



South Downs Society

formerly Society of Sussex Downsmen

Protecting the Beauty of the Downs

PLANNING POLICY

OUR POSITION

The Society campaigns for the conservation and enhancement of the landscape of the South Downs National Park. We aim to achieve that *inter alia* by:

- (1) influencing land-use plans and the policies and strategies which affect them;
- (2) influencing the outcome of planning applications through the development management process.

Wherever possible we will seek to involve and work with local residents, town and parish councils, other environmental bodies and users of the countryside.

HOW WILL WE HELP TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

Influencing Plans and Policies

Nationally

Where appropriate, we will respond to national consultations on planning and policy issues.

Regionally

We will network with other organisations with an environmental remit which are active at a regional level with a view to sharing information and expertise and influencing planning policy.

Locally

We will take part in consultations during the compilation and drafting of Development Plans within Local Development Frameworks at national park, county, district and unitary authority level. We will participate where appropriate in examinations of Development Plans.

Influencing Development Management

We will scrutinize the NPA and LPA websites and published lists of planning applications.

We will seek to influence the outcome of those planning applications, whether determined by the NPA or local authorities, which are judged to meet the following criteria:

1. Proposals within and outside the national park potentially having a significant impact on the landscape and views of the national park and its settlements
 2. Proposals creating policy precedents
- We will do this by submitting comments on applications, and, when appropriate, campaigning and lobbying, addressing Planning Committee meetings, submitting written representations on planning appeals, and being represented at public inquiries, including collaboration with other parties.
 - Where we believe important planning precedent or significant impact is at stake, we may from time to time request the NPA to consider calling in an application for its own determination, in line with the agreed scheme of delegation.
 - We will seek to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme of delegation and press, as appropriate, for updating and improvement.

Planning Enforcement

We will urge the NPA and relevant councils to take robust and appropriate action against unauthorised development impacting on the conservation and enhancement of the national park landscape and its quiet enjoyment. We will provide any relevant information to the competent authorities to facilitate this.