



Surrey Hills National Landscape Board

25 June 2025

Management Plan Monitoring Report and Forward Plan

Purpose of the report:

To report on the delivery of the Surrey Hills Management Plan (2020 – 2025).

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

Members are asked to note the activity and offer support and advice on the forward plan, as appropriate.

Introduction:

Although the fundamental purpose of the Management Plan will be to encourage co-ordinated action by all organisations, agencies and individuals, the Surrey Hills Board established a Surrey Hills group of organisations (the Surrey Hills Family) to help support the delivery of the Surrey Hills Management Plan (200- 2025). It reports on activity since the last meeting and highlights priorities for 2025 which deliver the Surrey Hills Management Plan (2020 – 2025) pillars:

Planning

Landscape Conservation and Enhancement; Access,

Enjoyment and Understanding

Growing the Surrey Hills Economy and

Advocacy, Partnership and Coordination.

The full monitoring report of the 2020 – 2025 Management Plan will be presented to the Surrey Hills Board 's AGM in September.

Pillar 1. PLANNING		Lead	Partners
Planning Advice. Seek to appraise and advise on 400 development proposals in the Surrey Hills (100 per quarter)	Ongoing	Board	Local authorities
LURA Duty. Support and promote opportunities to develop definition and understanding of the new Levelling Up Duty to further the purpose of the designation. Gatwick Airport. Collaborative approach with South Downs NPA, Kent Downs and High Weald	Ongoing	Board	National Landscapes Assoc, Defra
Boundary Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support Advisory Group and Communications Plan - Awaiting publication of second consultation (to be presented to the Board) 	Ongoing	Natural England	National Landscape Team, SCC, B&Ds
Pillar 2. LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT			
Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL). There is a budget of £585k. There are opportunities for FiPL to contribute to wider projects in the Surrey Hills in 25/26, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heathland Connections, Natural Flood Management programme Deer Management Strategy. Big Chalk 		Board	FiPL Panel (CLA, NFU, NE, SCC, CPRE, SWT)



Surrey Hills Society Care Farm Coordinator post, bringing invaluable on-farm experiences to some of the most vulnerable in Surrey			
<p>Farm Clusters Support the development and extension across the Surrey Hills Consider the future of land manager and farmer-led Cluster groups – a meeting took place in June bringing together proposed cluster groups</p> <p>Support Heathland Connections and Big Chalk landscape recovery programmes Issue quarterly Newsletters</p>	Ongoing	National Landscape Team	CLA, NFU, SCC, B&Ds, SWT, SHS
<p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Local Nature Partnership Contribute to the development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align the LNRS and the new Surrey Hills Management Plan - Ensure that Surrey Hills priorities are reflected in the LNRS and that Surrey Hills activities support the LNRS (consultation to be launched in July) 	Ongoing	Surrey CC	Surrey LNP, B&Ds
<p>Heathland Connections Nature Recovery Strategy in SW Surrey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage in strategy development. - Support and grow farm collaboration, with NE funding Surrey Wildlife Trust. - Develop Heathland Connections website and promotional materials on Surrey Hills web-platform - Support development of Super NNR partnership and consider governance structure alongside Surrey Hills National Landscape. To be launched on 27th June. - Support the development of a One Heathland NHLF bid, in Partnership with SWT and Natural England. 	Ongoing	Natural England	Project Partners,

Big Chalk Developing strategic bid to NHLF, coordinating project bids from local partners and aligning with LNRS	Ongoing Q3	National Landscapes Association	Local and regional partners
Deer Management Strategy. Develop a coordinated approach to the management of deer populations by increasing culling to reduce deer pressure particularly on Ancient Semi Natural Woodland.	Q1 - Q4	FC, National Landscape,	SCC, SWT, NT, farmers and landowners
Surrey Hills Conservation Volunteers Ranger Service Continuing to develop Conservation Volunteering programme. Continuing to develop partnerships with schools, corporates and community groups and offer a range of conservation activities. Proposal to support through Defra Uplift and establishing Access and Conservation Fund. Developing strategic partnership with the Probation Service.	Ongoing	Surrey Hills Society	FiPL, SWT, NT, Enterprises
Surrey Hills Highways and Signage With additional Defra capital funding, design and install new gateway signs with National Landscapes rebranding, some of which will replace missing signs and old signs in poor condition, working with SCC Youth Opps Down to Earth Team. Seek to install in August and September.	Q3 - 4	National Landscape Team, SCC Highways and Youth Offer Team	B&Ds, parish councils
Pillar 3. ACCESS ENJOYMENT AND UNDERSTANDING			
Increase social media reach across a range on following platforms. This will be supported by a new Social Media Marketing Assistant from August 2024 in partnership with Surrey Hills Enterprises. This post finished end of Jan.	Ongoing	National Landscape	Enterprises Society Surrey Hills Arts

SCC undertaken major accessibility overall and refreshed site which was launched in February 2025.			
Surrey Hills Friends e-news provides a monthly update on Surrey Hills activity and to promote the work of the Surrey Hills family This now has an audience of over 14,200 people.	Monthly	National Landscape Enterprises	Surrey Hills Family
Google Over 15k review, rating 4.7/5. 6 th highest review of 44 National Parks and National Landscapes Explore the potential to develop the platform and use of site statistics in profiling awareness and use of the National Landscape	Ongoing Q3	National Landscape	National Association
Defra Access for All Fund The 2024 – 25 programme included: Projects include continuing the partnership with Surrey Coalition for Disabled People to co-design improvement projects gateway sites including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Trust Leith Hill Place - Pierrepont Farm - Farnham Heath - Frensham Great Pond - Denbies Additional projects included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improvements for visitors at the YHA at Holmbury (under new management), - support for volunteer battery tools for SCC Partnerships, 	Q1 - Q4	National Landscape	Project partners, National Trust, Skills Mills

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cycling facilities at Hampton - a children's book and related materials based on the ancient Yew trees at Newlands Corner with Surrey Hills Society - Signing and improvement of Promoted Routes including Cycle Surrey Hills, Rail to Ramble and equestrian routes - Improvements to Gateway sites including RSPB Farnham Heath, Frensham Great Pond, Pierrepont Farm and Denbies 			
<p>Access for All. 2025/26</p> <p>Defra has indicated a capital grant of circa £365k for the Surrey Hills, subject to confirmation in July. The criteria for the projects will be to deliver against the Defra Access for All Targets and Outcomes. The programme will be managed by the Surrey Hills Programme Manager and the Director within delegated limits and projects reported to the Board and Defra.</p>	Q2 – Q4	Board	Land managers, National Trust, Surrey CC, North Downs Way
<p>Love Dogs, Love Nature.</p> <p>Commissioned a study by the University of Surrey to look at issues surrounding dogs and dog walking in the SH and offer advice about land management, with focus on farmland pasture, commons & heaths and estates and woodland.</p> <p>A report has now been created by the University from desk based and on-site research, and a partnership workshop. The report has been circulated to the group and another meeting to take place July to consider a position statement, signage and practical projects including fencing and dead hedging. Seek to fund through FiPL</p>	Q1	Board	Land managers, Surrey Nature Partnership



<p>Growing Together – Inclusion and Conservation in the Surrey Hills</p> <p>Surrey Hills Society has secured National Lottery Heritage Funding to work in partnership with SMEF, Surrey Choices, and Surrey Coalition of Disabled People to diversify our visitor and volunteer profile and build confidence and skills and improve wellbeing in groups that may face barriers to accessing the countryside Project launched by NLHF Trustee Julian Glover at Denbies and India Davies appointed as Project Officer</p> <p>Over 40 events have been achieved. This has included birding, fungi, flower ID, community garden sessions at Denbies, filming and storytelling workshops.</p>	Ongoing	Surrey Hills Society	NL Team, SMEF, Coalition, Surrey Choices, SWT,
<p>Generation Green - 'Night Under the Stars'</p> <p>As part of a national programme, the Surrey Hills National Landscape has secured circa £65k for 400 residentials and 200 farm or days visits for disadvantaged and challenged young people to experience the Surrey Hills.</p> <p>This project has now come to an end, we all 400 residentials and 200 farm or day visits taking place.</p>	Q 3- - 4	Surrey Hills National Landscape	SOLD, Surrey Youth Opps, Active Surrey, YHA, Holmbury Hostel, Surrey Hills and Rivers
<p>Surrey Hills Care Farm Project</p> <p>Katie Daw is the Surrey Hills 'Care Farm' Coordinator, undertaking the East Surrey Care Farm pilot, with funding from the Mental Health Investment Fund to provide farm-based activities and research the impact to identify priority groups which can get the greatest health benefits.</p>	Q1 – Q3	Surrey Hills Society	Growing Health Together, SCC, Surrey Heartlands, National Landscape, SH Arts

Project extended until August with Access/FiPL funding. 60 visits have been achieved with a target of 100. Good coverage by media including BBC. Need to review impact and plan next steps, working with SCC and Surrey University.			
<p>Promoting sustainable countryside access to the Surrey Hills and volunteering opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote sustainable transport campaign with rail and bus operators. An even in May took place promoting the SCC Surrey connect bus from Dorking to Leith Hill Place, including a new leaflet and poster campaign. - Mountain Biking – working with landowners on identifying issues and develop policy and best practice for unauthorised (wild) mountain bike trails. Engage the mountain bike community through comms and enabling practical projects to manage trails in line with emerging policy. - Byways - to reduce damage and enhance user experience developing campaign to report and prosecute damage, as appropriate. Practical project at The Drove Road, Ranmore to deter antisocial and damaging activity. - Equestrian Working Group. Organised Horseman’s Sunday 27th April at St Martha’s. Reestablished Working Group and chaired by Marisa Heath on behalf of the Board. 	Ongoing	National Landscape	Society, Community Rail, SCC, B&Ds, SCAF, Skill Mill and access groups
<p>North Downs Way National Trail - Support the development and promotion of the</p> <p>Support the Growing Routes NHLF project and promotion of NDW Ambassador scheme, seeking alignment with Growing Together.</p>	Ongoing	North Downs Way NT Partnership	National Landscape, Society, Visit Surrey and Kent, Kent Downs

<p>Surrey Hills Arts Nature Calling. The Surrey Hills is part of a national community art celebration of nature and landscape funded by Arts Council England. The Surrey Hills is a regional hub with a focus on engaging LB Croydon, specifically the New Addington community. This has included</p> <p>Still Shady, Mobo-Award winning artist, commissioned to write Nature Anthem, which was previewed at the Surrey Hills Symposium and now recorded with a film at Box Hill.</p> <p>Blandy and Locke will be creating art around environmental science, collaborating with communities and directly addressing climate change, their work includes the graphic novel, Out of Nothing, published by Nobrow; the role play games Lone Eons and The World After. New Addington Trail launched in May.</p> <p>The Nature Calling event will be at Box Hill on 18th July.</p> <p>Heathland Artworks</p> <p>A trail of temporary site-responsive artworks at Farnham Heath. Delivered in partnership with RSPB and the University for Creative Arts (UCA) targeting emerging artists in the delivery and new audiences in the experience. This will launch on 26 June.</p> <p>Inspiring Views – potential new commissions with the North Downs Way Partnership and Defra Access Funding.</p>	Ongoing	Surrey Hills Arts	NL Assoc, LB Croydon
	Ongoing	Surrey Hills Arts	
	Q3 - 4	Surrey Hills Arts	
	Ongoing	Surrey Hills Arts	SCC Placemaking Team, B&Ds, ACE
	Q2		RSPB, Uni of Creative Arts, NE
	Ongoing		NDW, Various landowners

Develop, maintain and promote access to Inspiring Views. New leaflet published and repairs taking place with Surrey Youth Offer team.			
Promote Darker Skies Another event took place on 29 March for partial solar eclipse. Planning a Newlands Corner event in October,	Q4	National Landscape, Guildford Astronomical Soc	SCC, Surrey Hills Society, Surrey Uni, Guildford Astro Society
4. GROWING THE SURREY HILLS ECONOMY			
Surrey Hills Enterprises delivers events programme for the public and member businesses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publish and distribute The Guide to the Surrey Hills - Spring Festival in April at the Rural Life Living Museum - Country Fair in June with Merrist Wood - Wood Fair at Cranleigh in September - Christmas and artisan festivals, including West Horsley Place 	Ongoing Q4 Q1 2025 Q2 2025 Q2 2025 Q3 2025	Surrey Hills Enterprises	Board Rural Life Museum Merrist Wood Agric Society
5. ADVOCACY, PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION			
Ensure sound governance, reporting and monitoring of the Management Plan through quarterly meetings of the Surrey Hills Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly reporting to Board - Annual report to DEFRA and partners 	Ongoing	Board	



Revised Constitution as part of Management Plan Review. Adopt new governance September	Q3	Board, SCC	Defra, NE Steering Group, National Landscape Association
Business planning workshop for the Surrey Hills Family Took Place on 10 th April 2025. This will be presented to the Board in September	Q1 2025	Board	Surrey Hills Family
Develop a Surrey Hills Foundation in relation to the Surrey Hills Trust Fund with the Community Foundation for Surrey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish steering group and consider as part of governance arrangements - Review purpose and structure, potentially as an ESG Environment Fund 	Q1, 2	Surrey Hills Family	Community Foundation for Surrey
Promote the work of the Surrey Hills family with a focus on the Management Plan and celebrating the 75 th Anniversary of the 1949 National Park and Access to the Countryside Act. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebration event at Denbies - Partnership Tour - Surrey Hills Symposium - Annual Report 	Q1 Q2 Q3 Q3	National Landscape	Surrey Hills Family, Surrey Hills Partnership
Contribute to national policy, strategy and evidence base. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respond to National Association, Defra and NE requests. - Active engagement in the National Association 	Ongoing	National Landscape	
Co-hosting and organising 2 Field Trips (9 th July) for National Landscapes Conference (July 8 th – 10 th) at Winchester	July		



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Management Plan. Prepare new Management Plan. Report of Consultation in Consultation in June Local authority adoption in September Launch in November at Surrey Hills Symposium	Q4	Surrey Hills Board	Local authorities
Landscapes Connections – National Lottery Heritage Fund The Surrey Hills Board has been successful in being invited to submit for a grant of £15k to develop an Expression of Interest to the £150m Landscapes Connections programme. The project will be looking to developing a circa £5m programme over 5 years that will build organisational resilience and capitalise on the success of the existing Lottery Programmes (Gowing Together and Nature Calling)	Q2 - Q3	Surrey Hills Board	Surrey Hills Society, Surrey Hills Arts, Surrey CC, partner organisations