

Section 6:

Sustainability

6.1 Introduction

Sustainability is at the heart of Up on the Downs Landscape Partnership Scheme. The scheme and the projects to deliver it have been designed to have a lasting impact on the landscape, its heritage and people.

This section provides detail on the sustainability of projects within the delivery programmes, how the Partnership will be enhanced and able to continue its work, and the exit strategy for the scheme.

6.2 Programme A: Conserve and Restore

All capital projects undertaken in this programme will be protected by agreements to ensure the benefits are maintained for a minimum 10 year period; however, the nature of projects and the level of support we have generated from landowners in this programme and the scheme in general will help to sustain the benefits indefinitely.

The sustainability of chalk grassland restoration works in Bringing Back the Landscape (PA1) will be supported by Higher Level Stewardship. Taking Stock (PA2) will increase this sustainability by providing a sustainable model for grazing management, creating new partnerships and ways of working. The engagement and involvement of local communities in grazing heritage through Taking Stock (PB2) will provide a greater understanding of the need for grazing management and help to overcome some of the obstacles that currently make it difficult.



Photo: Paul Sampson

Grazing above Dover Harbour

The programme will provide numerous opportunities for volunteer participation. Training provided through Programme D (PD3) will provide volunteers with the skills to help manage the heritage, thus increasing the sustainability of management. Volunteers and local communities will be encouraged to take responsibility for the management of their local sites by forming Action Groups, which will be fully supported by the Partnership and provided with the necessary skills to help them care for the landscape in the future.

Work undertaken through Frontline Britain (PA4) and Going for Bronze (PA3) will increase our understanding about the heritage and provide information that will help us to manage it in the future.

6.3 Programme B: Community Participation

The mobile outreach vehicle in Be Part of It! (PB1) will specifically target new audiences and this engagement will provide an insight into how different groups value the heritage, allowing these values to be taken into account when planning heritage management.

The project will also help to give an understanding of the importance of the heritage to hard-to-reach groups. Making them more aware of the impact of the decisions they make will have a positive benefit for the sustainability of heritage management.

Be Part of It! will provide Partnership staff with the skills and experience to engage with new groups and foster beneficial relationships and dialogue. While the Partnership will be satisfied that the vehicle has represented value for money at the end of the delivery phase, it is hoped that the positive benefit it will have and the participation of local communities will ensure Partners continue to use it in the long term.

A Different Way of Seeing (PB3) is not expected to continue after the life of the scheme, but, similar to the above, the engagement of new audiences in the landscape and an understanding of how they value and use it will provide the Partnership with valuable information when planning the management of the heritage.

The Conservation Management Plan carried out in To the Lighthouse (PB4) will help us to conserve the lighthouse in the future. The level of community involvement in the planning process will help to ensure continued community involvement in its conservation and celebration.

Communities engaged through this and other programmes will help to ensure their continued involvement with the Partnership and the sustainability of landscape and heritage management in the scheme area.

6.4 Programme C: Access and Learning

Capital projects undertaken in this programme will be protected by agreements to ensure the benefits are sustained for a minimum 10 year period. The increased access to, and awareness and understanding of, the heritage will provide a legacy for the scheme in itself, regardless of whether some of the projects continue post-delivery, such as Landscape Discovery and Landscape Online. Although it is not necessarily anticipated that these projects will continue as per the delivery stage, there is every intention that they will continue in some form through the Partnership, with important lessons being learnt and other partnerships created.



Photo: Paul Holt

Guided walk at Samphire Hoe

The Samphire Hoe Education Hub will provide a lasting testament to the work of the scheme. As well as developing into a valuable educational resource where local communities and visitors can continue to learn about, engage with and enjoy the local landscape and heritage, it will celebrate the work of the UOTD into the future. It will also provide the Partnership with the capacity to continue some of the positive work delivered through the scheme.

Schools Out (PC3) has been designed so that the educational resource does not remain on the shelf. Developing the resource at the start of the scheme with partners and teachers and supporting them to use it through the scheme's life, will provide both groups with the confidence and knowledge to deliver it once the scheme has ended. This holistic approach will ensure the resource is used while developing new partnerships for the future.

A new partnership will also be created through Safer Landscapes (PC4), which will provide a sustainable model for tackling countryside crime and anti-social behaviour in the scheme area. By developing new, trusted relationships and seeing real achievement on the ground, this project will continue to engage and involve the agencies involved in supporting the management of the landscape and reducing the barriers to making this management effective. It will also provide a new, more settled environment for landowners to continue to be involved.

6.5 Programme D: Training and Skills

Programme D will provide local communities, volunteers, partners and delivery staff with a wide range of skills to help them make decisions about and care for the heritage in the long term. It will also provide them with the enthusiasm to participate.

Partners will be given the skills to train people, so that they can continue to increase the skills of local people, which will be a great asset to landscape and heritage management in the future.

Countryside Apprentice (PD2) will provide real career opportunities for young people while providing them with an understanding of the needs of the landscape heritage. Taking the First Step (PD1) will not only help the life chances of young people but it will work towards a sustainable model for providing a range of qualifications in environmental conservation, one of which would support future apprenticeships with the Partnership.

6.6 Landscape Heritage Grants

The Landscape Heritage Grants programme (LHG) will encourage local communities and groups to make decisions about their local heritage and take steps to conserve, protect and celebrate it. The process itself and the training provided to support applicants will empower communities and provide them with the skills to take action to conserve and promote their heritage in the long term.



6.7 The Partnership

The UOTD will ensure sustainability and a legacy for the scheme by strengthening existing partnerships and, importantly, creating new ones. A number of the UOTD partners have a long-standing working relationship; the delivery of the UOTD will help them to work together more effectively, promoting a joined-up approach to managing the heritage and increasing understanding about it.

A number of the projects in the scheme will require close working by a range of new partners and communities to achieve successful delivery. They will necessitate the sharing of resources and close coordination to achieve project outcomes. Partners will be encouraged to learn together and deliver projects together, allowing a cross-fertilisation of ideas and methods, fostering productive, constructive and lasting relationships.

Working together will make the Partnership stronger and provide partners with the resources and skills to manage the heritage in the long term and ensure that the positive contributions made by the scheme are sustained.



Photo: Josie Newman

English and French volunteers in cross-Channel partnership

6.8 Exit Strategy

Successful delivery of the scheme's aims and objectives will increase the sustainability of managing the area's landscape heritage in the future. It will strengthen the Partnership, so that it can continue to deliver the recommendations of this plan after the formal ending of the scheme.

Staff employed through the scheme will bring new skills to the Partnership and help it to develop new ways of working and form new relationships with local communities and other organisations and groups.

The Scheme Manager will be responsible for the scheme's legacy. They will seek ways to increase the impact and sustainability of the scheme once the delivery phase is complete. This will involve maintaining a high profile for the scheme and making it an essential component of local and regional strategies and plans for the delivery of sustainable landscape management, heritage conservation and community engagement and participation. The embedding of the scheme as a force for positive change will provide opportunities for further funding and for posts to continue once the delivery phase is complete.

The scheme will be delivered over a four and a half year period, with the bulk of delivery occurring between years 2 – 4. The Scheme Manager and Finance, Reporting and Partnership Officer will be employed for the final six months so that, in the event of continuation mechanisms not being found, end of scheme administration and evaluation can be carried out. There will be a phased withdrawal of the scheme rather than an abrupt end, which will better equip the Partnership to carry on and sustain the positive contributions made by the scheme.

At the same time, the experience of other Landscape Partnerships has been that the new energy and focus provided around a scheme can create a momentum of its own, generating more partners, a greater understanding amongst local organisations of the importance of the landscape heritage, and the realisation of what can be achieved by working together in partnership. The Scheme Manager will deliberately seek to learn lessons from the most successful Landscape Partnership Schemes across the country and apply successful legacy lessons to ensure a lasting momentum for Up on the Downs Landscape Partnership Scheme.