



Ecosystems Services Statement.

The South Downs National Local Plan (SDLP) sets out a commitment to an 'Ecosystem Services' (ES) approach to planning decision making and management of the National Park; defined as the benefits people and society get from the natural environment.

Development proposals will be permitted where they have an overall positive impact on the ability of the natural environment to contribute goods and services. This will be achieved through the use of high-quality design, and by delivering all opportunities to:

1. Sustainably manage land and water environments;
2. Protect and provide more, better and joined up natural habitats;
3. Conserve water resources and improve water supply;
4. Manage and mitigate the risk of flooding;
5. Improve the National Park's resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change;
6. Increase the ability to store carbon through new planting or other means;
7. Conserve and enhance soils;
8. Support the sustainable production and use of food, forestry and raw materials;
9. Reduce levels of pollution;
10. Improve opportunities for peoples' health and wellbeing; and
11. Provide opportunities for access to the natural and cultural resources which contribute to the special qualities.

This ES is amplified within the Local Plan by Core Policy SD2 which states that development proposals will be permitted where they have an overall positive effect on the ability of the natural environment to contribute goods and services. It notes the use of high-quality design and delivering opportunities for a number of benefits.

Each of the key regulating services, comprises of individual matters that should be considered as part of the planning application. These are considered below. This statement should be read in conjunction with the other supportive documents submitted.

To produce an Ecological Systems Statement the following need to be assessed; evidence gathering; Analysis of evidence; determining the site strategy for Ecosystem Services and Implementation of strategy.

The preparation and scope of the statement should be proportionate to the impact of the proposed scheme.

Sustainably manage land and water environments - The caravans are positioned on the farm in a location between two large agricultural barns. Therefore safeguards the landscape character assessment.

Manage and mitigate risk of flooding – the location of the temporary caravans are on land well clear of the adjoining flood plain.

Improve the National Park’s resilience to and mitigation of, climate change – by having accommodation on site reduces the need for travel to the site on a daily basis, which reduces carbon footprint.

Increase the ability to store carbon through new planting or other means – Although the location of the caravans is well screened further planting can be provided.

Support the sustainable production and use of food, forestry and raw materials – the caravans are required for seasonal workers to manage collection of hay/straw from numerous farms.

Reduce levels of pollution – the use of the caravans for temporary accommodation prevents staff having to travel long distances to the workplace reducing carbon emissions from cars.

Improve opportunities for peoples health and well being – by providing on site accommodation allows workers more time to relax rather than having to make daily travel arrangements.

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