

South Downs National Park Public Inquiry  
(Re-opened)

**Note  
on  
HDA Map 104**

*by*



May 2008

## **1 Note on Hankinson Duckett Associates Map 104 (Designations in Context)**

- 1.1 During the last week of evidence at the inquiry (May 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>) on Topic 6, Hankinson Duckett Associates (HDA) on behalf of West Sussex County Council (WSSCC), produced two large (A1) maps. The South Downs Campaign (SDC) has only examined one of these maps but having done so wishes to comment briefly on its accuracy.
- 1.2 This map titled ‘Designations in Context’ (HDA 104) purports to show all the national and international biodiversity designations for the South Downs area. At the inquiry, the Inspector asked the question as to whether this represented the latest and most up-to-date information and was informed that it did.
- 1.3 Unfortunately, and the SDC attributes no blame in this as the Magic Maps are far from clear, but it would appear that the HDA map does not show very clearly the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Only if you know they are there and are looking closely for them can you see the areas designated SAC. This is important as it affects five areas that WSSCC is suggesting should be excluded from the National Park. These are:
  - The Mens (Western Weald)
  - Ebernoe Common (Western Weald)
  - Woolmer Forest (Upper Rother Valley / ‘A3 Corridor’)
  - East Hampshire Hangers (Binsted Peninsula, including the Bentley Nib)
  - Shortheath Common (Binsted Peninsula)
- 1.4 In addition, David Carmen (Hampshire County Council) pointed out, when giving evidence at the inquiry, that it was very difficult, if not impossible, to see some of the designations of smaller sites because of the scale of the map produced by HDA.
- 1.5 For an up to date view of biodiversity designations in the Sussex Western Weald area, the SDC would refer the Inspector to its evidence submitted by Dr Tony Whitbread<sup>1</sup>. In the annexes to his evidence, he has reproduced maps showing the biodiversity designations and interest in the Western Weald which show the SAC designations at Ebernoe Common and The Mens<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.6 Unfortunately, a different dataset was used by Hampshire Biodiversity Records Centre for the maps of the Upper Rother Valley (‘A3 Corridor’) and the Binsted Peninsula and consequently these maps<sup>3</sup> only shows Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Sites of Important Nature Conservation. Nonetheless, it should be noted that the East Hampshire Hangers, Shortheath Common and Woolmer Forest SACs have been confirmed and can be viewed on Magic Map<sup>4</sup>.
- 1.7 Just so that there can be no misunderstanding, the SDC would also like to point out that Woolmer Forest and Longmoor are also designated a Special Protection Area (SPA) as part of the Wealden Heaths Phase II SPA. This is just visible on the map, but is not that clear.

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<sup>1</sup> #1147/14/1 & 2

<sup>2</sup> Map 3, Annex 1, #1147/14/2

<sup>3</sup> Maps in Annex 4, #1147/14/2

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.magic.gov.uk/website/magic/>