

Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex

18th July 2007

Briefing Note for Proposed National Park Boundaries Response

The Forum has noted the revised proposals relating to the boundaries of the proposed South Downs National Park and does not wish to make any comment on the relatively minor changes around the perimeter. However, the exclusion of the northern part of the Sussex Downs AONB does cause concern: at present the enhanced status of this part of the county is in the care of the South Downs Joint Committee, which has developed staffing and budgets to conserve the landscape and improve public access. If that area is not to be included within the National Park, we would seek assurances that it will still be managed at a level which reflects its AONB status.

It would appear some special arrangement is necessary to deal with the future management of this wealden area due to its high landscape value. It is unlikely that the County Council will be able to provide that additional level of funding and, therefore, the Forum believes that it is essential that long-term funding from government is guaranteed as part of the cost of establishing the new National Park

Peter Brown
July 2007