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SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

The new South Downs National Park will come into effect tomorrow (31 March), replacing the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

For parts of the Chichester District that fall within the designated National Park area, there will be some changes to planning regulations and policies. For example,

- in areas that were not part of the AONB but are now part of the National Park, mainly east of Petworth, there will be stricter limits on what can be built without planning permission;
- in areas that were part of the AONB but are now not within the National Park boundary, such as Camelsdale, there will be slightly relaxed planning regulations and policies; and,
- in areas that were previously in the AONB and are now in the National Park, there will effectively be no change in planning regulations or policies.

A map showing the areas added into the National Park boundary can be found on our website (www.chichester.gov.uk) or on the South Downs National Park website, www.southdowns.gov.uk

Advice and guidance on when planning permission is needed can be found on the planning section of our website, www.chichester.gov.uk/planning. Until the National Park Authority takes responsibility for the area, Chichester District Council will continue to be the Local Planning Authority. This will change in April 2011, when the National Park Authority will take over all planning powers within its area.

The role of the National Park includes:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area;
- to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities by the public, and
- a duty to encourage its economic and social well-being of communities living in the Park.

For further information on the National Park, please go to the South Downs National Park website (www.southdowns.gov.uk). Or contact the council's Planning Team on

01243 534734, email dcplanning@chichester.gov.uk or go to the website www.chichester.gov.uk/planning

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**For further information, please contact Sue Meaden,
Public Relations Officer, on 01243 534754.**