

LINDFIELD & LINDFIELD RURAL Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2031

Community Engagement
November 2014



Published by Lindfield & Lindfield Rural Parish Councils for Pre-Submission Consultation under Regulation 19 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

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Introduction

The community has been actively encouraged to participate in the production of the plan ever since Lindfield & Lindfield Rural Parish Councils agreed to jointly produce a Neighbourhood Plan in August 2012 and tasked an existing Joint Working Party (early in 2013 this became the Steering Group) of councillors from both councils to undertake it

In September 2012 the JWP distributed via "Lindfield Life", the village magazine a Questionnaire to all households in both parishes in order to seek the community's views on matters that the Neighbourhood Plan could consider. In support of the Questionnaire, Open Days were held in Lindfield and Scaynes Hill to elicit responses on the displays and the Questionnaire itself.

Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS) was commissioned to produce an analysis and report on the responses to the Questionnaire, and subsequently they were retained by the Steering Group as their Professional Planning Consultants for the project.

The Questionnaire produced 533 responses in addition to which we received further comments from 200 visitors to our Open Day in Lindfield and 113 in Scaynes Hill.

Four Focus Groups of community volunteers each assisted by a member of the Steering Group, worked from February 2013 on researching many local infrastructure and community issues until their reports were published in May 2013. As part of their research and to engage our community, the Focus Groups held Pop-In Sessions in Lindfield and Scaynes Hill.

Steering and Focus Group volunteers also had a Gazebo with information displays on the Plan's progress at the Lindfield's Arts Festival and Lindfield's Village Day.

A Planning Workshop was hosted by our consultants from Action in Rural Sussex in May 2013 and this was attended by about forty invited guests who had expressed an interest in our plan.

To support the public consultation on our draft Plan we held two more Pop-In Sessions in Lindfield and Scaynes Hill in November 2013.

During this whole process meetings of the Steering Group have been held in public in both Lindfield and Scaynes Hill alternately, subject to room availability. Our consultants and officers from the Planning & Housing Departments of Mid Sussex District Council have attended many meetings, made presentations and been available to answer questions from everyone present. Members of the public that have attended such meetings have been encouraged to participate in all the debates. The minutes of these meetings are available on the Neighbourhood Plan pages of Lindfield Parish Council's web site and there is a link from Lindfield Rural Parish Council's web site to those pages.

Further documentation is available at:-

www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Who worked on the Plan?

The Plan was created by a large group of committed individuals from both Parish Councils, our clerks and other members of our community.

Joint Working Party / Steering Group

Joint Working Party Chairman (until December 2012): Councillor Chris Snowling, Lindfield Parish Council

Steering Group Chairman (from January 2013): Councillor Alan Gomme, Lindfield Parish Council.

Deputy Chairman: Councillor Andy Spooner, Lindfield Rural Parish Council.

Councillor Will Blunden, Chairman of Lindfield Parish Council.

Councillor John Dumbleton, Chairman of Lindfield Rural Parish Council.

Councillor Simon Hodgson, Lindfield Parish Council.

Councillor Ray Jones, Lindfield Rural Parish Council.

Councillor Ron Plass, Lindfield Parish Council.

Clerks to the Steering Group: Iain McLean, Christine Irwin & Di Morgan.

Consultants

Faustina Bayo, Community Development Officer, Action in Rural Sussex.

Tom Warder, Housing and Community Engagement Team Leader, Action in Rural Sussex.

Neil Homer, Director, rCOH Ltd

The Questionnaire.

The Questionnaire of August/September 2012 had a print run of 6,000 copies, most of which were delivered by a local distribution service manually to every household and businesses in both parishes while some copies were also available in the Parish offices, Post Office, Shops, Pubs etc in Lindfield and Scaynes Hill. The Questionnaire was also available on Lindfield Parish Council's web site from which it could be printed and returned to Action in Rural Sussex.

Your Neighbourhood Plan
Lindfield Parish Council & Lindfield Rural Parish Council

The Neighbourhood Plan – a future vision for our parishes

Over the next few months, Lindfield Parish Council and Lindfield Rural Parish Council will be joining forces to produce a 'Neighbourhood Plan' – a new and important document that will help shape the future of our parishes.

You may have heard that the Government has made changes to the planning system and have concerns about how these may affect our community. Over the years development will be essential to accommodate the needs of residents and local businesses and we must ensure that the decisions made now to improve our lives do not impact adversely on future generations.

The new regulations introduce a new type of plan to incorporate the views of local people to be included in wider district plans. Neighbourhood Plans will provide residents of villages such as ours with more say over how their communities will develop and flourish in the future. In fact, they cover almost everything you can think of – from protecting our countryside and local wildlife to providing leisure facilities and other amenities, such as schools, housing, and health centres.

Drafting a Neighbourhood Plan is a community process. That's why Lindfield Parish Council and Lindfield Rural Parish Council have decided to work together to create a comprehensive Neighbourhood Plan that covers both parishes.

We need your help!

Included with this document is a brief questionnaire that covers a wide range of topics – the kind included in the Neighbourhood Plan. This questionnaire is the first of many opportunities for the residents of the parishes to make their views heard.

Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire – your views and insight are extremely important, and will help to shape the future of your area.

The closing date for this questionnaire is the 30th September 2012

Please return your questionnaire to either:

Lindfield Parish Council
6 Denmans Lane, Lindfield,
RH16 2LB
or
Lindfield Rural Parish Council
Scaynes Hill Millennium Centre,
Lewes Road, Scaynes Hill,
RH17 7PG.

You can return your questionnaire in person or by post. Additional copies are also available at the parish council offices or can be downloaded from our web sites lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk & lindfieldrural-pc.org.uk.

In support of the Questionnaire and to provide an opportunity for our community to discover more about Neighbourhood Plans, the Steering Group arranged Open Days in Lindfield & Scaynes Hill in September 2012.

We received 533 responses by the closing date of 30th September 2012 and these were analysed by Action in Rural Sussex who published their report in November 2012, a summary being subsequently published in "Lindfield Life". Subsequent drafting of the Plan was very much based on the results of the Questionnaire and the direct comments that were received at those Open Days and subsequent events.

Focus Groups

The purpose of each Focus Group was to assist the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the parishes of Lindfield and Lindfield Rural. Each focus group was to tackle a specific theme or issues and opportunities facing people within the two parishes



The groups' inaugural meetings were held in February 2012 and were hosted by Faustina Bayo from Action in Rural Sussex and Alan Gomme, Chairman of the Steering Group. Membership of groups was open to anyone in our community who responded to the Steering Groups' appeal for volunteers. At their first meetings all group members received some guidance on the role and responsibilities of such groups. Those initial meetings were kindly held in a room provided by the United Reformed Church in Lindfield and some groups continued to meet there while the others had their subsequent meetings in private houses.

Membership of groups did change during the four months they were operational due mainly to an application being published for the building of 230 houses by Wates on land within the Rural Parish near Lyoth Lane. Some group members considered their time and energy better spent on fighting that application rather than working on a plan for the long term future of the parishes.

These meetings were not open to the public although new members did join the groups during their period of operation.

The groups held Pop-In Sessions in Lindfield and Scaynes Hill during April in order to obtain feedback on some of their initial research and general comments on infrastructure issues within our parishes from the public.

Community & Infrastructure:

Membership: Val Upton (Leader), Laura Barlett, Steff Cooper, Richard Cox, Tracy Ely, Kathy Gilliver, Rod & Kalina Hodgkinson, and Sue Spooner.

Aim: To assess the current situation with regard to infrastructure and services and the impact of any ongoing development.

Method: Interviews arranged with representatives of persons/groups responsible for the running/maintenance of community infrastructure such as Schools, Medical Centres, Churches, Clubs, Shops, Community meeting places and questionnaires completed to record views and comments made.

Findings: In summary, infrastructure services such as schools, medical services, and social facilities are close to full capacity or oversubscribed and most are unable to expand. Existing planning applications, if approved, would result in services working beyond capacity.

Housing:

Membership: Stuart Kirbell (Leader), John Dumbleton, Brian Godman, Gil Kennedy, Kerry Jones, John Ely and Paul Thompson.

Aim: To understand the will of the community regarding future development, to develop an overall approach to housing that respects this view and that is based on solid evidence of local need and to use the Housing Needs Survey analysis as the basis for considering housing numbers and sites.

Method: Potential housing sites visited and an appeal for landowners / developers to submit details of any sites within the parishes that they wished to be considered within the plan. Although the group was aware of a number of developers who had interests in land locally, none of these responded to this request although agents for Wates did attend Steering Group meetings, as did an agent for Great Walstead School. Members having visited the school previously at an open evening to view possible plans for a small development.

With the assistance of Mid Sussex District Council, a presentation on Affordable Housing at a Steering Group meeting was held and a Housing Needs Survey was commissioned.

Findings: No previously published local sites were able to be recommended for the plan and the appeal to landowners and developers had been unsuccessful.

Landscape & Biodiversity:

Members: Ray Jones (Leader), John Jesson, Terry Oliver, Anita Marsland, Margaret Pilkington, Andy Powell and Richard Powell.

Aim: Investigate the landscape of our parishes and its biodiversity, then see if a recovery plan for nature that will allow wildlife to flourish, move around and become more widely present is possible. The aim is that the whole country, rural and urban, will become a single Living Landscape as individual schemes are linked up. The enhancement of the natural environment is a core national planning objective. If we can ensure that measures to achieve this are included in our own neighbourhood plan it will help to create a denser network of wildlife flourishing areas.

Method: Membership of this group included some well qualified local experts on the local landscape and local bio-diversity. The group visited a number of local farms and private wildlife habits as well as drawing on a number of relevant local studies by the University of Sussex and the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

Findings: The group published "Our Living Landscape", their recommendations to improve and enhance our parishes so that they become part of the national Living Landscape.

Transport & Traffic:

Members: Ron Plass (Leader), Chris Bosker, Ken Falls, Chris Grout, Geoff Heath, Keith Martin, Roy Marshall and Gavin Sams.

Aim: To ensure that development over time of the existing transport infrastructure and public transportation services always ensures priority to safe pedestrian, cycle and vehicular movement and does not generate alternative traffic problems or safety concerns. To ensure that new development is well connected to facilities in the Parishes by a range of transport modes, including walking, cycling, vehicular and public transport, and makes suitable provision towards a sustainable transport infrastructure. To ensure that new development is built to meet best practice T&T requirements and within those parameters meets the needs and aspirations of residents and traders.

Method: All aspects of T&T were identified and their relevance to the Parishes were considered to see which aspects had issues that needed evidence to be considered and policy to be determined. This process included reference to the public questionnaire responses and past documentation in village plans and statements as well as available information relevant to T&T decision making. Further issues raised at the pop-in sessions were reviewed to ensure these had been considered.

Findings: Increased investment is needed in the local traffic and transport network to decrease risks to the public, deal with traffic issues and reduce accidents and satisfy the needs of the community.

Events.

Open Days were held at Lindfield's King Edward Hall on Saturday 15th September and at Scaynes Hill's Millennium Centre on the following Saturday by the Steering Committee in support of the Questionnaire that they had published at that time for public feedback.



Visitors were able to view displays on the new Neighbourhood Plan process, current community and infrastructure issues and maps showing previously considered sites for development within the Parishes. In addition members of the Steering Group were in attendance along with other Parish Councillors for visitors to talk to them about local issues and three volunteers from the charity Planning Aid were there to explain the concept of Neighbourhood Planning to visitors.

Lindfield's Open Day had 200 visitors and Scaynes Hill's 113.

Pop-In Sessions were hosted by the Focus Groups on the 20th and 23rd of April at the same venues in Lindfield and Scaynes Hill.



At the Pop-In Sessions each Focus Group had designed a display around their own area of research and their objective was to get comment from visitors on the issues that they had so far identified and to provide an opportunity for visitors to raise other issues with them. They were supported again by members of the Steering Group and other Parish Councillors and by Faustina Bayo from Action in Rural Sussex.

Lindfield Pop-In Session had 77 visitors and Scaynes Hill 101.

Lindfield Arts Festival & Village Day were seen by the Steering Group as opportunities to keep the community informed of progress with the Plan and to enable visitors to talk to Focus and Steering Group members.



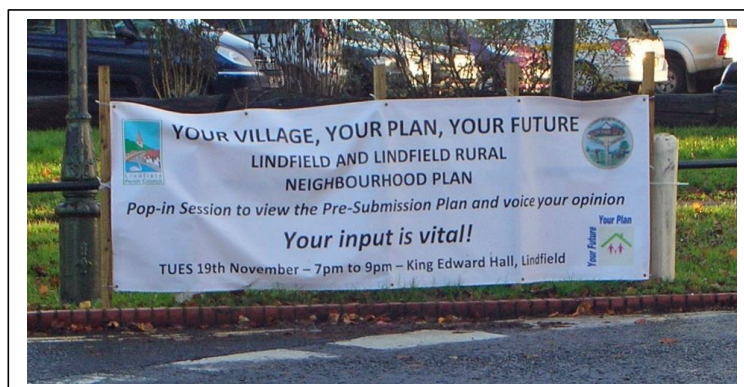
Lindfield Arts Festival, May 2013



Lindfield Village Day, June 2013

The display was a composite of the displays that had been seen at the recent Pop-In Sessions and these proved quite successful in getting visitors to the events to come over and talk to the members of the Steering and Focus Groups who manned the gazebo at those village events. The weather on the Saturday of the Arts festival was not very kind to us being cold, wet and windy. This meant that most visitors were keeping to the events that were happening in the King Edward Hall and the United Reformed Church, so we had few passers-by on their way to and from the main marquee. However a couple of weeks later we had a much better day for Lindfield's Village Day, with a large crowd on Common for the whole afternoon. Village Day always attracts visitors from outside of our parishes and we had the pleasure of talking to visitors about the Plan from neighbouring parishes and some ex-residents who had moved away but came back just for the day.

Consultation's Pop-In Sessions were held in Lindfield on Tuesday evening 19th November and the following Saturday morning in Scaynes Hill in support of the publication of the draft Plan during its 6 week public consultation



The format for these two Pop-In Sessions was based around the Plan's policies with displays presenting the text from these with supporting illustrations. Again members of the Steering Group were available for visitors to talk about the Plan and other local issues.



Not unexpectedly considering the number of events that we had held during the past year or so and with the planning application by Wates having been granted by Mid Sussex District Council, attendance at both these events was well down on the previous ones.

Among our visitors we did encounter some councillors from our neighbouring parishes who were interested in how we were producing our plan and to see if they could learn anything from our team.

Lindfield Pop-In session had 35 visitors and Scaynes Hill 77

Planning Workshop

Action in Rural Sussex hosted a Planning Workshop in The King Edward Hall on 28th May 2013 to which we had invited a range of stakeholders to join members of the Steering and Focus Groups.



Invitees included representatives from local interest groups and organisations, our County Council councillor, District Council's Chief Planning Officer, councillors from some of our neighbouring parishes and utility companies etc.

Community Responses.

Both the Questionnaire and the Consultation on the draft Plan provided opportunities for the community and others to respond to the Steering Group and to make suggestions to us.

There were 533 responses to the Questionnaire at the end of September 2012 and these were analysed by Action in Rural Sussex, their report being published in November 2012.

The Consultation on the draft Plan produced 63 responses as a result of its initial consultation period of 6 weeks during November & December 2013. These were studied by the members of the Steering Group and Action in Rural Sussex. The responses were published on Lindfield Parish Council's web site early in 2013.

However we were subsequently advised in August 2014 by officers at Mid Sussex District Council, that as we had a poor response from the Statutory Consultees on our draft Plan and because of a change in local circumstances in Mid Sussex generally arising from the new debate about a second runway at Gatwick Airport, a re-circularisation of the Statutory Consultees was recommended. This additional consultation exercise to all the Statutory Consultees and our neighbouring parishes and town councils commenced during September for a period of 6 weeks ending on the 31st October 2014.

As a result of this additional consultation a further 18 responses were received by the closing date and these were then reviewed by the Steering Group.

Publicity.

The Steering Group has made use throughout the Plan's progress of our local village magazine and newspaper. We are very grateful to Lindfield Life and the Mid Sussex Times for assisting us and these are a few examples of their coverage.

Lindfield Life, August 2013

Lindfield Parish Council Office is open on Tuesdays 1pm to 4pm, Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 1pm - when members of the public are welcome to come along to look at planning applications for Lindfield, buy concessionary record vouchers or simply seek advice on issues of concern. However, if you do need to speak with someone outside our normal opening hours, then please contact our clerk who will be happy to make alternative arrangements with you.

Parish Clerk: Mrs. Christine Train Deputy Parish Clerk: Iain McLeish Responsible Financial Officer: Mrs. Sue Kollin

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
(Chairman: Councillor Will Bundred)

We considered sensitive applications in respect of the Backhorns Nursing Home site, the Witch Public House garden appeal and the enlargement of Lindfield Primary School.

The major application for new housing was the Wates application for development in Groveley Lane and for this the Council retained the services of Richard Walker, a planning consultant, to advise ourselves and Lindfield Rural Parish Council on how we should respond to the application, which was later approved by Mid Sussex District Council in May of this year.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Steering Group consists of Councillors from both Lindfield parish councils and has been progressing the development of our own neighbourhood plan as quickly as possible during the year. In September a questionnaire was distributed to every household in the two parishes to gather information from our residents and in support of this we held exhibitions in the King Edward Hall in Lindfield and the Millennium Centre in Scaynes Hill. We had a very good return rate for the questionnaires and we commissioned Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS) to analyse the responses.

We subsequently retained the services of AIRS to support the further development of our neighbourhood plan to the draft plan stage. We were very fortunate that more than 30 local residents responded to our appeals for volunteers for our four Focus Groups. These groups had the challenge of researching a wide range of current and possible future issues within our area and to gather evidence to support our eventual draft plan. They started their tasks in February and that phase of the project has now been completed.

For more information about the progress of our plan, please visit our website: www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lindfield Life, November 2013

Your Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-Submission Plan

Cllr Alan Gomme, Chairman of Lindfield & Lindfield Rural Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

I'm happy to report that excellent progress is being made by the Steering Group and our consultants from Action in Rural Sussex and IC0H. That progress includes the Pre-Submission Plan, essentially a draft, being agreed by both Lindfield & Lindfield Rural Parish Councils and the publication of it by Mid Sussex District Council.

The Pre-Submission Plan contains a number of policies that have been drafted following considerable interaction and consultation with residents of our parishes over the last 18 months. These policies will apply for the plan period up to 2031 and include areas where Mid Sussex District Council and the Parish Councils will encourage some small developments and changes, and other areas where development will be resisted. However, given the recent history of about 250 new houses having been granted planning permission in our parishes since April 2012, there is no requirement within the plan to provide for any large housing developments.

Starting in late October or early November, there will be a consultation period of six weeks, during which time you are able to review the plan and comment on it should you wish to do so. It will be available on the Lindfield Parish Council's website and there will be the appropriate link to that from Lindfield Rural Parish Council's website. If you would prefer to read a printed version, these will be available to study at both the council's offices and the Haywards Heath Library during normal opening hours.

During November we will be holding further 'Pop-in Sessions' in the King Edward Hall's Jubilee Room on Tuesday evening 19th November from 7pm to 9pm and on Saturday morning 23rd November at Scaynes Hill Millennium Village Centre from 10am until midday. Please watch out for banners and posters advertising these events. We invite you to send your comments and opinions to the clerks of either Lindfield Parish Council (clerk@lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk) or Lindfield Rural Parish Council (clerk@lindfieldruralparishcouncil.gov.uk).

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Lindfield Parish Council, Annual Report.

Report on Pre-Submission Plan.

Mid Sussex Times 14th November 2013

50 MID SUSSEX

Monday 14/11/2013

District News

Scaynes Hill Bric a Brac sale on Saturday 16 November has been cancelled due to the usual apathy of the village!

Draft Neighbourhood Plan The Pre-submission Plan (draft of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan) has now been produced for the Lindfield and Lindfield Rural Parishes. Both Parish Councils have agreed the contents and it is now time for the community to have their say. The 6 week public consultation starts on 1st November, when the report will be available on the Lindfield Parish Council website at <http://www.lindfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk>. Additionally, a copy of the plan will also be available at Haywards Heath Library and the Planning office at Mid Sussex District Council. Details of how/where to comment on the content of the plan are contained within it. Please ensure that any such comments are received at the relevant Parish office by 13 December 2013. It is also planned to hold two 'Pop-in' sessions where the proposals can be seen and discussed with Parish Council representatives. There will be an opportunity to provide your comments. These sessions will be held on:

Tuesday 19 November 2013 7pm-9pm in the King Edward Hall, Lindfield and **Saturday 23 November 2013 10am-12pm** in the Millennium Centre, Scaynes Hill.

02 Signal Well so far I have been pushed from one unhelpful customer services operator to another. Each time I have been given a different excuse as to why we have an intermittent signal. The best one was 'it's

Please pop in to see Lindfield plan

There will be a 'pop-in' session to discover what the Lindfield Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan contains on Tuesday (November 19) from 7pm to 9pm at the King Edward Hall in Lindfield. People will be able to discuss the plan with councillors and comment on it at.

If they cannot make Tuesday evening then there is another opportunity on Saturday (November 23) from 10am to 12 noon at the Millennium Centre in Scaynes Hill.

MIDDY 14/11/2013

District News section, publication of Pre-Submission Plan

Details of "Pop-In Session".

The Steering Group has also made use of Flyers and Posters in order to bring to the attention of our community news and events on the Plan, here are a few examples:-

Posters.



Focus Group Volunteer Appeal, January 2013

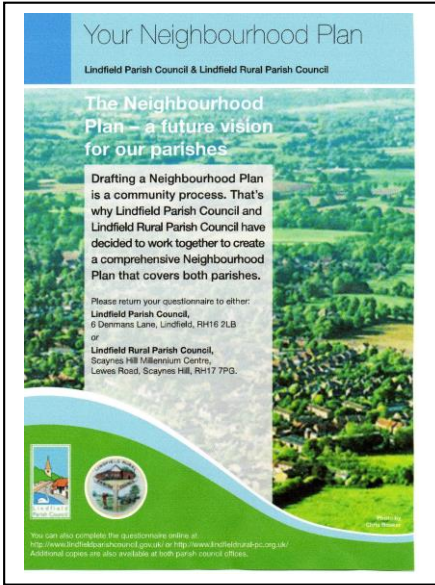
Pop-in Sessions, November 2013



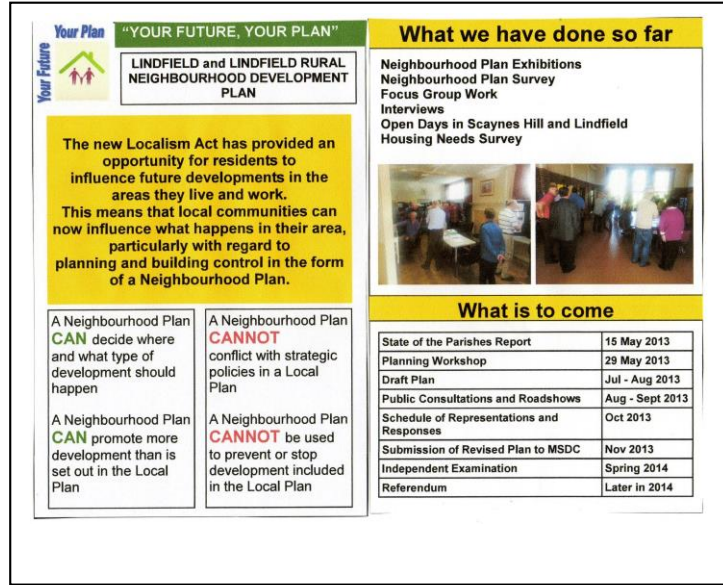
Consultation November-December 2013

Questionnaire September 2012

Flyers



Questionnaire, September 2012



Status update, April 2013

Photographers.

Local photographers have been kind enough to allow the Steering Group to use their photographs within the various Plan documents and display them at our public events during the production of this Plan and we would like to acknowledge their contribution.

Photographers: Chris Bosker, Alison Eggert-Hobbs, Alan Gomme, Louise Hawes, Margaret Hersey, John Jesson, Graeme de Lande Long, Henderson McEwan, Di Morgan, John Pilkington, Mike Scholes and Andy Spooner.

Version: 4.0 November 2014