

Events Guidelines

Every year organised events provide an excellent opportunity for people to visit and enjoy the South Downs as well as raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity. These guidelines have been produced to help you organise a successful event, explain what you need to do and how to avoid conflicts with other users and landowners.

Access.

The whole of the South Downs Way uses Public Rights of Way and Public Highways, this means that anybody has the right to travel along the Trail at any time and therefore anyone can run an event if they wish, subject to the restrictions below. However please remember that these public 'rights' run over predominantly private land. Remember also that any event using the South Downs Way or other rights of way do not have exclusive use and your event can not restrict other peoples use.

Types of right of way

There are several types of Right of Way and some users are restricted to using specific routes. See the information on the right.

This colour coding system is used throughout England & Wales; footpaths are always marked with yellow and bridlesways with blue etc.

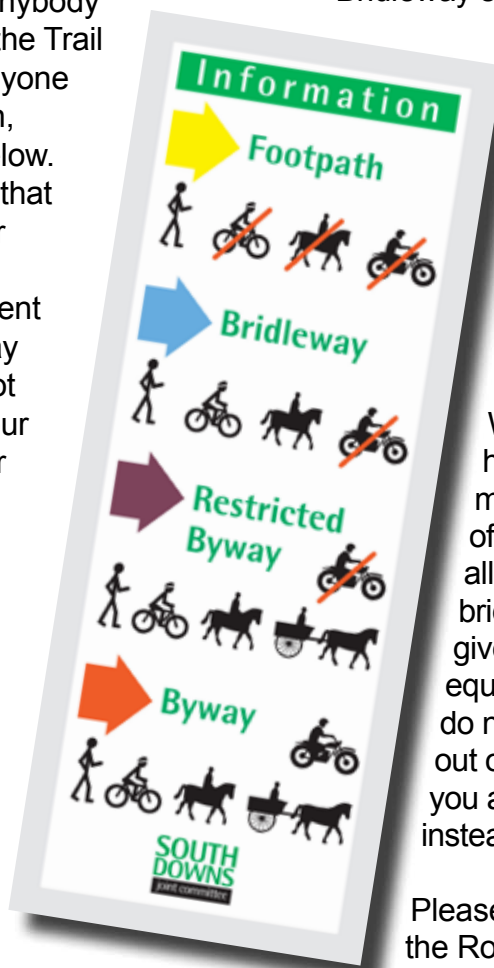
Most of the South Downs Way uses Public Bridleways but there are some sections where there are Public Footpath and alternative Bridleway sections, so remember

to use the correct route. There are also a number of Byway and Restricted Byway sections. You can find out the type of right of way from Ordnance Survey maps.

Cycling Events

Walkers and horse riders have priority right of way, not mountain bikes! Section 30 of the Countryside Act 1968 allows cyclists to use public bridlesways provided that they give way to pedestrians and equestrians. Cyclists, please do not expect other users to get out of your way just because you are going faster, slow down instead.

Please note under Section 31 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 is illegal to race bikes on public bridlesways includes time trails, therefore there should not be any prize for coming first and lists of results including completion times should not be published. Prizes can of course be awarded to those that collect the most sponsorship! (Racing on foot is not illegal although extra consideration should be given to safety, including marshalling and road crossings).



Event infrastructure

Support and marshal's vehicles are NOT allowed to access the South Downs Way or any other public rights of way unless it is an open Public Byway or they have the express permission of all the landowners affected.

Please also remember that any marshal or check points, refreshments and toilets etc. erected next to the route will need the permission of the relevant landowners. Any such infrastructure can not of course restrict the route of the South Downs Way or any other private access.

Getting permission

As stated above anyone can run an event on the South Downs Way and formal permission is not required as long as the event is not in conflict with the restrictions above.

However in order that large events do not clash with each other and to allow landowners to be informed the South Downs Way Officer should be notified of any proposed event. (Contact details at the bottom of this document.)

South Downs Way Officer may be able to pass on landowners details, but this is not guaranteed. (All landowner information is bound by data protection and can not be given out without first obtaining permission from the landowner/ tenant concerned.) Walk the route and visit any farms you think you might need to get permissions from. Some contact details can also be obtained from

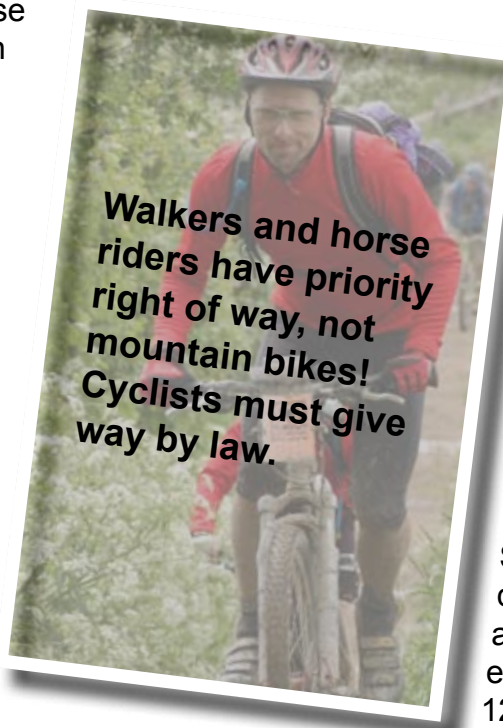
the Land Registry online. This can be time consuming so remember to schedule in enough planning time.

Other important considerations

The South Downs Way is a very popular venue for events and charity challenges and can therefore get busy during the summer and autumn months. It is therefore very important that we try to avoid clashes between large events especially those using the same

section in different directions!

To help avoid this problem we publish an events listing on the National Trail website. Please check the SDW event listing before you send your date on <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/Southdowns/events.asp?PageId=10>. Please note that this is a list of all events that are known to the SDW Officer and other events may be using the Trail. As soon as you have a proposed date please let the SDW Officer know and your event can be added to the list. This is also a great way to publicise your event as the website receives over 12,000 visits per month.



Nearly all of the South Downs are privately owned and much is farmed. All event participants should abide by the Countryside Code and be respectful of the fact that people are making their living from the South Downs. Farm machinery may be using the tracks including the South Downs Way and other rights of way and working in fields along the route. Please give way to farm machinery; they are at work, you are not. Cyclists should remember that there may be farm vehicles around the next corner – Please slow down!

Any additional signage or waymarking is discouraged, however if you do put up your own additional Waymarking, do so as close

in time to the event as possible. Ensure that the waymarks do not flap (this might frighten horses and implies they might blow away, which won't do your event any good). Do not nail or staple them to trees and do not obscure existing waymarks or signs. Please ensure that all signs and waymarks are removed as soon as possible after the event.

Please consider the rubbish your event may generate (including any additional waymarking you have erected). Plan it in a way that minimises rubbish and recycles as much material as possible. Ensure that litter is not left behind, it is the responsibility of an event organiser to ensure that litter is not left on site.

Getting participants to and from your event can cause considerable disruption. Be aware that most of the car parks along the South Downs Way are small (10 – 15 spaces) and many have height restrictions. You may also have to pay for parking at some locations. To protect the tranquillity and environment of the South Downs individual travel by car should be discouraged. The SDW does produce an annual Public Transport Guide free of charge; contact the SDW Officer for details. Queen Elizabeth Country Park (Hampshire) does have a special large event parking area that can be booked, please contact the park for details.

We do NOT help with putting up or taking down additional Waymarking, marshalling on the day, First Aid cover, with the detailed planning of events, etc; these are your responsibility as organiser. We explicitly do NOT take responsibility for the safety of any event (other than those organised by ourselves directly) or for event insurance.

Helping to Maintain the South Downs Way

The South Downs Way is maintained largely at public expense and by volunteers for the public's use and enjoyment. This constant maintenance and improvement costs hundreds of thousands of pounds each year but much of this work is not a statutory duty of the local councils and relies on good will and partnerships. Events, especially large events can put extra strain on this already popular route, but you could help by donating money to help improve the Trail.

If participants pay an entry fee why not consider asking for a voluntary donation towards the Trail maintenance by adding a tick box to your application form and collecting

the additional money. All donations could then be forwarded to the SDW Officer as one cheque or transaction and are then ring fenced for improvement works on the SDW, so every penny helps the Trail.

Donations should be made by cheque payable to Hampshire County Council.

After the event

To help us manage the Trail effectively and to help us attract funding it is very important to know how many people use the Trail. Please let the SDW Officer know the number of participants that took part in your event and if known the amount of money raised for charity.

Please encourage any participants to complete the SDW on-line user feedback questionnaire on www.nationaltrail.co.uk/southdowns.

Please Follow the Countryside Code.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Contact details

First point of contact and overall strategic management of the South Downs Way

Andy Gattiker
South Downs Way National Trail Officer
Victorian Business Centre
Ford Lane
Ford
W Sussex BN18 0EF
01243 558716
sdw@southdowns-aonb.gov.uk

Maintenance of rights of way in Hampshire

HCC Rights of Way Section
Countryside Service
Hampshire County Council
Mottisfont Court
High Street
Winchester
Hampshire, SO23 8ZF
01962 846045

Maintenance of rights of way in Sussex and general countryside management

South Downs Joint Committee
Victorian Barn
Victorian Business Centre
Ford Lane
Ford
W Sussex BN18 0EF

01243 558700
info@southdowns-aonb.gov.uk

Queen Elizabeth Country Park

Queen Elizabeth Country Park
Tim Speller
Park Manager
Gravel Hill
Horndean
Hampshire, PO8 0QE

023 9259 1362
tim.speller@hants.gov.uk

Seven Sisters Country Park

South Downs Joint Committee
Seven Sisters County Park
Exceat
Seaford
East Sussex BN25 4AD

01323 870280