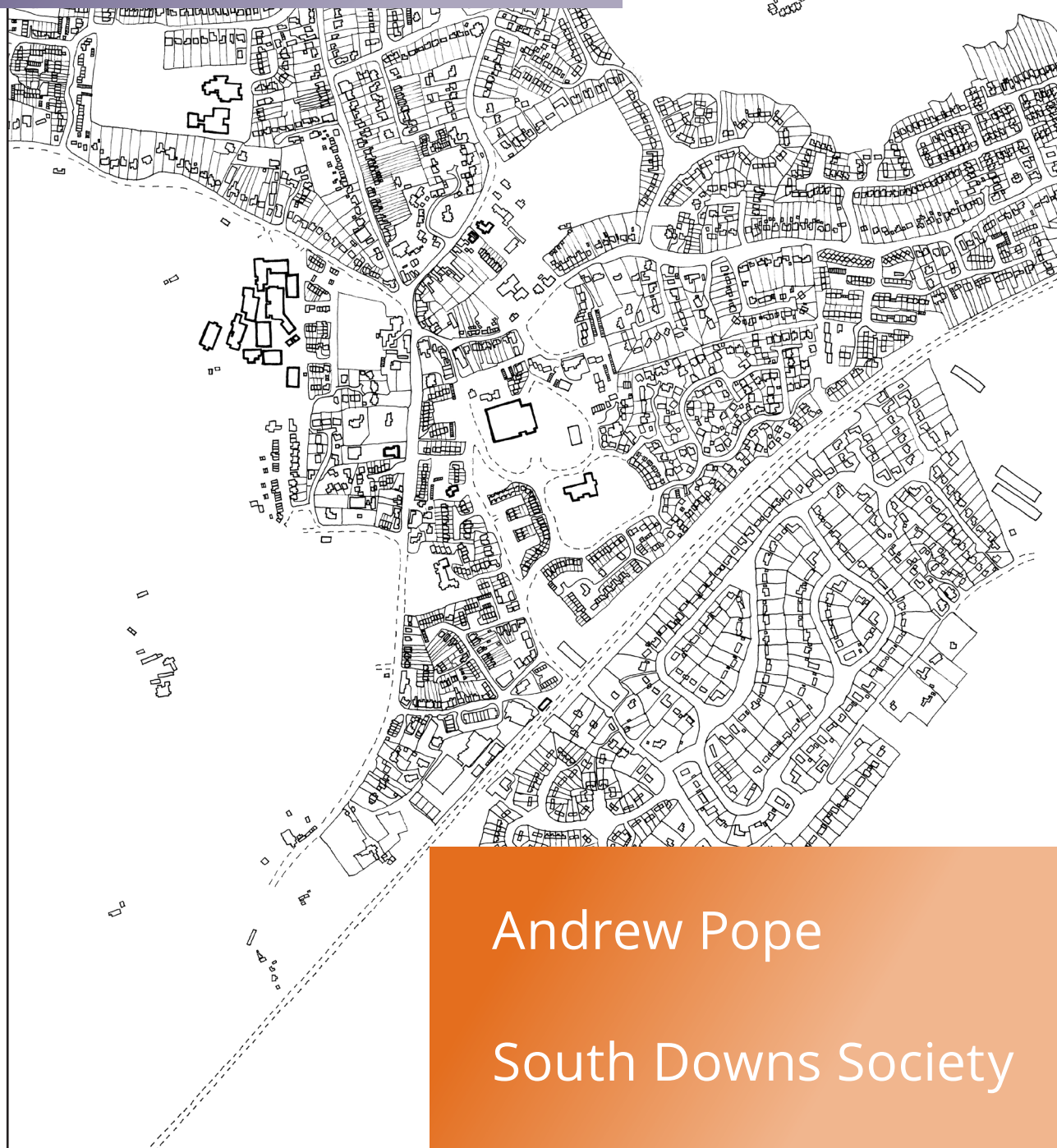


Bramshott & Liphook  
Neighbourhood Plan

# Position Statement

November 2017



Andrew Pope

South Downs Society



- The South Downs is one of the **UK's 15 National Parks**, all of them established with statutory purposes and to be managed in accordance with central government policy. The South Downs National Park is 638 square miles in all, from Winchester to Eastbourne. The Headquarters is at **Midhurst**. 112,000 people live within the Park, with 2 million within 5km.
  - The South Downs National Park was established because of its **landscapes** and **scenic beauty**.
  - The South Downs National Park Authority is **the planning authority** for the whole of its area, which includes approx **one-third of this Parish**.
  - The Authority is **funded** centrally from **DEFRA** - not from council tax.
  - **South Downs Society** is the national park society for the South Downs National Park ("Friends of the National Park"). The Society has nearly 2,000 members and its focus is the **conservation** and enhancement of the **special qualities of the national park** and their **quiet enjoyment by everyone**.
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1. There are ***Seven Special Qualities of the National Park***; these underpin the work of the National Park Authority—
  - No 1 is "***Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breath-taking views***".
  - No 2 is "***Tranquil and unspoilt places***".
2. Our part of the South Downs is known as the ***Western Weald***, noted for its wooded hills and vales, deep valleys, open heaths and rural sunken lanes.
3. **South Downs Local Plan 2014 – 2033**  
Importantly, the Plan **covers the whole of the National Park**.  
The Local Plan is ***Landscape led*** throughout.  
**The Plan is well worth a read !**  
Approx **50 Parish NDPs** are completed or in the last stages, including **Liss** – all conforming of course with the policies of the SDNP planning authority.
4. "**National Park**" is the UK's **highest level** of environmental protection, along with AONBs. (*i.e. is not Green belt*).



5. **Liphook** is one of the 20 “**Gateways**” to the National Park – namely Liphook station from which the popular and scenic **Shipwrights Way** takes you onwards & southwards to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.
6. And let us not forget our own **current Parish Plan** (February 2016) which says:  
**Environment** – “Of noted importance in relation to the National Park are the views to the west, of Weavers Down and beyond from several places in the Parish. This importance is noted in EHDC’s Landscape Capacity Study (June 2013) ... and “**Environmental protection...** fundamental and detailed aspects of the natural environment of the Parish deserve to be noted and protected [namely] the **rural and historic character and scenic beauty** of the National Park.”  
**Conclusion** – To “**Support the aims and objectives of the National Park Authority and promote Liphook’s position as the Gateway to the Park in this part of the County.**”
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## **“How we would like to see the Parish of the future ??”**

- That - were she to return - **Flora Thompson** would still recognise Liphook in the way she described Liphook in her diary, as

**“...a perfect panorama of beauty”.**

Surely there is no better tribute to and description of our lovely countryside and scenic views? Nor a better qualified person to say so!

(NB This quote is part of the Evidence base of the SDNP Local Plan.)

- That the **policies and management objectives** of the **South Downs National Park Authority** have been grasped and followed through to grass-roots level here in Liphook.
  - **Likewise**, that our well researched Bramshott & Liphook **Parish Plan** is showing the results that were **intended by the Parish in 2015**.
  - Our Parish is **clean and un-polluted**; including our part of the **headwaters of the River Wey**.
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