early participation in the LPR was undertaken between 8th July and 16th September 2024.** The Regulation 18 consultation is scheduled for Q4 2024-25 (during January to March 2025). The aim is to present the Pre-Submission version of the LPR to Planning Committee and a full Authority meeting in Q3 2025-26 (during October to December 2025). This would be followed by a public consultation in early 2026 and then submission for examination. The intention is that the LPR will be adopted early in 2027.

Neighbourhood Development Plans

- 2.4 The South Downs Local Plan established the strategic planning policy framework for the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) in the National Park. As of **December October 2024** there were a total of **62** areas designated for the purposes of neighbourhood planning and **44** NDPs made part of the development plan.
- 2.5 This LDS does not set out the timetables for individual NDPs and their reviews.

Minerals & Waste Plans

² [Authority Monitoring Reports - South Downs National Park Authority](#)

- 2.6** The SDNPA is responsible for planning for the future management of waste and production of minerals within the South Downs National Park. We are working in partnership with the mineral and waste planning authorities in Hampshire, West Sussex, Brighton & Hove and East Sussex Councils on a number of local plans. To avoid duplication we do not report separately on minerals & waste plans in this LDS. The highlights are set out below.
- 2.7** The SDNPA **has been is** working in partnership with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council on the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan Review, **which was adopted on 24th October 2024**. Full details on the **The LDS for Joint East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Development Plan Documents** can be found on the East Sussex website³.
- 2.8** The SDNPA is also working in partnership with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and the New Forest NPA. A Partial Review of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is underway. Full details on the LDS can be found on the Hampshire website⁴.
- 2.9** Finally, the SDNPA is working in partnership with West Sussex County Council. No plans are currently being prepared in West Sussex and full details on the LDS can be found on the West Sussex website⁵.

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 2.10** Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide more detailed guidance to explain policies and proposals set out in the Local Plan. A number of SPDs have been prepared and adopted since the adoption of the Local Plan. The SDNPA also currently adopts **Parish/Village Design Statements (P/VDS)** as SPDs for those parts of the National Park that they individually cover. **The Selborne VDS was adopted in and West Meon Parish Council has decided to pause the preparation of this design statement until the new year. The Village Design Statement for Upham is These for Selborne, Upham and West Meon are** nearing completion and features in the LDS.

³ [East Sussex waste and minerals monitoring reports | East Sussex County Council](#)

⁴ [Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Monitoring reports - West Sussex County Council](#)

APPENDIX A: LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

	2023-24	2024-25				2025-26				2026-27				27-28			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Local Plan Review					18				19	S	E	M	A				
East Sussex, Hampshire, and West Sussex Waste and Minerals Plans	<i>Please see ESCC, HCC & WSCC websites for details</i>																
Selborne VDS SPD		A															
West Meon VDS SPD			A														
Upham VDS SPD				A	A												

Key to Local Development Scheme

Symbol	Stage in document preparation
S	Submission of documents and information to the Secretary of State
E	Independent examination
M	Consultation on proposed modifications
A	Adoption
13	Representations on a supplementary planning document
18	Representations on the preparation of a local plan
19	Representations on a local plan