

SP.49

Heritage Coast Management Plan

2018 to 2025



	Introduction from the Chair	2
1	Vision and Objectives	4
2	Introduction	8
3	The Significance of the Heritage Coast	16
4	The Natural Profile of the Coast	22
5	Historical and Cultural Profile of the Coast	32
6	Economic Pressures and Impacts	36
7	Development Pressures and Impacts	41
8	Recreational Pressures and Impacts	44
9	Pollution Pressures and Impacts	51
10	Participation / Social involvement	56
11	Research and Evidence	58
■	Appendices	
A	Action Plan	61
B	Success Measures	70
C	Partnership Management	74
D	Habitat Regulations Assessment	75
E	References	76
F	Glossary	81

Introduction from the Chair

Chair Councillor Paula Hunt,

Ryhope Community Association



As Chair of the Heritage Coast Partnership I am delighted to finally present the new Heritage Coast Management Plan.

This plan builds on the initial 15 years of work through the Partnership and prior to that by "Turning the Tide". This Heritage Coast has risen from difficult beginnings. It is now hard to believe what it once was; where once there was dereliction and darkness there now extends amazing grasslands, joined up by a through route; the England Coast Path. Winning the first ever UK Landscape Award in 2010 and then being recognised by the Council of Europe were proud moments, but also significant benchmarks about how our coast's improvement is seen across the world. We are seen as a beacon of what can be achieved across the world.

Now, we have a responsibility to continue its recovery, protect this enormous investment and actively ensure that it has reached its potential.

The past ten years has seen considerable effort to engage the public and agencies in what we do and how we do it. This has led to significant buy-in to individual projects and a broader appreciation, understanding and value of the coast by our local communities and visitors alike.

We have seen and are seeing dramatic increases in the number of visitors to our coast and we must now learn how to benefit from this attention, but importantly that we do not lose what we have struggled to regain. There are big challenges ahead as we learn how to live with, love and look after this amazing coast.

There is increasing concern about coastal and marine heritage not just nationally but throughout the world, it is now paramount that we look at how we manage these critical and important resources for our future. We now know that people and protected areas must work and live together and this is our greatest challenge.

This plan develops further partnership working and coordination of an integrated approach to coastal management allowing the flexibility for individual communities and agencies to contribute in their own particular way.

The delivery of this plan offers us an opportunity to coordinate our activities and resources in a purposeful way to significantly enhance the quality of life, environment and well being of our coast and its communities. Above all it is about partnerships, between the

managing agencies and stakeholders, between coastal communities and between all of us who use and enjoy the wildness and beauty of the coast and sea.

It is really exciting to be part of these next steps towards what our coast will be. I am proud to have been part of the process and look forward to passing a healthy coast onto the next generation.

Cllr Paula Hunt

Chair of Heritage Coast Partnership

1 Vision and Objectives

A Vision for the Heritage Coast

"Integrated management of the Heritage Coast managed by and for local communities, protecting the natural and cultural integrity of the area whilst developing and meeting the area's social and economic needs".

1.1 This plan gives a picture of where we are now. It identifies the main concerns by covering the natural resources, the cultural and historic elements and the social and economic conditions in coastal communities. But it is where we want to be seven years time that is the real message of the plan.

1.2 Our natural assets provide valuable blue and green infrastructure, how we can ensure that we steward their health and improve their robustness and connectivity for future generations is included in the plan.

1.3 We want the coast to be an area that stands alone for its beauty and its naturalness, an inspiring and exciting place to visit and a dynamic place to live.

1.4 We are making progress with how we manage our coast and how we involve our communities in decision making. We will strive to improve our offer of how to become involved.

1.5 We now have a developing local character and a distinctive identity for the coast. Rooting this identity and extending the benefit to the wider hinterland is a key aspect of this plan.

1.6 We look forward to being at the forefront of research with our world class regional universities and at the forefront of coastal management practice as we continue to strive to ensure the Heritage Coast is valued locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

4 Heritage Coast Management Plan

Objectives

The Partnership have adopted the following key objectives to guide management of the Heritage Coast;

1. To conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coast, including the terrestrial, littoral and marine flora and fauna, geological interest, and its heritage features of architectural, historical and archaeological interest.
2. To facilitate and enhance the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the public by improving and extending opportunities for recreational, educational and tourist activities, including sport and art, that draw on, and are consistent with the conservation of its natural beauty and the protection of its heritage features.
3. To maintain, and improve the environmental health of inshore waters affecting the Heritage Coast and its beaches through appropriate works and management.
4. To take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and the economic and social needs of the small communities on the coast, by promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development, which in themselves conserve and enhance natural beauty and heritage features.

5. To promote community participation in the stewardship of the coast, optimising the potential of social and economic regeneration initiatives that are consistent with the conservation of the natural beauty and the protection of the heritage features of the Heritage Coast.

6. To integrate fully with adjoining areas and within the region to actively promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

1.7 All work carried out by the Heritage Coast Partnership must work towards one or more of these objectives.

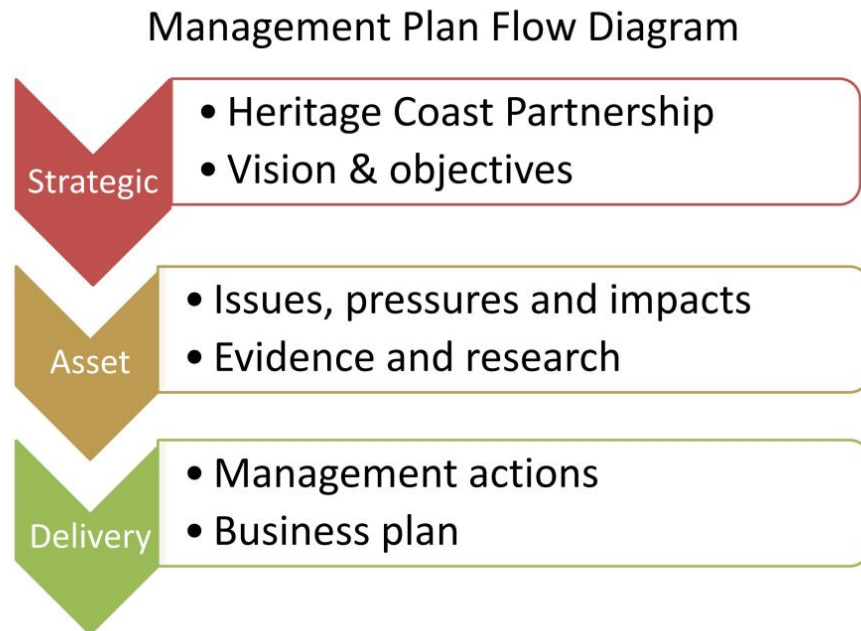
Structure of the Management Plan

1.8 The aims of the Heritage Coast Management Plan are;

- to review current status and knowledge of the Heritage Coast Management Plan area
- to identify main issues, threats and opportunities
- to adopt an appropriate strategy for the period to 2025
- to provide a consistent framework for action
- to identify actions that will benefit the areas natural resources and contribute to local economic and cultural activity
- provide performance indicators and a review process
- to develop a timeframe for actions

1.9 To provide context, this plan considers the coastal area in terms of its physical, geological, cultural and historic environment assets, explores the issues and opportunities and establishes a delivery plan through management actions.

Management Plan Flow Diagram



Plan purpose

1.10 The overall purpose of this plan is to guide the delivery of the vision and the objectives for the next seven years, encouraging the continuation of the partnership through a focused, integrated approach. The plan contains a review of the current status of the area and identifies the main management issues and threats.

1.11 To address these appropriate strategies and management actions are adopted for the period 2018-2025. This will ensure the continued protection of an area of special beauty and high nature conservation value.

What do we want to achieve for the coast?

1.12 We want the coast to be an area that stands alone for its beauty and its naturalness, is an inspiring and exciting place to visit and a dynamic place to live. Developing the local character and distinctiveness of the management area is paramount to its role in the region's development. But it is in detailing where we want to be in seven years time and how that progression is to happen, who will implement these tasks and what will be measured and reported to all those involved; that is the true message of the plan.

Who is the plan for?

1.13 This document presents a structured approach to management. It is aimed primarily at local authorities, statutory agencies and public bodies but also for all those organisations with an interest in the coast.

1.14 It is a prime objective of the Heritage Coast Partnership that local communities are engaged in the management process.

1.15 One role of this Management Plan is to seek to influence other plans and strategies, to adopt strong complementary policies, and comprehensive and consistent standards of management and protection for the Heritage Coast.

1.16 To provide clear direction for interventions and the delivery of improvements.

Implementation

1.17 This plan will be implemented through the Action Plan. The plan will be subject to an annual review to assess targets and milestones. Prior to the end of the period it is recommended that a full strategic review is carried out and the management plan re-directed and prioritised for a further ten year period.

1.18 Reviews should also take place in the event of issues arising from major change, such as revisions to international or national legislation. An Annual Business Plan for the partnership will be drawn up that reflects all partner contributions and includes a 5 year view forward.

1.19 Physical implementation of projects will occur through the partners own organisations procedures and processes. With joint works a lead partner will be appointed. Implementation reporting is included in the quarterly Partnership meeting.

Monitoring

1.20 An annual monitoring report will be presented to the Heritage Coast Partnership, using the indicators proposed in Appendix B.

Ryhope Dene



2 Introduction

2.1 The Heritage Coast has transformed from its dark days to become an internationally recognised natural asset, valued for its landscape and nature conservation interest rather than for mineral exploitation.

2.2 Continuing to develop the area's own local distinctive character and identity is a critical part of this ongoing transformation process.

2.3 Our coasts hold an important and deeply special place in our cultural identity.

Easington Colliery 1992



Easington Colliery 2010



Heritage Coast Status in the United Kingdom

2.4 Heritage Coasts are strips of coastline, defined by Natural England in agreement with the relevant local authority, which represent the most special, undeveloped coastlines in the country.

2.5 Heritage Coasts were established to:

- conserve, protect and enhance;
 - the natural beauty of the coastline
 - their terrestrial, coastal and marine flora and fauna
 - their heritage features
 - encourage and help the public to enjoy, understand and appreciate these areas
- maintain and improve the health of inshore waters affecting heritage coasts and their beaches through appropriate environmental management measures
- take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing and the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts

2.6 Heritage Coasts are protected through development control within the planning system. Work to achieve the aims of Heritage Coasts is undertaken by the relevant local authorities in consultation with local landowners and other relevant agencies such as Natural England.

2.7 Heritage Coast definition is non-statutory. The area does not receive any financial support from central government bodies or share the same level of legal recognition as other Protected Landscapes. Improving the recognised status of Heritage Coasts is critical in securing their future.

History

2.8 The Heritage Coast is an attractive coastal landscape of magnesian limestone grasslands, cliffs, pebble and sandy beaches stretching between the two main conurbations of Tyne and Wear and Teesside.

2.9 Until the late 1990s this was one of the most heavily polluted coastlines in Britain, the legacy of over a hundred years of dumping colliery waste from its six coal mines along the beaches, and of quarrying and subsequent landfill throughout the 20th Century. Wildlife, habitats and the landscape suffered heavily, discouraging visitors and leaving the local communities with little sense of pride. Parts of the coast became derelict and suffered from vandalism and misuse, excluded from mainstream use and appreciation. The subsequent closure of the area's coal mines in the early 1990s led to widespread social and economic deprivation .

Turning the Tide and the establishment of the Heritage Coast Partnership

2.10 A partnership of fourteen organisations came together between 1997-2002 to regenerate the coast of County Durham. The Turning The Tide (TTT) Partnership successfully regenerated and cleaned up the coastal strip through a £10 million programme of environmental improvements. Following this the Heritage Coast Partnership has worked for over ten years to provide integrated management and continuing investment in gateway sites, habitat and access amelioration, interpretation, awareness raising and engagement. It is recognised across the world as an exemplar of coastal regeneration.

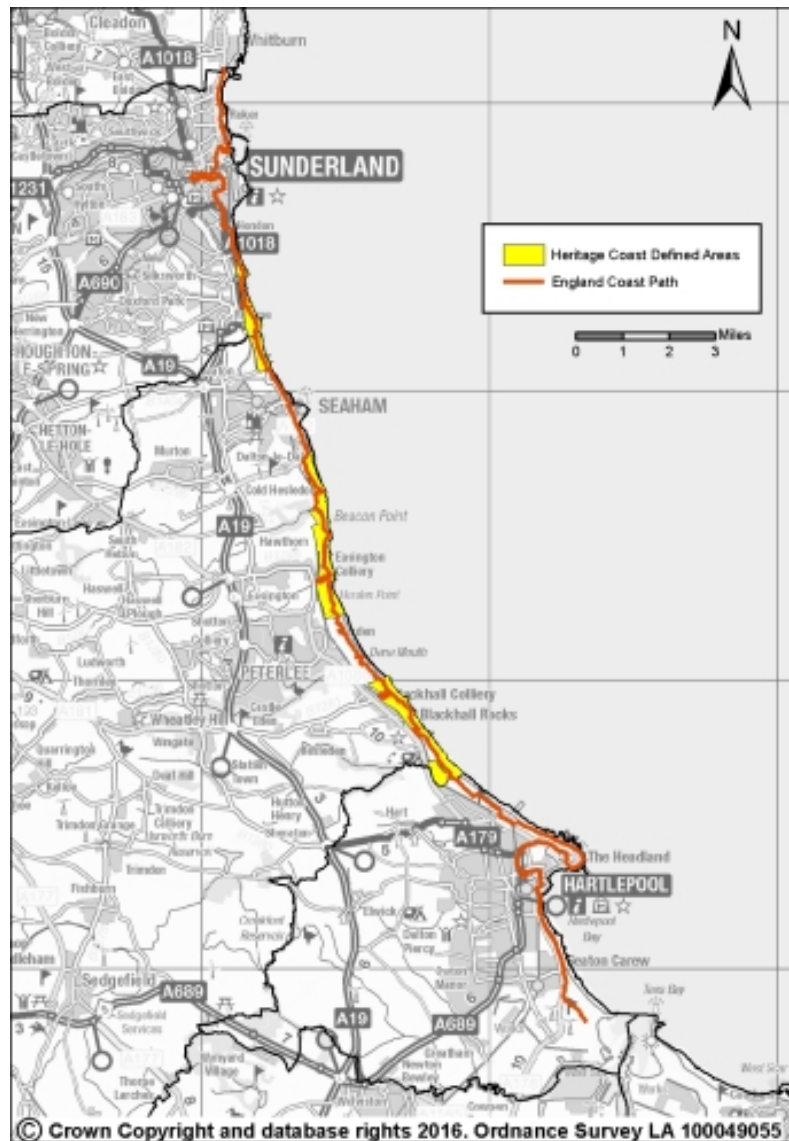
2.11 In recognition of the considerable improvements in the quality of the coastal landscape and the fine restored magnesian limestone grasslands, denes, cliffs and stacks, the area was defined as a Heritage Coast in March 2001.

2.12 The defined Heritage Coast consists of three sections of undeveloped coastline, totalling some 9 miles, within the jurisdictions of the City of Sunderland and County Durham, interrupted by the developed areas of the harbour town of Seaham and the area around Castle Eden Dene mouth. The latter area was not included within the formal designation as the quality of this beach had not at that time reached the required standard.

General Location



Heritage Coast Defined Area showing England Coast Path



Looking forward

2.13 Turning the Tide and the first Heritage Coast programme have been enormously successful; recognised with national and international awards and plaudits. The Heritage Coast is now recognised for its rich and varied heritage, wildlife and landscape. It is becoming a wonderful place to visit and an enjoyable place to live and work.

2.14 The challenge now is to protect this wonderful asset, continue its enhancement but also to extend its benefit inland through appropriate infrastructure, activity, engagement and promotion.

2.15 The Heritage Coast is proving able to compete with other areas of the north-east coastline in attracting visitors by increasing tourism interest and potential. However, although visitor numbers are increasing, there has not yet been a corresponding increase in visitor spend.

2.16 The section of the coastline around Castle Eden Denemouth has improved since the original designation was made. Natural wave action has gradually eroded the remaining colliery waste and with recent access and habitat improvements this stretch is now ready to be considered for Heritage Coast status.

2.17 The southern boundary of the Heritage Coast appears somewhat arbitrarily drawn, recognising a political boundary rather than a natural, scenic one. It is timely to review this boundary in order to extend the Heritage Coast status to include the rest of the dune

and beach system of Hart and North Sands. Evidence to support the business case for extension of the defined Heritage Coast is to be gathered.

2.18 Many Heritage Coasts are part of a larger Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or National Park (NP). This Heritage Coast is unusual in this respect as it is one of the few areas that is not covered by AONB or NP status. Improving the status of Heritage Coasts is crucial for determining their future.

Managing the Heritage Coast

2.19 Each of the local authorities involved in the Heritage Coast, City of Sunderland Council and Durham County Council, have defined areas within their jurisdiction and have formally committed to protecting and enhancing the defined areas, focusing management attention on the issues faced at the coast. Each authority has also committed to incorporating the protection of the Heritage Coast into their statutory plans. Hartlepool Borough Council do not currently have any defined areas of Heritage Coast, but support the work of the partnership.

2.20 Membership of the Partnership is detailed in the table below.

	Organisation represented	Number of Seats
Bodies with a statutory responsibility for the management of the Heritage Coast	Durham County Council	1
	City of Sunderland Council	1
	Hartlepool Borough Council	1
	Seaham Town Council	1
Key Statutory agency bodies with a national perspective on the management of the Heritage Coast	Natural England	1
	Environment Agency	1
Bodies with a local or community perspective on the management of the Heritage Coast	Blackhalls	1
	Horden Regeneration Partnership	1

	Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership	1
	Ryhope Community Association	1
	Two seats on the Partnership, elected by the Heritage Coast Forum, from community or business interests within the Heritage Coast	(2)
Bodies representing key landowners and managers on the Heritage Coast	National Trust	1
	Durham Wildlife Trust	1
	Groundwork East Durham	1
	Northumbrian Water Group	1
Total number of seats		14 (16)

2.21 The Partnership is tasked with strengthening the focus and building on the level of involvement of local communities in future decision-making. In addition, to support community involvement a successful Forum has been held annually to provide an opportunity for a wider range of local and community interests to input in to the management of the area.

2.22 The management structure of the Heritage Coast Partnership has operated successfully from its inception. A review of the governance structure was carried out in 2016 that updated the original Terms of Reference and proposed a formal thematic group structure to encourage greater involvement by partners in delivery⁹⁰.

2.23 In addition time-limited, small, specialist working groups may be formed as and when necessary to assist with, or provide guidance on, specific projects and initiatives. These would provide the opportunity for a wide range of individuals and interest groups to become actively involved in the management of the coast.

2.24 The involvement of local communities and interest groups is paramount to the success of the Management Plan.

Heritage Coast Management Team

2.25 A core management team consisting of a Heritage Coast Officer and an Office Manager serve the Heritage Coast Partnership and are currently housed in County Hall, Durham, by the host authority. They are supported by Project Officers as resources allow.

2.26 The Management Team is responsible for protecting and enhancing the Heritage Coast through the development and delivery of the management plan, preparing a Business Plan for the partnership for the period and developing, resourcing and implementing appropriate projects.

2.27 It is stressed that the management of the Heritage Coast is inclusive, adaptive and flexible; it follows that this plan therefore, must be a dynamic document. It can only represent the position at the time of writing. The current physical status, issues and proposed strategies and actions that follow arise from the current position. With time there will be physical changes, external factors will bring new or alter existing issues and priorities. We therefore welcome your comments across the whole life of this plan; feel free to contact the Management Team at any time with your thoughts or opinions, the contact details are at the back of the plan.

2.28 We have seen how the involvement of local communities is paramount to the success of management on the coast. The coming challenge is how we come to use the coast, whilst protecting its special qualities; delivering the vision of the Partnership.

Regulatory background

National Planning Policy Framework

2.29 Heritage coasts are protected through development control within the terrestrial planning system. Paragraph 114 of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) states that local authorities should: *'maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined*

as heritage coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.' Our local authorities Local Plans are a statutory mechanism for delivery of this protection.

Marine Spatial Planning

2.30 The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 established a Marine Management Organisation, whose main role is to operate as the competent marine planning authority on behalf of UK Government.

In accordance with the Act, in 2011 it produced a Marine Policy Statement (MPS) – a framework for establishing national and sub-national Marine Plans. These are being produced by the Secretary of State for the English inshore and offshore regions. In the meantime, the Act requires all public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area to do so in accordance with the MPS unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

2.31 EU Directive 2014/89/EU for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) requires Member States to establish maritime spatial plans. In doing so, they must “have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions.”

2.32 Member States transposed the Directive into their national legislation in 2016. National Maritime Spatial Plans must be drawn up by 2021.

Coastal Access

2.33 Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 gives the Secretary of State and Natural England a duty to secure a long distance walking trail around the coast of England and to provide public access to a wider margin of coastal land for open air recreation. This is the England Coast Path

European Protected Sites

2.34 Significant sections of the Heritage Coast are defined either as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) - sites recognised as being of European significance as bird habitats – or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)– sites recognised as being of European significance for other types of habitat. Collectively, these are known as Natura 2000 sites. The SPA sites are also designated as RAMSAR sites under the RAMSAR convention.

2.35 The EC Habitats Directive 1992 (92/43/EEC) - transposed into UK law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012 – requires land use plans which may have a significant adverse effect on a Natura 2000 site to be subject to an “Appropriate Assessment” of their likely impacts. Such development should generally be refused where it cannot be ascertained, following Appropriate Assessment, that there would be no adverse effects on the site’s integrity.

2.36 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) - As part of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) 2012 all English competent authorities must undertake a formal assessment of the implications of any new plans or projects which are capable of affecting the designated interest features of European

Sites before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise such a plan or project. The Heritage Coast Management Plan is such a plan and an HRA is provided as Appendix E.

England Coast Path, Blackhall



3 The Significance of the Heritage Coast

3.1 The Heritage Coast has come from difficult origins. The heavy industrialisation of the area not only drastically altered the landscape but the social and cultural conditions of local communities. Its subsequent regeneration is perhaps its greatest achievement.

3.2 In many ways the dominance of the mining industry and the coastal rail line protected the area from coastal development leaving behind the wide open vistas of undeveloped coastline paving the way for the rich magnesian limestone habitat we have today.

3.3 Getting to the coast can still feel restrictive, but once through and onto the coast, the dramatic cliff tops and wide vistas rival anywhere else in the country.

3.4 The special features of the coast are summarised in the following table. Local communities also provide their own particular cultural heritage to the coast. Firmly rooted in the mining industry, coastal villages retain their own identity and particular local history and culture that has rarely been tapped.

The Highlights of the Heritage Coast

These can be summarised as:

- Wonderful beaches at Hendon, Ryhope, Seaham, Easington, Horden and Crimdon
- Seaham Marina and Harbour
- A magical limestone gorge and viaduct at Hawthorn Dene
- Ancient woodland at Castle Eden Dene
- Caves and beaches at Blackhall
- Clifftop pathways through astounding, valuable grassland along all of the the Heritage Coast
- Little terns at Crimdon
- Shoreline echoes with memories of our industrial past

Summary of special features of the Heritage Coast

Landscape & Seascape	<p>Magnesian limestone grasslands Woodlands and coastal gills Sand dunes Strandlines</p> <p>Rocky shores</p> <p>Kelp beds Wrecks and reefs</p>
Sensory	<p>Wild space Dramatic cliff and seascape Wide open views up and down the coast Present and past evidence of industry-rail tracks, mine sites and structures Sense of naturalness in a largely urban backdrop Intimacy of denes and gills Dynamic changing coastline and its visible recovery</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Grasslands Dunes Intertidal Subtidal Denes and gills Shoreline habitats Birds Invertebrates Plantlife</p>

Geological	Magnesian Limestone Zechstein Sea fossilised barrier reef Cave and stack systems
Archaeology	From Mesolithic to present Maritime archaeology Important Early Christian sites
Historic Landscapes	Mesolithic Bronze Age Roman Industrial (mining, quarrying, limestone) Developed landscapes
Built Environment	Mining villages Medieval Lighthouse and harbour Lime kilns
History and cultural identity	Early Christianity Angling Coastal trade and industry
Environmental	Beach water quality Air quality
Recreation and tourism	Rights of Way Bridleways Coastal footpath Beach access from high cliffs Tranquillity

3.5 The area's management should take into account the pertinent issues and opportunities, which are summarised below :

Issues

Biodiversity

3.6 Past damage and deterioration of habitats: much of the magnesian Limestone grassland has been destroyed or damaged by urbanisation, industry and modern farming techniques. Despite the improvements made to the beaches since the demise of the mining industry, evidence of pollution still remains.

3.7 Recreational impacts upon wildlife sites: the sand dunes at Crimdon are vulnerable to erosion by pedestrian and illegal vehicle activity; our waders and grassland birds are affected by disturbance by people and uncontrolled dogs; the grassland by arson and forced access. The impact of recreational pressure is closely intertwined with other factors, including coastal erosion, the natural dynamic state of coastal habitats. Sand dunes and the terrestrial habitats along our coast are naturally nutrient poor and any increase in nutrients due to dog fouling is undesirable. Unrestricted trampling is also an issue as this can affect composition as well as replacement with bare ground; increasing erosion.

3.8 Climate change is impacting on our habitats and species and will disrupt the current composition and movement of species.

Economic and social issues

3.9 The coastal settlements include some of the most socially and economically deprived places in the country. The disappearance of the mining industry, coupled with relatively poor public transport links to other settlements, led to high levels of unemployment which

subsequent regeneration activities have not been able to fully address. Social problems, including anti-social behaviour and environmental crime, correlate with this.

Development pressures

3.10 Opportunities for residential and industrial development along the coast, however welcome, could have environmental consequences, including the visual impact of wind turbines and other industrial installations, and the recreational impact of more residents upon the beaches. A revival of quarrying at Hawthorn could have significant environmental impacts.

Pollution

3.11 Like many semi-urban areas, the Heritage Coast is affected by pollutants from various sources. Storm water overflows from sewage outfalls and urban and rural diffuse pollutants affect rivers and the sea and could reach the important magnesian limestone aquifer, which supplies drinking water to a broad area. Traffic on the A19 and roads in urban areas affect air quality; and littering and dog-fouling affect the appearance and ecosystems of the coast.

Institutional constraints

3.12 There is a low level of knowledge regarding the natural environment and especially its recovery.

3.13 Heritage Coasts do not enjoy the statutory support afforded to other Protected Landscapes, the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This reduced legal status potentially restricts the management areas integrity and management team

resource levels. Heritage Coasts do not enjoy financial support from central government and this further compromises longer term management planning.

Opportunities

Developing pride in our history

3.14 The Heritage Coast has been known for its industrial history. The regional and national prejudice derived from the dramatic images of coal mining, desolate landscapes, lasting social problems and its use in films such as Get Carter and Billy Elliot is disappearing. Increasing numbers of visitors are coming to enjoy the coast and share their experiences. This is helping to shape a positive identity of the area locally, regionally and nationally. Our industrial past is as valuable an asset as our environment. Maintaining the momentum of change is a key component of this plan. We will continue to work to champion local pride.

Participation and awareness raising

3.15 A key component of the operation of the Heritage Coast Partnership, and its success, has been the participation of local communities in its work; at strategic management level and through project development and implementation. Participation needs to be widened to involve more stakeholders and to adapt to the changing operational landscape. To assist with this, effort is required to increase levels of awareness and understanding of the areas significance and how it is managed. This will ensure a sustainable future for our coast.

Durham Coast Watch (Neighbourhood Watch for the Coast) has been a success and has been extended into East Sunderland. There is an opportunity for this and other activities, including education and participation activity that improve local appreciation of the value of the coast will reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour.

Natural and Historic character information

3.16 The area's historic character, from prehistory to more recent time, would benefit from detailed research to understand the longer term requirements in management and to develop its distinctive local character and identity. This plan identifies what is known from existing datasets, where there are gaps in knowledge and required research requirements.

Marine and terrestrial planning

3.17 Recent changes to terrestrial and marine planning legislation and national policy have provided a real opportunity to use statutory plans to support the protection and enhancement of the Heritage Coast, its backdrop and component designated habitats. All development has to have due regard for the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). (See 2.30 to 2.34)

Social and economic factors

3.18 The Heritage Coast provides a real opportunity to foster social cohesion, skills development and economic growth through environmental improvement, community participation and appropriate interventions.

Green Infrastructure and Open Space

3.19 The Heritage Coast is a key component of the Green Infrastructure (GI) of the region. Each of the partner local authorities have or are developing GI strategies and the coast can add value to and integrate with these individual strategies. This is particularly important in relation to diffusing access pressure on the coast into the hinterland.

4 The Natural Profile of the Coast

Landscape character

4.1 Heritage Coast status is a 'landscape' definition protecting the country's finest coastal landscapes. Their essential and elemental beauty, as enhanced by man's activities, is the very quality that we are seeking to protect. The basis of the landscape's character is its underlying geology. The coast and its hinterland sits within the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau National Character Area (NCA) and described in the NCA profile: 15 Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau,

4.2 Ours is a varied coastline of shallow bays and headlands. Much of it is made up of cliffs, 20 to 30 metres in height, of pale, creamy yellow Permian limestones crested by steep slopes of boulder clay, with occasional caves and stacks. The limestones exposed in the cliffs vary in character and include soft dolomites, thinly bedded or "brecciated" by the collapse of underlying strata, oolitic and concretionary limestones, and fossil rich reef limestones, contributing to an individual character along the shore.

4.3 The foreshore is made up of beaches of sand and shingle or cobbles with occasional wave-cut rock platforms. Some beaches are still despoiled in places by the past tipping of colliery wastes, now being gradually eroded by the sea. Shallow denes cut down into the cliff-top boulder clay and the mouths of larger inland denes breach the limestone cliffs. In the south, low sand dunes bound by marram grass and sea couch mark the transition with the lower lying coastal plain.

4.4 Above the cliffs lie relatively flat or gently rolling open arable fields and rough coastal grasslands. Patches of wind-shaped blackthorn scrub with occasional stunted hazel and juniper are found on clay slopes and cliff top denes. Ancient woodlands of ash, oak, wych elm and yew lie in the deeper and more sheltered dene-mouths. The coastline has no natural anchorages and is relatively undeveloped. There is a single working port at Seaham, a major landscape feature, which also has a developed sea front, and there are caravan sites in the south at Crimdon. It is bordered inland by the coastal railway line and by the edges of mining settlements. Allotment gardens and industrial estates spill onto the coast in places. There are areas of former colliery land, now restored to open grassland.

Seascape

4.5 Seascape is becoming an accepted term and can be defined by extension as:

'An area of sea, coastline and land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land and sea, by natural and/or human factors.'

4.6 The UK supports the European Landscape Convention, this defines landscape as:

An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors." (Council of Europe 2000).

4.7 The Council of Europe website goes on to say; “As a reflection of European identity and diversity, the landscape is our living natural and cultural heritage, be it ordinary or outstanding, urban or rural, on land or in water.”

4.8 Over the plan period Heritage Coast will develop our knowledge and understanding of seascape and work to ensure that our seascape heritage is better managed than is currently the case. We will also develop awareness and participation in this positive extension of our landscape activities.

A dynamic coast



Special qualities of the Heritage Coast

4.9 The following list of special qualities detail the unique “natural beauty” for which the Heritage Coast is defined as a nationally important protected landscape:

- Dramatic coastline with exposed cliffs of limestone and boulder clay, undulating series of small, sheltered bays and headlands
- Flower-rich magnesian limestone grassland
- Steep-sided wooded denes
- Sand dunes and beaches that support populations of waders and seabirds
- Wide, unspoilt and expansive panoramic views
- Strong influence of historic mining industry on both local culture and the landscape, in the form of ex-coal mining villages with distinctive surrounding areas of allotments and pony paddocks, reclaimed colliery sites, railways and industrial archaeology
- A strengthening network of habitats, species and associated natural events.
- An intricate network of access paths and recreational routes
- Areas of tranquillity, distinctive natural soundscapes and visible movement

4.10 Opportunities to protect and enhance the landscape and naturally provided ecosystem services in the area include:

- management of agricultural and development land to protect water quality and allow groundwater recharge
- protection and promotion of the area's industrial heritage which contributes so much to its sense of history and identity
- protection and expansion of magnesian limestone grassland for the benefit of wildlife and sense of place
- enhancement of the access network and maintaining the access and wildlife value of the coast by promoting access routes back from the eroding coastline and extending habitats inland to enhance the protection of our SACs and SPAs as well as supporting feeding and roosting sites for birds. Access will be controlled and improved in certain areas.

4.11 The NCA profile includes Statements of Environmental Opportunity, these will be adopted by the Heritage Coast with minor amendments to make them specific to the coast.

Management Actions

L1: Protect, expand and connect semi-natural habitats, particularly limestone grassland, and enhance management of agricultural land to provide a range of benefits to local people, wildlife and the wider environment.

L2: Protect and enhance the coast as a place of tranquillity and inspiration that supports wildlife and illustrates the area's industrial past.

L3: Protect, manage and enhance our water bodies to improve water quality and enhance their wildlife value.

L4: Protect and promote the area's rich archaeology and geology to enhance appreciation of its mining heritage, significant role within British industry, and important fossil record and prehistoric sites.

L5: Seek to ensure that where there is new development it preserves the area's strong sense of place, enhances the 'backdrop' to the coast, retains tranquil areas, is appropriate in a changing climate and improves quality of life for local residents.

L5: Ensure that our seascape heritage will be researched and recorded, understood, protected and in a better condition and better managed than is currently the case.

L6: Ensure that our communities are more knowledgeable about our seascape heritage and develop skills in looking after, understanding and sharing these skills.

L7: Encourage a significant element of volunteering ensuring that this is a positive experience

L8: Assist our professional partner representatives in managing our landscape and seascape.

Geology

4.12 Our underlying geology comprises Dolomitic Permian magnesian limestone that slopes towards the coast. Much of the area is covered by boulder clay or till that was deposited from the ice sheets which covered the area during the last Ice Age. Near the coast, numerous minor streams draining eastwards have cut valleys through into the underlying limestone to form the steep sided valleys

4.13 The coastal exposures of magnesian limestone are of national and international interest.

4.14 There are five Geological Conservation Review sites locally: Hendon Promenade, Seaham Harbour, Shippersea Bay, Warren House Gill and Blackhall Rocks; and three County Geological sites: Beacon Hill, Easington Raised beach and Dene Holme. These sites, the best surface exposures of these rocks, provide evidence of the physical and environmental conditions under which these rocks were formed some 250 million years ago.

4.15 The only quarry site in the management area is Hawthorn Quarry cut into the magnesian limestone. Although it is not currently in use, there may be further working of the quarry that would lead to destruction of important grassland.

4.16 Damaging factors on local geology are few; there are few collectable fossils so natural erosion provides the principal reason for loss of valued features.

Management Actions

G1: Support regular assessment and review of important geological sites in consultation with appropriate bodies

G2: Advocate where appropriate the creation of new geological sites along the coast

G3: Promote the integration of geological considerations into planning at the coast

G4: Promote the use of coastal geological and geomorphological sites for teaching, research, interpretation and tourism

G5: Actively promote and engage with local groups to encourage local study

G6: Ensure SSSI controls are enforced and support strengthening of controls

G7: Monitor erosion rates and impacts

Habitats

4.17 There is a rich mosaic of important wildlife habitats in the management area that reflect coastal processes occurring within this dynamic landscape. Despite past environmental assault, habitats

and species are recovering - assisted by protection and habitat reversion programmes. The Heritage Coast definition provides opportunities for habitat re-creation, restoration and recovery. Access will be controlled and improved in some areas.

4.18 The Heritage Coast contains sites with the following local and national designations (see map);

- Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR),
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and
- National Nature Reserves (NNR).

On a European level we have:

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive
- Special Protection Area (SPA) under the Birds Directive
- European Marine Site (EMS).
- The SPA is also internationally designated as a Ramsar site – a particularly important wetland.

Heritage Coast Nature Conservation Designated Areas



4.19 Any development negatively impacting these habitats, directly or indirectly is inappropriate and inconsistent with the nature conservation designations and with Heritage Coast objectives. All actions will be subject to the appropriate statutory and regulatory consents processes.

Woodland and Coastal Gills

4.20 The Heritage Coast area contains some of the most natural woodland in the North East of England – the woodlands in the coastal dunes. Cut during the last ice age 10,000 years ago, these small valleys, that follow the course of streams through the cliffs and onto the beaches, are unique to Durham’s coast and support a wide range of wildlife. Sites of particular interest are at; Ryhope Dene, Hawthorn Dene, Foxholes Dene, Warren House Gill, Whitesides Gill, Blackhills Gill, Limekiln Gill, Castle Eden Dene, Blue House Gill, Cross Gill and Crimdon Dene.

4.21 The main threats to this habitat are wildfires, forced access paths (desire lines) and inappropriate use. There are also issues with Nitrogen and acidic deposition. These directly damage the habitat and disturb wildlife. There is no commercial forestry activity within the Heritage Coast defined area.

Magnesian limestone grassland

4.22 This unique calcareous grassland occurs on outcrops of the underlying magnesian limestone. It is a species-rich habitat, important for its plants and invertebrates. Many of the composite species are on or near the limit of their range in Britain and many are scarce or uncommon. This type of grassland has a unique and varied assemblage of wildlife, with thirteen nationally scarce plants and

eighty-four nationally scarce invertebrate species. A significant proportion of the national extent of magnesian limestone grassland is found in Durham, Sunderland and South Tyneside. There are 225 hectares of Magnesian limestone grassland within the Heritage Coast defined area.

4.23 Again, the main threats to this habitat are wildfires, informal access paths (desire lines) and misuse. Climate change and invasive species are also threats. Coastal erosion and subsequent loss of habitat (coastal squeeze) is also accelerating.

Sand Dunes

4.24 The dunes at Crimdon represent the only dune system in the Heritage Coast.

4.25 It covers 11.5 ha (0.04% of the national area of dune) and displays typical dune zonation and plant succession. It sits within the Durham Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the Northumbria Coast Special Protected Area (SPA), Durham Coast National Nature Reserve and within the Durham Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

4.26 In 1995 a breeding colony of little terns became established at the south end of the dunes and return each summer. This colony sits astride the most obvious access route to the beach.

4.27 The popular use of the area creates problems with the attractive and ecologically rich dune system. Across the dunes, pedestrian and illegal vehicular traffic damage the fragile vegetation, accelerating the erosion of the dunes and degrading the habitat. The high use of the area creates problems of littering and dog fouling.

The lack of toilet facilities impacts upon the dune system as visitors use the natural “facilities”. This is damaging to the environment and provides a risk to human health.

4.28 Potential exists to enhance the quality of habitat through access and habitat management. A more established dune system exists along North Sands and an extension of the Heritage Coast boundary would provide a more consistent management policy and practice for sand dune systems along the coast.

4.29 To secure a healthy future of this habitat, reduce disturbance levels, and reduce conflict, the number of access points to the beach will be reduced, dune stabilisation works undertaken and further interpretation and signage provided. We will work with appropriate partners to resolve the issue of publicly accessible toilets and introduce and enforce appropriate dog control measures.

Strandline communities

4.30 Strandline habitats generally extend from the base of cliffs to the high water mark and are more able to develop on flat sandy beaches becoming more permanent in sheltered bays and estuaries. The best strandlines occur on beaches backed by sand dunes and other semi natural habitats. They provide sheltered moist conditions and a valuable habitat for marine and coastal wildlife. They support rich communities of invertebrates and plants and are important as food for birds and mammals.

4.31 The strandline communities along the coast are sporadic and sparse, but have increased in recent years. Crimdon presents a suitable habitat and has a clear strandline. We need to know more

about our developing strandline and their communities. To this end, one strand of the research programme will specifically look at our strandline communities.

Rocky shores

4.32 Rocky shores are complex habitats with a range of environmental variables influencing them. They are biologically rich in terms of the number and variety of species they support. Large numbers of wintering waders, including qualifying features of the SPA and Ramsar sites use our rocky shores. Our rocky shores are formed of the underlying magnesian limestone. The most valuable area in terms of biodiversity currently is the shore at Blackhall Rocks which has statutory protection down to low water mark because of its significance to nature conservation and geology.

4.33 The rocky shores within the Heritage Coast that were despoiled during the coal industry are poor in quality of habitat compared to other areas locally and in the wider north east. The recent Big Sea Survey₃₇ initiative run by Newcastle University showed that there were double the number of shore species at Salterfen Rocks, at the north end of the Heritage Coast, than there were at Easington Colliery, the site of the last colliery to close. Rocky shores suffer from user pressure causing habitat disturbance and species depletion. Shore species are taken for consumption, or more commonly locally, for fishing bait. Pollution is a particular threat as the nature of the habitat concentrates pollutants such as oil. The ever-present issue of litter threatens wildlife using these habitats.

4.34 There are no data to show that the underlying limestone creates specific assemblages of species. Ongoing research will be carried out to enable comparison with other areas as well as to provide a clearer picture of the long term health and recovery of the shoreline ecosystem.

4.35 We will work with partners including the North East Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA), Durham Wildlife Trust and regional universities to develop our knowledge and how we protect and enhance our rocky shores.

Sub-littoral sand and gravel

4.36 This habitat occurs below the limit of low tide and contains a range of particle sizes from sand to gravel. These are the most common habitats below low tide in the UK, supporting a variety of marine invertebrates and providing crucial nursery areas for commercial fish (e.g. flat fish and bass, plaice and sand eels) as well as providing an important source of food for seabirds.

4.37 Where sediment is muddier and more mixed, habitats support larger numbers of species such as lug worms and bivalves. These habitats are found further offshore than sandy sediments and closer inshore at Seaham. The littoral zone is of particular interest due to the rapid change currently occurring along the Durham section. The evolution of the despoiled section of the coast following colliery closure and the Turning the Tide clean-up has already started with a shift from sediment to rocky shore in some areas.

4.38 A comprehensive baseline survey was produced in 1998 by the Environment Agency. This was repeated in 2003 as part of a longer term monitoring programme.

4.39 A full bathymetric survey of the sub-littoral zone is required to establish the extent of change. We have some records on species and substrate from occasional SeaSearch volunteer dives. These have been an excellent contribution to our understanding of the changes undergone beneath the surface and provide a visual reference for the recovery of the habitat.

Kelp Beds

4.40 Kelps make up the UK's largest native algae. Two species have been recorded on the Heritage Coast: tangle (*Laminaria digitata*) and rough kelp (*Laminaria hyporborea*). They will thrive given the correct conditions of clean water and the availability of rocks as holdfasts. In 2004 there were no extensive kelp beds in the management area except north of Seaham. We now have kelp beds established along the whole of the rocky shore of the Heritage Coast. Kelp beds provide a rich habitat for coastal and marine communities and are especially significant in providing nursery areas for invertebrates and fish and are therefore important in maintaining healthy fish stocks.

4.41 A large number of lead weights are recovered at low water spring tides. The nylon associated with these lost weights arrives in tangles on the strand line. We will also work with the local angling community to reduce the losses and litter created through break-offs.

Wrecks and Reefs

4.42 There are a number of wrecks off the coast which act as artificial reefs attracting marine life. 300 possible wrecks have been identified (Durham University, 1998). These provide opportunities for a range of habitats and species and have implications for further recovery of the area.

4.43 With the opening of the new marina at Seaham there is an increase in the number of small boat users, particularly wreck anglers. Their catching experience will provide data that will help provide a clearer picture of the offshore recovery. We will also use annual catch data from the NEIFCA to establish trends in productivity, allowing for assessment and the introduction of any management interventions to assist with the development of a sustainable productive fishery and a healthy habitat.

National Nature Reserve

4.44 England's National Nature Reserves (NNRs) represent many of the finest wildlife and geological sites in the country. Our first NNRs emerged in the postwar years alongside the early National Parks, and have continued to grow since then. NNRs were initially established to protect sensitive features and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. Their purpose has widened since those early days. As well as managing some of our most pristine habitats, our rarest species and our most significant geology, most Reserves now offer great opportunities to the public as well as schools and specialist audiences to experience England's natural heritage.

4.45 The Durham Coast National Nature Reserve comprises five separate parcels of land and lies within the wider designated Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation. Large areas are owned by Durham County Council who lease the majority of the area to Durham Wildlife Trust; the remainder is owned by Crimdon Caravan Park.

4.46 NNR Management Plans establish what management action needs to be taken in order to restore or maintain reserves to the appropriate standards. They are agreed with Natural England and therefore provide a blanket consent for the actions described within them. Where, as is the case with the Durham Coast, there are several owners or managers of land, they provide clarity and consensus.

4.47 The latest Management Plan for the Durham Coast NNR was adopted in 2016.

Management Actions

H1: Develop and implement a regional programme to enhance and protect habitats

H2: Influence local planning control processes to prevent and reduce threat from coastal development

H3: Promote the value of habitats, including offshore areas, to a wider audience

H4: Promote and support monitoring and improvement of water body quality in accordance with EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

H5: Encourage and support research by partners and local Universities

H6: Promote studies to assess and monitor the impact of bait digging

H7: Promote investigations of habitats and species offshore

H8: Ensure the Partnership has an established advisory and consultation role in offshore mineral developments

H9: Promote the concept of protection to extend below low water mark

H10: Implement and monitor the Management Plan for the National Nature Reserve

5 Historical and Cultural Profile of the Coast

History

5.1 The Heritage Coast has a unique and chequered history that has shaped the cultural identity of local communities. The rich cultural heritage available across the coast and its hinterland can be used to foster a deeper sense of interest and pride that will continue to strengthen community identity and cohesion in the future.

5.2 An assessment of the archaeological resources of the management area was conducted in 1998 by Durham University³⁸ and the following section is taken from this report. Evidence indicates that the Heritage Coast was an especially significant centre of activity and occupation during the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Roman periods. Later, successive waves of settlers established communities along the east coast.

Early History

5.3 This coast has been populated throughout prehistoric and Roman periods. A centre of activity during the Mesolithic (8000 B.C – 4000 B.C) and Neolithic (4000-2000 B.C) periods, there have been finds of flint tools and weapons in the area. The coast is the only location within County Durham to yield a large collection of flints. Significant Mesolithic finds include a hearth identified at Crimdon Dene. Such finds indicate substantial exploitation activity at this time and are concentrated near sheltered denes. Although there is little evidence of Bronze Age (2000 –750 B.C.) activity within the Heritage Coast, there is speculation that Bronze Age burial sites may exist. The assessment in 1998 by Durham University found considerable evidence for the Bronze Age in the coastal hinterlands with many

finds of food vessels between Seaham and Sunderland and burial barrows between Seaham and Peterlee. Scattered flints remain in the coastal zone but there is no evidence of settlements. There is evidence that Bronze Age people used imported flints and this may explain the lower evidence of use in the coastal strip during these times.

5.4 There has been no evidence of the Iron Age (750BC -75 A.D) uncovered in the area. This is unlikely to be the true picture and instead is almost certainly explained by a lack of archaeological research and historic patterns of land-use as numerous sites of Iron Age date have been discovered throughout the North-East in recent years indicating the likely occurrence of similar sites in the management area.

Roman

5.5 Evidence of Roman presence is less well established. It is likely that there was a settlement at Seaham due to the many finds there. It has been suggested that Seaham or Beacon Hill to the south may be the site of a Roman signal station. Metal-detectorist finds in the latter area reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in recent years indicate some form of settlement belonging to the later Roman period. Given the large amount of Roman activity elsewhere in the region it is likely that further evidence of settlement will be recovered in future. County Durham is well known for its Roman forts and settlements. The military and civilian sites at the coast and its hinterland have yet to be found. There are suggestions that the coast may have been used as an outpost system serving Hadrian's Wall. At Blackhills Gill Horden, a cluster of Roman finds is recorded suggesting a station or other kind of settlement. Roman pottery shards have been found to the north of Ryhope Dene.

Medieval

5.6 There are few remnants of the pagan English period, except for some notable early sites such as the pagan cemetery at Easington from around 6-8th century. Excavations at Seaham have uncovered a cemetery of Anglo-Scandinavian date along with traces of an accompanying settlement, possibly with monastic origins. Locally, the churches at Easington St Mary's, Seaham St Mary's and Castle Eden St James, and their associated settlements show evidence of early medieval activity. Castle Eden is mentioned in 10th century texts as having a secular settlement. Many local place names such as Yoden and Easington are of Old English origin. Fragments of the late medieval landscape survive in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks such as at Beacon Hill, a result of the ploughing method used at the time. The most notable exists at Station Cottages in Horden. Modern industrial and agricultural development has removed a great deal of these landscape features.

Recent Industrial past

5.7 The two limekilns in Hawthorn Dene illustrate early industrial development of the area. Many more once existed, place names such as Limekiln Gill appear at both Horden and Crimdon. The lime produced was used for agricultural improvement as well as for the production of mortar. Lime production grew with industrialisation and provided material for the large iron and chemical works at Dawdon. Hawthorn quarry expanded in the 19th and 20th centuries. Smaller scale industry appears at Hawthorn Mill. These early industrial heritage sites are a substantial educational resource for the Heritage Coast. Coal had by far the biggest impact on the whole area. Its rise and subsequent domination of Durham's coastline began in the 1830's. The earliest collieries; Easington and Seaham opened in the

19th century and pioneered techniques to deal with the depth of coal seams. Vane Tempest, Dawdon and Blackhall pits were opened in the 20th century. The mines used considerable areas of land, with their spoil heaps spilling onto the beaches. Settlements grew rapidly alongside the collieries, and these villages now provide the backdrop to today's coast. Seaham town and harbour was built specifically for the coal industry and the subsequent rise in maritime traffic in the post medieval and modern period is reflected in the large number of shipwrecks off the coast.

5.8 The rapid closure of the collieries in the early 1990's had a dramatic and adverse impact on the socio-economic status of the area. The landscape also changed 'overnight' with the removal of the colliery buildings.

Pill box



War history

5.9 The North East Coast was vulnerable during two World Wars. As a result many defensive structures remain. In addition to pillboxes and tank traps, defensive trench systems survive at Crimdon Dene, Blackhall Rocks and Castle Eden Dene. There are impressive trenches at Hawthorn Hive Point. In addition twelve surviving pillboxes have been identified overlooking access points such as the mouth of the denes. Tank traps also survive across three of the denes e.g. Crimdon Dene. The Second World War led to creative solutions to help defend the settlements at Seaham Harbour, Ryhope Colliery and Sunderland. A search light battery was positioned east of Ryhope, this along with a pill box appear to have been lost to erosion. Bombing decoys were located north of Seaham to divert attack away from Seaham and Ryhope. North of Seaham, these consisted of trenches filled with tyres, which could be burned.

Maritime History

5.10 Historic England have emphasised the importance of the intertidal zone as an archaeological resource and recognized the importance of submerged and eroded landscapes in interpreting the coastal resource.

5.11 No programme of inter-tidal archaeological survey has been conducted on the Durham Coast, although it was included in an assessment of maritime heritage.

5.12 The existence of Seaham harbour is a direct result of the exploitation of coal. Marine transport rapidly increased as a result, broadening the local and regional economy. There are some 300

possible ship wreck sites recorded off the coast, either as net snags or documentary records, with only an accurate location for twelve of these.

5.13 The area was included in the North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment carried out for English Heritage (2008)³⁹ with no major finds or potential identified.

Pressures and issues

5.14 Erosion has actively affected pill boxes at Dawdon, Hawthorn, Blackhall and Crimdon. The one at Crimdon has effectively been lost to the tide. It has exposed old burials, most recently at Crimdon North Sands in October 2012.

5.15 It can be expected that coastal erosion will continue in the future posing an ongoing threat to archaeological sites and historic structures. There is a lack of resources for the upkeep of known historic artefacts; there may be sites and artefacts which have not been identified or investigated and which are therefore vulnerable to damage or destruction; changes of use or redundancy of historic buildings renders them vulnerable to deterioration or demolition. Monitoring will be required to ensure that provision is made for investigation and recording prior to destruction.

5.16 The Key Research Priorities with regard to the archaeology of the coastal zone can be found in Petts, D. & Gerrard C. Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Durham 2006).

Management Actions

C1: Recognise and promote a coordinated approach to archaeological recording at the coast, including defining archaeologically sensitive areas

C2: Support projects that protect, enhance and promote the historical and cultural importance of the area

C3: Encourage the monitoring of condition of sites

C4: Promote the preservation, interpretation and recording of selected disused structures

C5: Promote monitoring of erosion scars, particularly in sensitive archaeological areas

C6: Promote the restoration and protection of surviving industrial and war structures for interpretation

C7: Encourage voluntary agreements for conservation of sites

C8: Promote conservation of the history of cultural activities

C9: Promote recording and protection of Maritime archaeology

6 Economic Pressures and Impacts

Current state of the economy

6.1 The Heritage Coast area has significant economic and social issues. For example 29% of the population of East Durham live in areas that are within the 10% most deprived nationally, overall. Levels of worklessness are higher than the national average and average incomes are lower. There was a 20% increase in Job Seekers Allowance claimants from 2009 to 2012, correlating with smaller increases regionally and nationally.⁵⁴

6.2 Enterprise levels are also markedly lower than the national average but similar to the north-east as a whole. The North-East is the UK region with the lowest number of businesses per capita: in 2015 there were 629 businesses per 10,000 residents, in comparison with 1,061 for London.⁸¹

Local and Regional Aspirations

6.3 The North East Local Enterprise Partnership produced a Strategic Economic Plan, “More and Better Jobs” in 2014. It proposes the establishment of a North East Development and Investment Fund to bring together private and public sector resources and to be used as a basis for leveraging additional funding. The document also establishes how much funding can be awarded to: innovation; business support and access to finance; skills; inclusion; economic assets and infrastructure; and transport and digital connectivity. Much of this is not site-specific, but the plan does identify the proposed rail halt at Horden as a transport priority.

6.4 Planning for regeneration and economic growth is mostly carried out at local authority level, as follows:

Sunderland

6.5 Sunderland City Council produced an Economic Masterplan, “Smart and Sustainable” in 2010. It identifies a pressing need to regenerate the city centre with better retail and leisure opportunities, more offices, and more links to the riverside and coast.

6.6 An Economic Update in 2012 reported upon the progress since the Masterplan was produced. Although the Nissan site continues to be important, the majority of new regeneration projects are within the city centre. These concern the port area; the City Centre itself and the adjacent “new” area, the Minster Quarter; the university campuses; and the station. Environmental improvements are proposed for routes linking the city centre with the university, river and coast.

County Durham

6.7 The County Durham Economic Assessment was produced in 2011: it described the economy of the County; factors that impact upon it; and current social and economic trends. It set out prospects for the future, and suggested priorities for investment and action.

6.8 The County Durham Regeneration Statement 2012 – 2022 describes the economy, skills base, and population of the County, and establishes priorities for intervention. The Heritage Coast in County Durham falls within the East Durham area, within which the priorities are:

- A new rail halt at Horden, improvements at Seaham Rail Station and more frequent trains
- Raising skill levels and engaging people with learning and work

- Tourism investment around Seaham, Heritage Coast, and the night- time economy

Hartlepool

6.9 The Hartlepool Economic Assessment (2011) follows the same pattern. It is relevant to note that the coastal zone nearest to the Heritage Coast proper was defined as a Neighbourhood Renewal Area in 2004, because of the high levels of deprivation found there. Although there had been some improvement by 2011, parts of it were still among the 5% most deprived areas nationally.

6.10 Hartlepool Borough Council produced a Hartlepool Economic Regeneration Strategy in 2011. It notes that growth sectors in the Borough in coming years will include those such as process and chemicals, nuclear, high value-added engineering, offshore oil and gas, and offshore wind. However, the Visitor Economy is the only sector which is given its own section in the Strategy.

Opportunities

The Visitor Economy

6.11 Economic Impact of tourism on Durham Coast (from 2014 visitor survey):

6.12 Key Facts

- 2.9 million people visited Durham Coast in 2014, which was up by 1% on 2013.
- Visitors spent 3.3 million days on the Durham Coast, 35,000 additional days compared to 2013.

- Overall visitor expenditure stands at £109 million, consistent with the levels seen in 2013.
- Visitor expenditure in Durham Coast accounts for 15% of expenditure in County Durham as a whole.
- The number of people directly employed in tourism on the Durham Coast in 2014 was 1,207, down by 1% on 2013. When indirect employment in the supply chain is taken into account, total employment stands at 1,523, down by the same levels.
- Total tourism employment on the Durham Coast accounts for 14% of overall tourism employment in the county.
- The number of overnight visitors in Durham Coast in 2014 stands at 191,000, down by 1% on 2013. Overnight visitors spend 516,000 nights in the destination, down by 2% on 2013. They accounted for £35.8 million of expenditure, which was down by 2% on the previous year.
- Average expenditure for overnight visitors is £142.98 per trip.
- Day visitor levels have grown by 2% to 2.78 million, with expenditure levels increasing by 2% to £73.96 million. This growth in day visitors and day visitor expenditure is in line with the rest of County Durham.
- Average expenditure for day visitors was £19.70.
- The Food and Drink sector made the biggest contribution to economic impact, contributing 40%. The food and drink sector also accounted for 42% of the total employment.

6.13 The Durham Tourism Management Plan (DTMAP)₇₃ sets out priorities for expenditure and investment to increase and promote the visitor market.

The DTMaP's priorities are:

1. Lengthen the amount of time that visitors spend in the county – most visitors are day trippers.
2. Improve the quality of the visitor experience – through public realm and other services; that includes car parking, toilets, signage, footpaths, cycle paths and transport.
3. Differentiate Durham for external audiences – reinterpret the destination through “hooks and stories”
4. Attract new staying visitors to the county - promote the county's strengths in heritage, arts and culture, walking and cycling, at national events and online
5. Retain existing day visitors to the county - focus on providing better information on Durham's borders and at neighbouring destinations.
6. Address seasonality - events and targeted promotion are the main ways that the county will address seasonality.
7. Develop new product and support existing product strengths - the focus for product development will be in areas where the county is already strong, walking, cycling, heritage & arts and culture
8. Improve small, medium and micro business performance - improved digital connectivity is the main way that Durham will support tourism businesses to increase their profitability

6.14 We are aware that most visitors to the Heritage Coast are day trippers, and most (87%, in one study) are from the local area. There are also relatively few places to stay in the Heritage Coast, although the caravan park at Crimdon continues to plan for expansion.

6.15 Destination Development Plans have been produced for Seaham (2009, updated 2015) and by the Heritage Coast Partnership (2012). These describe, quantify and characterise the local tourism industry and its customers, and estimate its economic impact, and discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the relevant areas. They then suggest strategies for promoting tourism in the area, and priorities for investment and action.

6.16 The Heritage Coast Destination Development Plan identifies the following weaknesses in the area's tourism offer:

- No single iconic attraction
- Minimal appeal for overnight tourism
- Limited opportunities for visitors to spend any money
- Depressed town centres
- Few visitor-oriented facilities looking out to sea

It recommended the following priorities:

- Develop Seaham as a focal point for tourism
- Establish a programme of events, in fields such as sport, music and film, and regattas

- Redevelop and regenerate Church Street, Seaham
- Develop a nature tourism market with a broad appeal
- Support ancillary tourism products such as retail, food and beverages.

6.17 Local visitor surveys and national intelligence remind us that neglecting the basics of community safety, dog fouling, littering and anti-social behaviour can and does undermine or damage the visitor experience. We will continue to work to improve the quality of place with all our partners.

6.18 Hartlepool and Sunderland are both making significant steps to foster the visitor economy. In Hartlepool, the coast is a real focus with the marina area, the Headland and Seaton Carew. In Sunderland, the visitor economy is focused around the resorts of Roker and Seaburn, to the north of the city, rather than the Heritage Coast area, to the south. Coastal Community Teams are present in each of the three authority areas.

6.19 In order to make the most of the economic potential of the coast it is essential to protect its special characteristics, flora and fauna. Any proposals to increase tourism, public access or economic development should not give rise to adverse impacts upon the tranquillity or isolated character of the area, or harm its natural assets or heritage features.

Retail

6.20 The County Durham Retail and Town Centre Users Study characterised the larger town centres of the County, including Peterlee and Seaham. 38.1% of the non-food shopping done by people in the

Peterlee catchment was actually done in the town centre, and only 19.6% of clothes shopping. Only 25.9% of non-food shopping from the Seaham catchment was done in the town centre, which competes with Sunderland and with Dalton Park Outlet Village. In both towns, the leisure and night-time economy is limited.

6.21 The Sunderland Economic Assessment (2013) identified a specific weakness in Sunderland's retail market: because of the dispersed nature of the urban footprint, and because of the relatively poor retail offer within the city centre, only 21% of the wider catchment's retail expenditure was spent in the city centre itself.

6.22 Similarly, the Hartlepool Retail Study (2015) found that the town centre was "not performing particularly well." There was a high level of vacant units (24.21% of floorspace); a small amount of convenience (food) retail, partly due to competition from large supermarkets outside the town centre; and a low, and decreasing, number of comparison (non-food) retail units.

6.23 Clearly, in all three local authorities, there is a need to support town centres; the Heritage Coast can contribute towards this by supporting the visitor economy in general and supporting events and projects which add to the appeal of town centres.

Agriculture and Forestry

6.24 Agriculture has a significant impact on our landscape and how we manage the Heritage Coast. Most of our farmers and land managers use agri-environment schemes (currently Countryside Stewardship) to enhance the biodiversity of their landholdings. Their management regimes are critical to the long term health of our protected nature conservation areas, in particular the SAC; as well

as the health of our streams and ground water. Changes to agricultural management regimes from national policy change or farm finances may well impact on the landscape. We will work in partnership with our land management community to continue to enhance our landscape, nature conservation interest and maintain a sustainable revenue.

6.25 There is no commercial forestry within the defined Heritage Coast area. Woodlands are restricted to the sheltered denes. These are of high nature conservation and amenity value but are not managed for economic gain. We will work with the relevant land managers to ensure that these woodlands continue to contribute positively to our landscape, nature conservation interests and improving water quality.

Fishing

6.26 There is a small crab and lobster fishery operating out of Seaham with most of the catch sold through the Sunderland market. To the north and south of the Heritage Coast the other local fishing ports at Sunderland and Hartlepool have larger fleets and wider catches. Improvements in the health of the whole coast are expected to increase the potential for the fishing industry. The Heritage Coast will work with the sector, the North East IFCA and partners to stimulate more local sales.

Management actions

E1: Support local regeneration initiatives including Coastal Community Teams and Seaham Marina.

E2: Support the development of the local tourism industry.

E3: Manage the impacts of increased tourism and recreational visiting upon habitats and landscapes.

E4: Support initiatives to broaden and develop the local retail and food and drink industries.

E5: Support agricultural and woodland initiatives that contribute to Heritage Coast objectives.

E6: Support initiatives to develop and manage a sustainable local fishing industry.

7 Development Pressures and Impacts

The Built Environment

7.1 Development management is a statutory responsibility of our local authorities, City of Sunderland, Durham County Council and Hartlepool Borough Council. Currently each authority is developing their own Local Plans that are expected to be adopted within this Management Plan period. Currently each authority is still using the “saved” policies from earlier local planning documents, those policies which have been retained in force although the plans to which they belong are due to be superseded.

7.2 The Sunderland Core Strategy draft (2013) identifies five locations for major housing development in South Sunderland, of which four – land north of Burdon Lane, Cherry Knowle, Chapelgarth and South Ryhope – are close to the Heritage Coast.

7.3 The County Durham Plan is the Plan that will cover the greatest part of the Heritage Coast. The Issues and Options Document was out to consultation early this year (2016) and the Preferred Options Document will be published for consultation late 2016/early 2017. The Preferred Options Document will identify housing and employment site allocations in the east of the county as well as providing detailed policies which will support the Heritage Coast and its nationally designated sites which require special protection.

7.4 Substantial housing development is underway at the former Steetley site on Hartlepool Headland. However, the draft Hartlepool Local Plan (2016) does not allocate any urban extensions for housing or employment in the vicinity of the Heritage Coast.

7.5 There are no recent buildings adjacent to the coastal zone, with the exception of the business park at Dawdon.

Spectrum Business Park, Dawdon



7.6 Development in the vicinity of our nature conservation protected sites (SAC and SPA) may have a negative impact upon them. It is a requirement of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) to carry out a formal assessment. This assessment comprises several distinct stages which are conveniently and collectively described as a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ (HRA). For all developments that are not wholly directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of the site’s qualifying features this will include formal screening for any Likely Significant Effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or

projects). Where these effects cannot be excluded, assessing them in more detail through an appropriate assessment (AA) is required to ascertain whether an adverse effect on the integrity of the site can be ruled out. Where such an adverse effect on the site cannot be ruled out, and no alternative solutions can be identified, then the project can only then proceed if there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and if the necessary compensatory measures can be secured. We will work with the relevant competent authorities to ensure that this important regulatory regime is effective.

7.7 Water treatment plants exist at Horden and at Dawdon to treat minewater and protect the coastal areas of County Durham and the East Durham Aquifer from pollution. Further expansion of waste water treatment facilities may also be required as further development takes place. The Heritage Coast will actively engage in any development and waste water treatment improvement processes so that these positively contribute to Heritage Coast objectives.

7.8 Other built environment issues that may impact on the Heritage Coast include mobile telephone masts, onshore and offshore wind farms and the provision of wastewater outfalls.

Transport

7.9 The Durham Coast railway line running north-south, parallel to the coast, is a prominent landscape feature. Originally constructed to transport coal from the coastal mines, it creates a physical barrier which has in many places limited the encroachment of the built development onto the coastal landscape. Although the route passes along the entire length of Durham's Heritage Coast there is currently only one station at Seaham. A new station at Horden (Peterlee) is proposed, which would connect areas of high population with areas

of employment (such as the Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear conurbations) as well as making East Durham more attractive for inward investment.

Mineral extraction

7.10 There is presently one permitted quarry in the management area. Hawthorn Quarry has been used for limestone extraction but has been closed for many years. At present its future is uncertain. Several permissions exist at the site which require review under the requirements of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 and the Environment Act 1995. A new scheme of working and restoration will require agreement with the relevant local authority (for Hawthorn Quarry site, Durham County Council).

7.11 Policy on onshore minerals extraction, including site allocations, will be set out in the forthcoming Local Plans.

7.12 Mineral extraction offshore is outside local authority control. Management of the sea bed is under the control of the Crown Estate and the planning and consenting process is the responsibility of government via the Marine Management Organization (MMO). Through a public consultation process, the MMO determines whether an application by a company can be used for mineral aggregate extraction.

7.13 The exploratory, appraisal or production phase of hydrocarbon extraction can only take place in areas where the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) have issued a licence under the Petroleum Act 1998. In the most recent round of oil and gas licensing (the 14th round for onshore areas and the 28th round for offshore areas), no licences were granted in the Heritage Coast area.

7.14 Coal mining and underground coal gasification are licensed by the Coal Authority. There are two conditional licences for underground coal gasification (granted by the Coal Authority and allowing exploration but not production) off the Heritage Coast are; Durham North and Durham South.

7.15 The Government has been carrying out a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment for offshore oil and gas exploration since 2001. The purpose of this exercise was to enable licensing of regional offshore oil and gas exploration and development in an environmentally sensitive manner. New studies are conducted to correspond with licensing rounds for new areas of the sea. They consider the environmental impacts of the proposed activities, and how these might be mitigated, offset or avoided.

7.16 All forms of mining and the extraction of gas, oil and other minerals will have some environmental impacts. These could include: the direct disturbance of habitats by mining and quarrying or by the laying of pipes; accidental pollution to our surface waters, groundwater or coastal waters; seismic disturbance or through negative visual impacts to our landscape and seascape.

Management actions

D1: Oppose all unnecessary development and building within the coastal zone.

D2: Work with the competent authorities to limit the impact of development close to designated sites.

D3: Respond to development proposals that negatively impact on the Heritage Coast and its setting.

D4: Support the Horden rail halt and ensure that it is integrated with other modes of transport and pedestrian routes.

D5: Continue to respond to proposals for minerals extraction, ensuring that environmental impacts are mitigated and minimised.

D6: Develop a qualitative evidence base for our landscape and seascape

8 Recreational Pressures and Impacts

Introduction

8.1 The recovery of large sections of the Heritage Coast has been dramatic. Where twenty years ago shores were black with colliery spoil we now have thriving shore life. With the advent of the England Coast Path (ECP) we now have pedestrian access along the whole coast, connecting into the centres of Sunderland and Hartlepool and beyond. This attractive landscape is now more accessible than it ever has been.

8.2 The past decade has seen significant increases in visitors to the area. In 2014 the estimated number of visitors to the Heritage Coast and its hinterland was 2.88 million, a 1% increase on the previous year⁸⁶. How this pressure is managed so that our key habitats and species have the space to thrive is the key driver for this plan.

Tourism

8.3 Strategic responsibility for tourism, destination management and marketing lies with three bodies Visit Sunderland, Visit County Durham and Destination Hartlepool.

8.4 The Heritage Coast Partnership commissioned a Destination Development Plan in 2013⁸⁵. This plan provided a realistic assessment of the prospects and potential of tourism on the coast. Illuminating the coast with activities that are linked to spending opportunities that help strengthen employment and our communities is key; realising value from the increasing volume of visitors.

8.5 There is significant experience being built around the concept of Sustainable Tourism and the use of the VERB model that recognises the balance required to address the themes of **V**isitors, **E**nvironment, **R**esidents and **B**usinesses.

Opportunities to use the coast

8.6 Many of the recreational activities which take place along the coast fall into the category of “natural tourism”. This is tourism that is based on and motivated by, experiencing the natural environment. Much natural tourism is relatively passive, enjoying scenery as part of a relaxing break, eating out, shopping or generally ‘pottering’. Then there are the activities that take place in the natural environment. These include, activities, such as walking, cycling and riding; adventure activities such water sports or orienteering; wildlife watching; leisure learning such as beach schools, photography or painting; conservation breaks; events and festivals with a natural environment theme.

8.7 Improving the visitor experience will be at the heart of our actions and will contribute to improving the quality and the experience of this place.

8.8 The Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment⁷⁸ provides quarterly statistics about engagement with the natural environment in England. We will use these data along with local data to guide our work and support management actions.

Access

Walkers

8.9 The England Coast Path (ECP) now provides the spine to an excellent footpath network that links our coastal communities to the coast. The coastal rail line is a significant barrier to access along the coast, a barrier that is reinforced by roads, particularly in South Sunderland. Access to the coast is therefore via underpasses or bridges at 20 key points. These 'gateways' have in the past provided a perceptual barrier to users who were unaware or uncertain of what lay beyond or even if they were allowed to be there. Most of these points have been improved with signage and with promotional leaflets produced and distributed locally or available through the Partnership website.

8.10 There still exists a spiders web of informal paths, "desire lines" that will, as user numbers increase, impact on the key designated nature conservation features; particularly the Durham Coast SPA. A programme to close these informal paths will be developed and delivered to reduce the pedestrian impacts on the SPA.

8.11 The topography of our coast means that most access routes onto the shore are steep, difficult and potentially unsafe. Our cliff line is actively eroding, with most access points coming under threat at some point. Some access routes onto the beach are protected through public rights of way status, others are not and we have seen a number closed for safety reasons in recent years.

8.12 There is some confusion around the status of Public Footpaths, with inappropriate access by cycle and horse quite frequent in certain locations. We will work with partners and the Local Access Forums to improve understanding and use.

Cycling

8.13 There is a good cycle network feeding into the coast through our coastal villages. National Cycle Network route 1 (NCN1) provides a through route along old mineral lines inland from the coast. This forms part of the North Sea Cycle Route.

8.14 There is an awkward diversion to the route through Seaham; it is timely to review the route and develop the case for re-routing NCN1 through the town. Equally the provision of a "heritage" route that would allow a more detailed exploration of the area, would bring economic benefit as well as the potential for health and environment side benefits. We will investigate the feasibility and potential benefit for such provision.

8.15 As described under walking, there is a lack of understanding about the status of some routes, with off road cyclists frequently using footpaths.

8.16 We will work with three regional Local Access Forums to develop the business case for interconnecting bridleway infrastructure that allows a coastal experience; promote suitable riding routes and input into local, regional and national strategic initiatives that support connecting infrastructure including bridleways .

Heritage Coast Access Routes - illustrative



Horse Riding

8.17 There is a strong horse owning and riding tradition locally, however the formal bridleway network is fractured and lacks real connectivity. This provides specific issues at Dawdon and at Crimdon where bridleways end abruptly with no onward route available.

8.18 An EU Leader funded equine sector study⁷⁴ was carried out in 2013, establishing that the equine business sector in East Durham had a turnover of £10.5 million supporting 120 jobs with significant potential for growth. The study proposed three continuous circular routes inland and a linear coastal route. The Heritage Coast Partnership is willing to help develop the inland circular routes but cannot support a linear coastal route as it would impact directly on the designated nature conservation areas, increase illegal motorcycle use and compromise tranquillity.

8.19 The study is available on the Heritage Coast website and contains a number of positive recommendations to develop the equine sector.

8.20 As described in 8.16 above we will work with three regional Local Access Forums to develop the business case for interconnecting bridleway infrastructure that allows a coastal experience; promote suitable riding routes and input into local, regional and national strategic initiatives that support connecting infrastructure including bridleways.

Coast Watch

8.21 Coast Watch is "Neighbourhood Watch" for the coast and aims to reduce the incidents of environmental crime through the vigilance of local communities actively reporting and being involved in the management of the coast. With over 200 individuals signed up to the scheme there have been significant reductions in environmental crime. This allied with physical improvements is contributing significantly to a healthier respect for the natural environment and a reduction associated clean up costs.



Coast Watch Logo

Car parking

8.22 There are fifteen formal and informal car parking areas provided. Those car parks that have been enhanced over the past fifteen years have been successfully maintained. The Ryhope section is served by informal, ad hoc car parking. Seaham is well served by formal car parks. The section of coast between Dawdon and Blackhall Rocks has considerable informal car access. However, parking is generally away from the nearest settlements raising security concerns. The provision at Crimdon and Dawdon has been addressed through improvement schemes initiated by the Heritage Coast Partnership.

Along the coast the informal car access arrangements and parking areas have attracted fly tipping and car burnouts, the constant removal of which consumes valuable resources.

8.23 Provision of secure and welcoming access at the key gateway points is required to be able to manage and control access.

8.24 The proposed rail station at Horden will provide an additional car park and a key entry point.

Culture

8.25 Increasingly the coast is being utilised as a stimulus for leisure learning and artistic endeavour. As access to the coast has developed, there is now wider appreciation of its special qualities.

8.26 Leisure learning includes photography, painting, creative writing, but also more active pursuits such as beach schools or fauna and flora knowledge on land and in the sea.

8.27 We will work with arts and cultural initiatives and communities to encourage the development of both leisure learning and how the coast is utilised for art and educational activities.

Water based activities

8.28 The development of Seaham Marina means that there is now much more boating activity along the coast. This links into the marinas in the Tees, the Wear and Tyne estuaries.

8.29 Seaham Harbour Marina is developing as a centre for water-based activity as it provides a safe, secure and manned facility.

8.30 We have seen a marked increase in sea kayaking over recent years with anecdotal evidence of launching points along the whole of our coast.

Scuba diving

8.31 Scuba diving is an increasingly popular sport with 17 clubs listed locally.

8.32 Because the area has been heavily used in the past and because of the rocky coastline, there are a large number of wrecks recorded off the coast. Durham however is not as popular with scuba divers as the Northumberland coast. The main reason for this is the poor visibility because of the areas proximity to the mouth of major rivers Tyne, Tees and the Wear and as a result of the past dumping of colliery spoil.

8.33 Although there are a number of sites, especially wrecks, with rich marine life, the poor visibility limits the areas use. The further accessibility to a better class of dive sites in Northumberland means that the area has not developed for diving.

8.34 The recovery of the area should encourage more diving activity by local clubs. As this activity increases, engaging these groups will be important for information about sub-tidal areas and its recovery and in securing community support.

8.35 Allied to sub aqua is the development of shore based snorkelling as a low impact alternative to boat based sub aqua.

8.36 We will work with local clubs and the marina to ensure that activity does not damage our recovering habitats.

Angling

8.37 Angling is important to the local economy. It is accessible, sociable and local, providing a healthy outdoor activity. It encourages understanding and interest in wildlife and nature in the local communities. Fish species targeted over the summer months are mainly plaice, flounder, mackerel and increasingly bass. In winter cod and whiting. The higher levels of activity in the winter months draw anglers from the wider north east region.

8.38 The area has a strong local tradition of beach angling. Although practiced throughout the year, most effort is concentrated in the winter months, particularly after gales. The Seaham Angling Club was founded in 1912 and is one of the oldest and largest sea-angling clubs in the UK. The club's members mostly fish from the shore, principally from Ryhope Dene to Hawthorn Hive. There are regular local competitions and a strong club network along the coast.

8.39 Angling activities in southern Sunderland are concentrated around Hendon beach promenade. There is also a growth in angling activity on the Crimdon and North Sands stretch of coast.

8.40 These angling communities have a vital role in ensuring responsible stewardship through their membership and reducing the environmental impact of angling.

8.41 Beach clean ups do collect considerable quantities of fishing line and associated fittings. We will work with angling clubs to adopt terminal tackle that reduces or eliminates break offs.

Bait collection

8.42 In recent years, demand for bait nationwide has increased as sea angling has become more popular. Many sea anglers collect their own live bait locally, with only a small impact on species populations and habitats. Bait collecting occurs along the whole coast, in particular "peeler" crab collection on our rocky shores, although as yet this is not quantifiable.

8.43 There are limited areas for other bait species such as ragworm or lugworm within the Heritage Coast; we will work with partners to quantify the level of activity and the impacts on our SPAs.

Wellbeing

8.44 Our past work has been focused around improving our local environment, access to it and encouraging community use.

8.45 There is a growing interest in Wellbeing as a concept and how the natural environment can assist in our physical and mental health. The access infrastructure and activities available across the coast contribute strongly to the Wellbeing of our communities and visitors.

Management Actions

R1: Support natural tourism activities that contribute to the delivery of Heritage Coast objectives

R2: Support the England Coast Path National Trail Partnership and its activities

R3: Develop and implement a programme of reduction of "desire line" routes through nature conservation areas

R4: Improve and promote the use of the access network through the hinterland to the coast

R5: Clarify with partners and with signage the acceptable uses of the access network across the coast

R6: We will work with partners to ensure that sufficient and safe access onto the shore is available to each community.

R7: Promote rerouting of the NCN1 "diversion" through Seaham town.

R8: Support capacity building for cycle use across the hinterland

R9: Promote the provision of circular bridle routes that include the coast, specifically we will work with three regional Local Access Forums to develop the business case for interconnecting bridleways

R11: Work with partners to develop the cultural offer of the coast

R12: Work with partners to develop quiet, non damaging and appropriate water based activities

R13: Work with sea anglers to reduce their impacts on the coast

R14: Investigate potential for zoning and codes of conduct and their impact

R15: Advocate and support appropriate sustainable fisheries controls and practices

R16: Promote greater public understanding of marine life and marine heritage

R17: Promote studies to assess potential impacts of bait collecting

9 Pollution Pressures and Impacts

9.1 This chapter looks at the various forms of polluting impacts along the Heritage Coast from wastewater to dog fouling and marine litter.

The Water Environment

9.2 We can only achieve improvements to the health of our coastal waters by managing potentially polluting impacts, be they from industrial legacy sources or from new processes being implemented. The Heritage Coast has seen significant improvements in our coastal water quality over the past decade. Our coast now has kelp beds established along the length of its rocky shores, something that was not apparent 10 years ago. This is a clear indication of improved health of our coastal waters. The health of our inshore waters, and the presence of bacteria in bathing waters, is regularly tested by the Environment Agency.

9.3 The streams that run through the gills and denes tend to be seasonal or ephemeral as they are also called. They are frequently used for surface water drainage and so are particularly susceptible to rapid flooding, damaging streamside habitats and accelerating erosion rates along the banks of the streams. This also means that they suffer from residual debris when the flood subsides.

9.4 The magnesian limestone plateau correlates with a major aquifer – i.e. an area of subterranean permeable rock which holds water – which is used to supply water to homes and businesses. Much of the coastal hinterland is designated as a Source Protection Zone for drinking water.

9.5 Our coastal waters, coastal streams and river catchments are managed within the strategic remit of the Northumbria District River Basin Management Plan, a requirement of the EU Water Framework Directive. The Northumbria River Basin District covers an area of 9,029 km² from the Scottish Border to just south of Guisborough, and from the Pennines east to the North Sea. It includes Northumberland and County Durham, with small areas of North Yorkshire and Cumbria.

9.6 Within this strategic framework our coast sits within the Wear Catchment. The Wear Rivers Trust host a catchment partnership, “Our River Wear”, to address the water quality issues within this catchment - wastewater management, industrial legacy including mining, quarrying and watercourse modifications, and urban and rural diffuse pollution. The Heritage Coast Partnership participates in this together with the local authorities, Durham University, Durham Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Groundwork North East and Cumbria, Natural England, North Pennines AONB Partnership, and Northumbrian Water Ltd.

9.7 The Wear catchment is further divided into sub-catchments within the Environment Agency’s Catchment Flood Management Plan. The Heritage Coast area falls within the Coastal Streams sub-catchment, and the Heritage Coast Partnership is the lead for the Coastal Streams Sub Catchment Partnership, which aims to deliver improvements to our coastal streams and consequently our coastal waters. A strategic plan is in preparation and improvement projects are underway.

9.8 The Heritage Coast Partnership will provide local leadership for water quality given the direct impacts and the potential for improvement on the health of the coast and our inshore waters. We will actively engage in policy development and in project development and delivery in support of an improved water environment.

Pollution sources

Sewage

9.9 Our sewerage system is designed to cope with normal loads and weather conditions. However, during periods of heavy rainfall, the system can overflow and untreated waste could be discharged into our rivers and sea. This can give rise to unsightly sewage related debris (SRD) being found on our beaches. The immediate bacteria load is also increased and can affect the health of bathing water users. The issue may be exacerbated by misconnections from housing – i.e. where foul water drains into surface water drains – or the reverse, which makes sewers more likely to overflow.

9.10 Statutory signage at designated Bathing Waters informs users of potential risks. We will continue our work with partners through the River Basin Management Plan to deliver improvements that will minimise the amount of untreated waste entering our coastal streams and our marine environment.

Coastal Landfills

9.11 Within our defined area we have legacy landfills and an actively eroding coast. These will need to be addressed to ensure no adverse impacts arise. We will assist all the relevant authorities

in finding the right solution to individual sites. The relevant process for dealing with these is Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Legacy pollutants

9.12 There are polluting substances from former industrial processes locked up in our estuarine and coastal sediments, including the remnant colliery spoil that still affects some of our beaches. Our research programme will work towards a greater understanding of these substances and any risks associated with their position in our local environment.

Minewater

9.13 Minewater – water which collects in mine workings – can absorb iron and other chemicals, which can pollute watercourses and aquifers. Where this is identified, it may be necessary to pump and treat minewater. The Coal Authority have established minewater treatment schemes at Dawdon and Horden.

Possible future pollutants

9.14 Waste discharges to our water environment are strictly controlled under the Water Act 2014 and the EU Water Framework Directive. We respond to the formal consultations for permissions to discharge and this will continue. We will also feed into policy and intervention consultations that impact on our coastal environment, particularly through the Wear Catchment Partnership and the River Basin Management Plan. Our research programme will seek to expand our knowledge on cumulative impacts of specific substances and any associated risks for our local environment.

Dog fouling

9.15 Dog fouling spoils the environment, offends visitors, upsets local residents and can cause serious health risks particularly to children. Dog fouling also increases the nitrate inputs to our protected nature conservation areas and adversely effects soil fertility, changing the natural assemblage of plants. It is an offence if you do not clean up your dog's mess and you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80. If taken to court you could face a maximum fine of £1,000.

9.16 We are keen to see responsible dog controls introduced in the areas covered by multiple conservation designations and particularly at Crimdon and on the shore north of Seaham.

Litter and Beach Care

9.17 Litter is a societal problem, and as with other anti-social activities it requires action through enforcement and participation at community level. It is unsightly, and therefore spoils access and recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. It affects the image of the Heritage Coast and therefore undermines efforts to support the tourism industry. It has a direct impact upon the natural environment: marine species can be killed as a consequence of ingesting large quantities of plastic, and birds and other wildlife can become entangled in discarded nets or plastic waste. There are considerable clean-up costs to the local authorities.

9.18 Hotspots for litter are localised and generally found at car parks and along the immediate access points to the coast. Waste mainly consists of snack debris. The cleaning of these areas are

largely dependent on owners and managers. Coastal slopes act as wind driven collection areas and are difficult to clean due to safety issues.

9.19 Beach litter which is partly locally derived and partly waterborne is a particular issue in the area. The most up to date figures from the Marine Conservation Society show the sources of litter as follows:

Sources of marine litter

- Public – 31.7% This is the material littered by people – we drop it intentionally, leave it behind accidentally, or it arrives on the beach carried on the wind or in rivers.
- Fishing – 11.3% Includes commercial and recreational fishing waste – line, nets, weights, floats.
- Shipping – 4.3% The material that gets dropped, lost or thrown overboard from small craft to massive cargo ships.
- Sewage Related Debris (SRD) - 6.3% The bits we put down the loo but shouldn't – cotton bud sticks, tampons, nappies and the like.
- Fly-tipped 1.4% People use some beaches like the local tip – fly-tipping things like furniture, pottery and ceramics.
- Medical – 0.2% Inhalers, plasters, syringes – we really don't want our kids picking this up.
- Non-sourced - 44.7% All the bits and bobs that we can't really identify and so don't know where it comes from.

Source: Marine Conservation Society 2015 Beachwatch Report

9.20 Whilst we have seen a steady improvement over the past five years in local pride and activity in addressing beach litter, particularly on our designated bathing water beaches, more needs to be done.

9.21 As our beaches become more accessible and understood the Heritage Coast has a responsibility to work at the local level to ensure beaches are kept clean and healthy as well as engaging at the national and international level to help restrict the litter at source.

9.22 There is a long established engagement in the Marine Conservation Society's Beach Watch initiative across the Heritage Coast, however engagement has been patchy and our Beach Care programme will address this.

Anti-social behaviour

9.23 Car burn-outs and fly-tipping have in the past been a real problem along our coast and stemmed from a general disregard for the coast. The denes in particular have provided hidden places for such activities to take place. Recent road closures and site improvements have severely restricted this activity as well as reducing the incidents of illegal vehicle use along the coast.

Coast Watch

9.24 Coast Watch – neighbourhood watch for the coast, was introduced in 2013 within the Durham Constabulary area and has been particularly effective in involving regular coast users in reporting incidents of environmental crime, enabling the police and local authority to squeeze out this type of behaviour. The network enables positive as well as negative information to be shared amongst regular users and those interested in the coast.

Management Actions

P1: Continue to feed into policy and develop and deliver interventions on the water environment through the Wear Catchment and Coastal Streams Partnerships

P2: Monitor EA water body health and bathing water quality statistics

P3: Assist relevant authorities to ensure that there are no adverse impacts from coastal erosion in the vicinity of historic landfill sites.

P4: Continue to respond to formal consultations for permissions to discharge

P5: Develop, promote and support projects and campaigns that reduce littering and pollution.

P6 :Introduce responsible dog control measures at vulnerable locations, especially Crimdon and north of Seaham.

P7: Develop a Beach Care programme that harnesses public goodwill and builds on the good work to date.

P8: Continue to promote and support Coast Watch to coastal landowners and managers, and other interested parties.

10 Participation / Social involvement

10.1 The Heritage Coast Partnership has a strong record of community participation, from representation on its managing Steering Group to the development, design and implementation of improvement projects.

10.2 The Partnership embeds the following principles in its work.

- **Involvement:** we will identify and involve the people and organisations who have an interest in the management of the coast and in the development and delivery of associated projects
- **Support:** we will identify and overcome any barriers to involvement
- **Planning:** we will gather evidence of the needs and available resources and use this evidence to agree the purpose, scope and timescale of the process and the actions to be taken
- **Methods:** we will agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose
- **Working together:** We will agree and use clear procedures that enable the participants to work with one another effectively and efficiently
- **Sharing information:** we will ensure that necessary information is communicated between participants
- **Working with others:** we will work effectively with others with an interest in the coast or in specific projects

- **Improvement:** we will develop actively the skills, knowledge and confidence of all participants
- **Feedback:** we will feed back the results of the process to those involved but also to the wider community and agencies affected
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** we will monitor and evaluate whether the process achieves its purpose and meets these principles

10.3 Volunteering in the environmental sector is well established and each of our land owning and managing partners formally run or support volunteer activity and training. We will encourage use of the coast for volunteering activities, be they maintenance, data collection, creative or recreational activities.

10.4 In addition with the growth in citizen science provide numerous skill development and participation opportunities. These include Newcastle University's Capturing our Coast national shore monitoring project (www.capturingourcoast.org.uk). We will continue to explore and support similar participative skills development opportunities.

10.5 The Heritage Coast is an educational asset for primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education. We will support short and long term activity, seek resources to support local staff and will actively link this to the development of our evidence base, where feasible.

10.6 We will continue to support and promote outdoor education and enjoyment, currently this utilises the John Muir Trust Award scheme with some success for engaging with young people, we will monitor usage and effectiveness.

10.7 There is little or no provision for children across the Heritage Coast, whilst it can be argued that the coast itself is attraction enough, we consider some basic provision in key locations would allow for longer, richer and more immersive family visits to the coast.

10.8 For individual project development, design and management we will actively involve as many of the local community as possible. We will continue to develop our knowledge and skills for participative approaches.

10.9 The first ever Heritage Coast outdoor festival was successfully delivered in 2016, it is envisaged that this form of active social involvement will develop. We will actively seek resources and evidence to support this activity.

10.10 A key element in our participation is the Annual Coastal Forum, held every year since 2003. This provides a free public arena for reporting activity, develop awareness of specific issues, develop common understanding and challenging the partnership on its work.

10.11 The Partnership has an adopted communications strategy that covers external and internal communications. This document is periodically reviewed to ensure it provides for effective participation and engagement for all our communities and stakeholders and complies with the above principles.

Management Actions

I1: The partnership will continue with its successful social involvement processes

I2: We will encourage use of the coast for a wide and diverse range of volunteering activities

I3: We will seek out and support citizen science initiatives that support the Heritage Coast objectives

I4: Promotion of the use of the coast for primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education

I5: Support and promote outdoor education and enjoyment, including the use of the John Muir Award

I6: Activities for children will be developed at key locations

I7: We will develop our own skills and knowledge of participative practises

I8: Resources will be sought to enable large scale outdoor activity events to be held

I9: We will host our Annual Forum and ensure that it fulfils its objectives of reporting, awareness raising and scrutiny

I10: Our communications strategy will be regularly updated and published online

11 Research and Evidence

11.1 Research and Evidence [Update with Coast and Marine Evidence Review findings]

11.2 Documents and sources of evidence already possessed by the Heritage Coast are listed in the Bibliography. This table summarises the research and evidence that already exists, is likely to be produced over the Management Plan period and suggests

additional research may need to be commissioned. This summarises the research and evidence that the Heritage Coast Partnership needs in order to plan the Management Plan’s implementation, and to assess the success or otherwise of the measures put in place. It states what relevant information we already have, and what additional information we are likely to need.

11.3 Documents are listed in Appendix B.

Theme	Delivered in Plan period	Additional research	Mechanism for delivery
Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued assessment of coastal change Local Authority Local Plan minerals policies evidence Minerals planning applications Surveys of geological sites to support additional SSSIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoreline and near shore geomorphology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Authorities Group Local Authorities Developers Partners
Biodiversity	<p>Plans and strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authorities Local Plan evidence The North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Association’s Annual Report, Annual Plan and datasets. North East Local Nature Partnership Strategy evidence North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans and supporting evidence <p>Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEDIN datasets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of collated data on marine and terrestrial biodiversity Additional data sets on marine biodiversity as recommended by MES REF Targeted survey of the intertidal and subtidal areas and of magnesian limestone deposits, as recommended by MES REF Bathymetric surveys of the sub-littoral zone Research on the number and density of species in newly-established kelp beds Condition assessments of Local Wildlife Sites Condition assessments of the National Nature Reserve including adjacent areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authorities Partners NEIFCA Environment Agency Natural England Universities RSPB Direct Commission

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on habitats and species held by ERIC REF • Data from citizen science projects • Little tern data (through EU LIFE) and other coastal birds through BTO • Waterbody and bathing water quality surveys • The findings of the current EU Interreg project “Topsoil and water: the climate change challenge.” • Condition assessments of the Natura 2000 sites and other SSSIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research by the local universities on marine and coastal ecology • Data on the impact of disturbance by humans and dogs upon seabirds • Research on the impacts of bait digging, bait collection, water sports and other recreational activities 	
<p>Archaeology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority Local Plans historic environment evidence • Archaeological surveys pertaining to planning applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on cultural heritage • Additional Historic Landscape Characterisation research, as recommended in Wiggins H., 2013. REF • Research on marine archaeology • Additional Village Atlas projects <p>Research may be carried out within the following bodies of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable Antiquities Scheme database • Local Records Offices • Special Collections and Archives • National Monuments Record, Swindon • Beamish Museum archives • Archaeological records held by local Universities • Local/national historical and archaeological journals and publications referred to on the HER 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities • Partners • Universities • North East Marine Archaeology Forum • Beamish Museum • Direct Commission

<p>Development, Regeneration and Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority Local Plan evidence • ONS demographic and economic statistics and reports • Marina and watersports activity data • Fishing industry data • Countryside Stewardship and land management data • England Coast Path user and additional benefits data • Local Food and Drink data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing research • Natural Capital assessments • Landscape and seascape quality assessment • Research on the economic value of our inshore waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS • Local Authorities • Universities • Marine Management Organisation • Environment Agency • Natural England • DMOs
<p>Tourism, access and recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor Economy statistics in the Heritage Coast area and its hinterland • Aggregation of DMO data • Bathing water quality data • ROW condition data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct commission of visitor surveys • Data on the use of access routes by pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders • Research on the impact of disturbance by humans, dogs and horses on seabirds • Traffic and visitor data for coastal routes and coastal car-parks • Research on the use and impact of zoning of recreational activity • Evidence to support proposed re-routing of National Cycle Route 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMOs • Local Authorities • Environment Agency • Natural England • Local Access Forums • Universities • Sustrans • Direct Commissioning
<p>Pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDIN datasets • Waterbody quality data • NIRS data • Bathing water quality data • Halliwell Banks monitoring data • Local Authority's Contaminated Land Strategy evidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline and iterative data on condition of former landfill sites • Research on levels of legacy pollutants in estuarine and coastal sediments including colliery spoil, and their effect upon ecosystems • Inshore water health data • Research on the cumulative impacts of substances known to be found in permitted discharges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • Local Authorities • Universities • Catchment Partnership • Partners • Direct commissioning

A Action Plan

1 The Action Plan links management actions to Heritage Coast objectives along with the proposed means and timescale indication.

Objective	Related Management Actions	How	When
1. To conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coast, including the terrestrial, littoral and marine flora and fauna, geological interest, and its heritage features of architectural, historical and archaeological interest.	L1: Protect, expand and connect semi-natural habitats, particularly limestone grassland, and enhance management of agricultural land to provide a range of benefits to local people, wildlife and the wider environment	Policy, advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	L2: Protect and enhance the coast as a place of tranquillity and inspiration that supports wildlife and illustrates the area's industrial past	Policy, advocacy and intervention	Immediate
	L3: Protect, manage and enhance our water bodies to improve water quality and enhance their wildlife value	Policy, advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	L4: Protect and promote the area's rich archaeology and geology to enhance appreciation of its mining heritage, significant role within British industry, and important fossil record and prehistoric sites.	Policy, advocacy and intervention	Opportunity

	L5: Seek to ensure that where there is new development it preserves the area’s strong sense of place, enhances the ‘backdrop’ to the coast, retains tranquil areas, is appropriate in a changing climate and improves quality of life for local residents.	Policy and advocacy	Opportunity
	L8: Assist our professional partner representatives in managing our landscape and seascape.	Advocacy	Ongoing
	G1: Support regular assessment and review of important geological sites in consultation with appropriate bodies	Advocacy	Ongoing
	G2: Advocate where appropriate the creation of new geological sites along the coast	Advocacy	Opportunity
	G3: Promote the integration of geological considerations into planning at the coast	Advocacy	Opportunity
	G6: Ensure SSSI controls are enforced and support strengthening of controls	Policy and advocacy	As required
	G7: Monitor erosion rates and impacts	Liaison	As required
	H1: Develop and implement a regional programme to enhance and protect habitats	Advocacy and intervention	Opportunity
	H6: Promote studies to assess and monitor impact of bait collection	Advocacy and intervention	Opportunity

	H7: Promote investigations of habitats and species offshore	Advocacy	Opportunity
	H9: Promote concept of protection to extend below low water mark	Policy	Ongoing
	H10: Implement the Management Plan for the National Nature Reserve	Policy	Immediate
	C1: Recognise and promote a coordinated approach to archaeological recording at the coast, including defining archaeologically sensitive areas	Advocacy	Ongoing
	C2: Support projects that protect, enhance and promote the historical and cultural importance of the area	Advocacy	Ongoing
	C3: Encourage the monitoring of condition of sites	Advocacy and policy	Opportunity
	C4: Promote the preservation, interpretation and recording of selected disused structures	Advocacy	Opportunity
	C5: Promote monitoring of erosion scars, particularly in sensitive archaeological areas	Advocacy and intervention	Opportunity
	C7: Encourage voluntary agreements for conservation of sites	Advocacy	Opportunity

	C8: Promote conservation of the history of cultural activities	Advocacy and intervention	Immediate
	C9: Promote recording and protection of Maritime archaeology	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Immediate
	D1: Oppose all unnecessary development and building within the coastal zone.	Advocacy	Ongoing
	D3: Respond to development proposals that negatively impact on the Heritage Coast and its setting.	Advocacy	Ongoing
	D6: Develop a qualitative evidence base for our landscape and seascape	Intervention and advocacy	Immediate
	R3: Develop and implement a programme of reduction of "desire line" routes through nature conservation areas	Intervention	Immediate
	R17: Promote studies to assess potential impacts of bait collecting	Advocacy and intervention	Opportunity
2. To facilitate and enhance the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the public by improving and extending opportunities for recreational, educational and tourist activities, including sport and art, that draw on, and are consistent with the conservation of its natural beauty and the protection of its heritage features.	L5: Ensure that our seascape heritage will be researched and recorded, understood, protected and in a better condition and better managed than is currently the case.	Intervention, advocacy and policy	Immediate
	L6: Ensure that our communities are more knowledgeable about our seascape heritage and developed skills in looking after, understanding and sharing these skills.	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	G4: Promote the use of coastal geological and geomorphological sites for teaching, research, interpretation and tourism	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	G5: Actively promote and engage with local groups to encourage local study	Advocacy	Ongoing

	H3: Promote the value of habitats, including offshore areas, to a wider audience	Advocacy	Immediate
	H5: Encourage and support research by partners and local Universities	Advocacy	Ongoing
	C6: Promote the restoration and protection of surviving industrial and war structures for interpretation	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	R1: Support natural tourism activities that contribute to the delivery of Heritage Coast objectives	Advocacy and intervention	Immediate
	R2: Support the England Coast Path National Trail Partnership and its activities	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Ongoing
	R4: Improve and promote the use of the access network through the hinterland to the coast	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Immediate
	R5: Clarify with partners and signage on acceptable uses of the access network across the coast	Advocacy	Immediate
	R6: We will work with partners to ensure that sufficient and safe access onto the shore is available to each community.	Advocacy	Opportunity
	R7: Promote rerouting of the NCN1 "diversion" through Seaham town.	Advocacy	Opportunity
	R9: Promote the provision of circular bridle routes that include the coast	Advocacy and policy	Opportunity
	R10: Develop and deliver dedicated car parking for the Ryhope section	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Opportunity
	R11: Work with partners to develop the cultural offer of the coast	Advocacy	Ongoing

	R12: Work with partners to develop quiet, non-damaging and appropriate water based activities	Advocacy	Ongoing
	R14: Investigate potential for zoning and codes of conduct and their impact	Advocacy	Opportunity
	R16: Promote greater public understanding of marine life and marine heritage	Advocacy and intervention	Immediate
	I5: Support and promote outdoor education and enjoyment, including the use of the John Muir Award	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	I6: Activities for children will be developed at key locations	Intervention	Immediate
	I8: Resources will be sought to enable large scale outdoor activity events to be held	Intervention	Immediate
3. To maintain, and improve the environmental health of inshore waters affecting the Heritage Coast and its beaches through appropriate works and management.	H4: Promote and support monitoring and improvement of water body quality in accordance with EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Ongoing
	R13: Work with sea anglers to reduce their impacts on the coast	Advocacy and intervention	Immediate
	P1: Continue to feed into policy and develop and deliver interventions on the water environment through the Wear Catchment and Coastal Streams Partnerships	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Ongoing

	P2: Monitor EA water body health and bathing water quality statistics	Liaison	As required
	P3: Assist relevant authorities to ensure that there are no adverse impacts from coastal erosion in the vicinity of historic landfill sites.	Advocacy	Opportunity
	P4: Continue to respond to formal consultations for permissions to discharge	Advocacy	As required
	P5: Develop, promote and support projects and campaigns that reduce littering and pollution.	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Immediate
	P6: Introduce responsible dog control measures at vulnerable locations, especially Crimdon and north of Seaham.	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Ongoing
	P7: Develop a Beach Care programme that harnesses public goodwill and builds on the good work to date.	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Immediate
4. To take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and the economic and social needs of the small communities on the coast, by promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development, which in themselves conserve and enhance natural beauty and heritage features.	H8: Ensure Partnership has an established advisory and consultation role in offshore mineral developments	Advocacy	Ongoing
	E1: Support local regeneration initiatives including Coastal Community Teams and Seaham Marina.	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Ongoing
	E2: Support the development of the local tourism industry.	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Ongoing
	E3: Manage the impacts of increased tourism and recreational visiting upon habitats and landscapes.	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Immediate
	E4: Support initiatives to broaden and develop the local retail and food and drink industries.	Advocacy	Opportunity

	E5: Support agricultural and woodland initiatives that contribute to Heritage Coast objectives.	Advocacy and intervention	Opportunity
	E6: Support initiatives to develop and manage a sustainable local fishing industry.	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Opportunity
	D2: Work with the competent authorities to limit the impact of development close to designated sites.	Advocacy	Ongoing
	R15: Advocate and support appropriate sustainable fisheries controls and practices	Advocacy	Opportunity
5. To promote community participation in the stewardship of the coast, optimising the potential of social and economic regeneration initiatives that are consistent with the conservation of the natural beauty and the protection of the heritage features of the Heritage Coast.	L7: Encourage a significant element of volunteering ensuring that this is a positive experience	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Immediate
	R8: Support capacity building for cycle use across the hinterland	Advocacy, policy and intervention	Ongoing
	P8: Continue to promote and support Coast Watch to coastal landowners and managers, and other interested parties.	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	I1: The partnership will continue with its successful social involvement processes	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	I2: We will encourage use of the coast for a wide and diverse range of volunteering activities	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	I3: We will seek out and support citizen science initiatives that support the Heritage Coast objectives	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	I4: Promotion of the use of the coast for primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education	Advocacy and intervention	Ongoing
	I9: We will host our Annual Forum and ensure that it fulfils its objectives of reporting, awareness raising and scrutiny	Intervention	Annual

	I10: Our communications strategy will be regularly updated and published online	Intervention	Annual
6. To integrate fully with adjoining areas and within the region to actively promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management.	H2: Influence local planning control processes to prevent and reduce threat to coastal development	Advocacy	Opportunity
	D5: Continue to respond to proposals for minerals extraction, ensuring that environmental impacts are mitigated and minimised.	Advocacy	Opportunity
	D4: Support the Horden rail halt and ensure that it is integrated with other modes of transport and pedestrian routes.	Advocacy	Opportunity
	I7: We will develop our own skills and knowledge of participative practises	Intervention	Ongoing

B Success Measures

SUCCESS INDICATORS:

Objective	Indicator	Year		
		2015	2020	2025
1. To conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coast, including the terrestrial, littoral and marine flora and fauna, geological interest, and its heritage features of architectural, historical and archaeological interest.	% coast defined as Heritage Coast	70%		
	Percentage of coast designated for nature conservation	12.3% NNR, 44.3% SSSI, 24.9% SPA, 15.2% SAC, 24.9% Ramsar		
	Extent of designated areas in favourable condition ³	13 units Favourable, 13 units Unfavourable/ recovering		
	<i>Number of designated sites⁵</i>	4		

Objective	Indicator	Year		
		2015	2020	2025
2. To facilitate and enhance the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the public by improving and extending opportunities for recreational, educational and tourist activities, including sport and art, that draw on, and are consistent with the conservation of its natural beauty and the protection of its heritage features.	Number of interpretation facilities	43		
	User numbers on England Coast Path Installed Counter 1	25,000		
	Number of visitors to the coast ⁶	3,000,000		
3. To maintain, and improve the environmental health of inshore waters affecting the Heritage Coast and its beaches through appropriate works and management.	Compliance with Bathing Waters Directive ⁴	Sufficient		
	Seaham Hall	Sufficient		
	Seaham	Good		
	Crimdon			
	Coastal waters and streams water framework directive compliance	Environment Agency Catchment Data		
4. To take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and the economic and social needs of the small communities on the coast, by promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development, which in themselves conserve and enhance natural beauty and heritage features.	Income and employment directly from tourism ⁶	£115 million 1,228 employed		
	Numbers in employment	Tbc		

Objective	Indicator	Year		
		2015	2020	2025
	Number of beds accommodation provision on the coast	117		
5. To promote community participation in the stewardship of the coast, optimising the potential of social and economic regeneration initiatives that are consistent with the conservation of the natural beauty and the protection of the heritage features of the Heritage Coast.	Number of Heritage Coast activities with community involvement	110		
	Number of community members involved at decision making level	9		
6. To integrate fully with adjoining areas and within the region to actively promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management.	Number of projects conducted as a partnership	8		
	Number of projects funded through partnership	12		
	Number of plans regionally and locally with mention of Heritage Coast objectives	4		
	Number of attendees and partner attendance percentage at Heritage Coast Forums ²	Number: 72 Representation: 69%		

Objective	Indicator	Year		
		2015	2020	2025
	No. attendees and % partner attendance at heritage coast steering group meetings	Number: 50 Representation: 71%		

Notes:

1. The meetings are held 3 times a year and thus the figures are averaged to take this into account. Partner representation indicates the percentage of Heritage Coast partners that attended each meeting that year.
2. Similarly to the previous entry, representation shows the level of attendance by Heritage Coastal partners at that years annual Coastal Forum.
3. Source:
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteUnitList.aspx?SiteCode=S1000255&SiteName=&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=>
4. There are only 3 bathing water beaches in the Heritage Coast area namely Seaham Beach, Seaham Hall Beach and Crimdon Beach. Annual assessments are published each year, There are four categories; Excellent, Good, Sufficient and Poor.
5. These consist of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks & Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wreck Sites and World Heritage Sites. THIS INDICATOR IS WORTHY OF FURTHER EXPLORATION TO SEPARATE THE MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL DESIGNATED SITES.
6. This is a difficult indicator due to crossing three principal authorities – proxies used are Visit County Durham STEAM data.

C Partnership Management

1 A full review of the partnership's operating structure and its Terms of Reference was carried out in 2016. The full report and the revised Terms of Reference are available on our website. (www.durhamheritagecoast.org)

D Habitat Regulations Assessment

1 It is a requirement of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) that competent authorities carry out a formal assessment of any plans and projects which are capable of affecting the designated interest features of European Sites, these being classified SPAs and designated SACs. This assessment comprises several distinct stages which are conveniently and collectively described as a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA).

2 As a plan that has an impact, although positive on the designated features, this plan will be subject to an HRA during the formal consultation period and prior to formal adoption by the Partnership.

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- Preferred Options Local Plan (2016)
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F Glossary

Glossary of Terms

	Description
Aquifer	An underground geological formation or group of formations that contain water, a source of ground water for wells and springs.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Area designated by the Countryside Agency and by the Secretary of State for the Environment in order to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.
Artificial Reef	Describes the attraction effect of non natural structures underwater. Marine life tend to become concentrated around structures due to settlement, food and shelter availability. Artificial reefs have been used worldwide in fisheries management, to attempt to restock areas or for recreational use. They have enjoyed mixed success and failure and are not appropriate in every setting.
Bait digging	Describes the activities of digging for invertebrates to use as lure/bait for fishing. Damages habitat and can deplete Species.
Barrier Reef	Name given to reefs separated from the adjacent coast by a channel or lagoon.
Birds Directive	EU Directive 79/409/EEC relates to the conservation of wild birds. This requires member states to take special measures to conserve vulnerable bird species and migratory birds. Sites designated under the Birds Directive are known as Special Protection Areas

	Description
	(SPAs). Sites designated under this directive and the Habitats Directive are known as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) under the EU Natura 2000 programme, more commonly called Natura 2000 sites.
Habitats Directive	EU Directive 92/43/EEC relates to the conservation of natural habitats and species. This requires member states to ensure the 'favourable conservation status' of internationally significant species and habitats. Sites designated under the Habitats Directive are known as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Sites designated under this directive and the Birds Directive are known as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) under the EU Natura 2000 programme, more commonly called Natura 2000 sites.
Bathymetric survey	A study of the depth of a water body.
Big Sea Survey	The Big Sea Survey was a three year Heritage Lottery Funded volunteer based project looking into marine species biodiversity on rocky shores in the north east of England. Significant data were collected. This project was the forerunner to Capturing our Coast a national shore based citizen science project. (http://www.capturingourcoast.co.uk/)
Biodiversity	Originally coined from the term biological diversity, was first used in the 1980s by scientists to refer to the richness of biological variation on Earth or within a particular region. In their book Saving Nature's Legacy, ecologists Reed Noss and Allen Cooperrider

	Description
	define biodiversity as “the variety of life and its processes. It includes the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, the...ecosystems in which they occur, and the ecological and evolutionary processes that keep them functioning, yet ever changing and adapting”.
Boulder clay	Unstratified soil deposited by a glacier; consists of sand and clay and gravel and boulders mixed together.
Breccia	Rock made of highly angular, coarse fragments.
Capturing our Coast	A national Heritage Lottery Funded shore based citizen science project (http://www.capturingourcoast.co.uk/).
Coal seams	Refers to the thick layers of dead vegetation built up over geological time being compacted providing the coal used today for fuel.
Colliery Spoil	Dirt or rock removed from its original location by coal mining activity.
Crown Estate	Major property owners in the UK. Portfolio includes, ancient forests, farms, coastline, seabed and communities.
Dolomitic/Dolomite	A sedimentary rock composed largely of calcium magnesium carbonate (CaMg (CO ₃) ₂).
Environment Agency	Regulatory governmental body responsible for the environment.

	Description
Ephemeral	Short lived. Used in relation to streams that do not flow all year. The streams on the Heritage Coast dry up in summer.
Erosion	The wearing away of the land surface by wind or water.
EU	European Union.
Geological Conservation Review	A major initiative to identify and describe the most important geological sites in Britain began in 1977, with the launching of the Geological Conservation Review (GCR). This was a major step forward in Earth Heritage conservation.
Geomorphology	The study of the arrangement and form of the Earth's crust and of the relationship between these physical features and the geologic structures beneath.
Heritage Coast	Stretches of undeveloped coastline defined by the Countryside Agency as being of outstanding scenic value where resolution of conflicts is needed between recreation, conservation, public access and agriculture.
Heritage Coast Partnership	The management group of the above area.
Holdfasts	the rootlike part of a kelp plant that anchors the plant to the seafloor.
Integrated Coastal Zone Management	A multisectoral approach with involvement of stakeholders to managing the coastal zone.

	Description
	<p>Under EU recommendation Rec 2002/413/EC, European countries are obliged to take on the management of coastal areas using an ICZM approach. Under this approach, one must consider the sea as well as the beaches and the hinterland and its environs. Given the cross-border nature of many coastal processes, coordination and cooperation with neighbouring countries and in a regional sea context are also encouraged.</p> <p>The principles of ICZM are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A broad holistic perspective (thematic and geographic); 2. A long-term perspective; 3. Adaptive management; 4. Local specificity; 5. Working with natural processes and respecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems; 6. Participatory planning; 7. Support and involvement of relevant administrative bodies; and

	Description
	8. Use of a combination of instruments.
Inter-tidal	The zone between the high and low water marks.
Littoral	Relating to or existing on a shore.
Local Transport Plan	Produced by the Highways authority setting out transport policies and proposals.
Magnesian limestone	Describes the structure of the cliff top areas on the coast.
Mesolithic	Middle part of the Stone Age beginning about 15,000 years Ago.
National Nature Reserve	These areas were established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research. This does not mean they are "no-go areas" for people. It means that we must be careful not to damage the wildlife of these fragile places.
National Parks	National parks are designed to conserve the natural beauty and cultural heritage of areas of outstanding landscape value, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of these areas. National parks exist in England, Scotland and Wales.
National Trust	NT own a large proportion of coastal lands under the Project Neptune appeal. NTs remit is the preservation, in perpetuity and for the benefit of the nation, of land and buildings of Historic interest or natural beauty. This remit covers England, Wales

	Description
	and Northern Ireland (there is a separate national trust for Scotland).
NCN 1	National Cycle route one around the UK.
Neolithic	Last part of the Stone Age, when agricultural skills had been developed but stone was still the principal material for tools and weapons. It began in the Near East around 8000 B.C. and in Europe around 6000 B.C.
Permian rocks	Rocks from a period in the geologic time scale that spans from 286 to 245 million years ago.
Quality of life	A measurement of human wellbeing. A systems approach is used to illustrate the dynamic state of our social, economic and environmental quality of life. The dimensions of life examined include: education, employment, energy, environment, health, human rights, income, infrastructure, national security, public safety, re-creation and shelter.
Ramsar	The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. It is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
RoW	Rights of Way.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation, designated under the EU habitats directive to protect flora and fauna.

	Description
Shoreline Management Plan	Sets out guidance and intervention options required in coastal defence management over fifty year periods.
Seasearch	Seasearch is a project for volunteer sports divers who have an interest in what they're seeing under water, want to learn more and want to help protect the marine environment around the coasts of Britain and Ireland.
Sediment	Fine grains of solid material suspended in water or settled out of water to be deposited on land.
Seismic/noise	Acoustic method of compiling geological profiles either on land or at sea.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	SSSIs are designated in England by Natural England. An SSSI is not necessarily owned by a conservation organisation or by the Government, they can be owned by anybody. The designation is primarily to identify those areas worthy of preservation. An SSSI is given certain protection against damaging operations, There is a list of what can and cannot be done on SSSI. The status also affords some planning protection.
SPA (Special Protected Area)	Areas designated under the EU Birds directive.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Involves reviewing policy, plan and program proposals to incorporate environmental considerations into the development of public policies.

	Description
Sub-littoral	Of or relating to the region of the continental shelf (between the seashore and the edge of the continental shelf) or the marine organisms situated there.
Sustrans	Sustainable transport charity set up to encourage better use of public transport, cycling and walking.
Till	Or glacial till, unsorted glacial sediment, deposited locally after the last Ice Age and overlays the magnesian limestone rock strata.
Turning the Tide (TTT) Partnership	The Partnership of organisations that undertook the major regeneration of the Durham coast between 1996-2002.
Wastewater	Water that has been used and contains unwanted materials from homes, businesses, and industries; a mixture of water and dissolved or suspended substances.
Zechstein Sea	Ancient sea in the Permian era occupying a similar position to the North Sea but spreading to the Pennines.

The Heritage Coast Partnership comprises:

- Durham County Council
- City of Sunderland
- Hartlepool Borough Council
- Seaham Town Council
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Northumbrian Water
- National Trust
- Groundwork North East
- Blackhalls
- Horden Regeneration Partnership
- Easington Colliery Regeneration Partnership
- Ryhope Community Association

We are very grateful for the help and assistance of the officers and staff of our partner bodies and that of Blue Kayak Planning in the preparation of this draft plan.

Consultation:

This draft management plan is open for consultation comment until noon, 12th December 2016.

To help us make the best possible plan for the Heritage Coast please send in your comments and suggestions by EMAIL:

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