



## South Downs Way Ahead NIA – Progress since March 2015

### Research and evidence

- Comprehensive 3 year audit of chalk grassland condition carried out across the South Downs National Park (SSSIs, Local Wildlife Sites and undesignated sites).
- Semi-natural habitat connectivity mapping for the National Park.
- Development and application of an ecosystem services mapping tool ('Ecoserv').

### Chalk grassland restoration

- Partners have continued work to restore and reconnect chalk grassland sites within the NIA, using core core funds, Countryside Stewardship funding, grants, and volunteers.

### New projects

- New chalk grassland projects are being developed and delivered within the NIA area which complement and build upon the work delivered by the NIA, e.g. the 'Steyning Dukes and Downland' HLF Project.

### Planning

- Community Infrastructure Levy funding will hopefully provide some resources for chalk grassland work.
- Rampion (offshore windfarm): Approximately £200,000 allocated to chalk grassland restoration (S106)

# Countryside Stewardship: Farm clusters





## Proposed Life+ Integrated Project: The Big Chalk

- Proposed Big Chalk LIFE+ project: 8 AONBs and 1 National Park that are wholly or predominantly chalk landscapes.
- Big Chalk would primarily be focused on delivering Water Framework Directive targets but would also help to deliver the Habitats Directive / Biodiversity 2020 and some climate change elements.
- The project would deliver better integration at a large spatial scale: improved carbon sequestration, reduction of nutrient flows to the sea, reduction of flood risk, support for biodiversity.
- Project Vision: 'The effective conservation and enhancement of ecosystem services provided by chalk landscapes; in particular, achieving sustainable growth within environmental limits, protecting biodiversity assets such as chalk streams, grasslands and species that are indicators of environmental thresholds.'
- Timescale: The partners plan to submit a funding bid for 'technical assistance' (development stage funding) in September 2016.