SEVEN SPECIAL LANDSCAPES

The underlying geology influences land form, land use and wildlife, creating places of distinctive character and identity.

Iconic chalk cliffs, rolling downs, secluded woods, wild heaths and postcard-perfect villages – a classic English landscape, just waiting to be discovered.
The Hampshire Downs

Large scale, open farmland dotted with remnants of ancient woodland. Vast arable fields dissected by lush valleys and crystal clear waters of the rivers Itchen and Meon.

Stroll through orchid-filled meadows, teeming with butterflies.

Gaze at the star-filled night skies, free from light pollution.

Discover Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hillforts.
The Hampshire Hangers

Dark, ancient ‘hanger’ woodland clings to the steep escarpment. Shady, sunken lanes emerge onto open commons, rich in wildlife and unexpected views.

Explore it all along the 21 mile ‘Hangers Way’ trail. Visit medieval villages built of local Malmstone. Listen to the undisturbed sounds.
The Wealden Greensand

Wooded hills and open heaths linked by sandy, sunken lanes. Rural and remote, wild and beautiful, this is a precious haven for rare wildlife.

Reach for the top at Black Down, the highest point in the National Park.

Enjoy the riot of summer colour and scents of the heath.

Stay until dusk for a glimpse of rare nightjars and woodlarks.
The Rother Valley

A meandering corridor of wet meadows and woods flanked by greensand hills and chalk grassland. Home to Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlers, each generation leaving their mark on this varied landscape.

A wildlife watcher’s paradise where rare flowers, butterflies and birds abound.

Search for miniature forests of mosses and lichens at Lavington Common.

Capture picture postcard views of mellow sandstone cottages and estate villages.
The Central Wooded Downs

Gentle chalk downs shrouded in woodland. Open hill tops offer widescreen views over vast fields, secret coombes, winding river valleys and medieval villages. The inspiration for William Blake's, 'England's green and pleasant land'.

Visit the grand country estates of Goodwood House, Uppark and Arundel Castle.

Feel on top of the world at the summit of The Trundle or Harting Down.

Enjoy the bounty of butterflies and birds on the chalk grassland and riverside wetlands.

South Harting
The Chalk Escarpment and Footslopes

The iconic South Downs landscape. Linear and imposing with panoramic views across the Weald. Peaceful villages nestle in the foothills amongst a patchwork of hedge lined fields and historic lanes.

Stride out along the South Downs Way, following the ridge with unrivalled views.

Explore the mysterious Long Man of Wilmington carved into the chalky hillside.

Watch the colourful paragliders launch from Devil’s Dyke on the rising air.
The Eastern Downs and Chalk Valleys

Open, rolling, sheep-grazed hills envelop and hide remote river valleys. Big skies offer sweeping views across generous arable fields and out to sea beyond the stark white cliffs of the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head.

Feel a sense of freedom as the views stretch out

Meander alongside the River Cuckmere to meet the sea.

Catch your breath amidst flower filled grassland buzzing with life.