

# Northumberland Coast AONB & Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS

Management Plan 2009-2014







# Management Plan 2009-2014

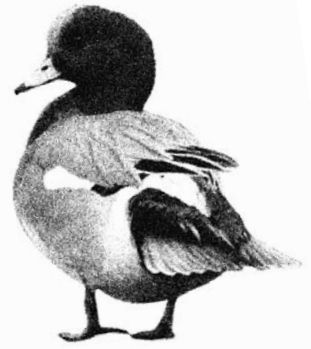
Northumberland Coast AONB  
& Berwickshire and North  
Northumberland Coast EMS

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## Chairs' foreword

The Northumberland Coast AONB and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS are two facets of a special coastline. From Fast Castle Head in the Scottish Borders to the Coquet Estuary at Amble, this is a diverse and spectacular area comprised of many individually important elements. These include iconic plants and animals, such as puffin and grey seal, and the significant coastal and marine habitats that support them. Equally iconic are the aspects of the historic heritage that still leave their mark on the area through castles and remnants of an unparalleled Christian heritage. The natural and historic are woven together to create a landscape and seascape that is greater than the sum of their already valuable parts. As a consequence the two areas are designated in their own rights to protect features considered to be of national, and indeed European, significance. To date the previous AONB Management Plan and the EMS Management Scheme have separately guided the daily and longer term management of the special and qualifying features of the two areas.



The close ecological relationship between the two areas called for an equally close working relationship in their management. The success of this in recent years has led to a vision of more formalised collaboration. With both management documents due for review, this has been realised with the production of this Draft integrated Management Plan. We believe this Plan to be the first of its kind in the UK.

This is a place to live and work, as well as a place for spiritual reflection, recreation and enjoyment. It is a place for the local and the visitor, the scientist and the walker. In an age of great environmental upheaval the coast is at the forefront of the challenges posed by climate change. It is essential the management of the AONB and EMS rise to these challenges.

The Draft Plan attempts to identify the main issues affecting the features and local communities. It then proposes visions and policies for the integrated area and individual themes. It also sets out how we can all work together to help conserve this wonderful area for the intrinsic value of its plants and animals and for the use and enjoyment of existing and future generations. Having embarked on this journey, we now regard it as inconceivable to manage the coastal and marine areas in isolation. However, it is now the turn of all of you, with a stake in this wonderful coastal and marine area, to take the opportunity to have your say. We call on you to read and digest this Draft Plan, and to then submit your comments by 6th March 2009 on how well it charts a course over the 2009-14 period.

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

**Councillor Pat Scott**  
Chair of the Northumberland Coast  
AONB Partnership

**John Elliot**  
Chair of the Berwickshire & North  
Northumberland Coast EMS Management Group

## User Guide

The Management Plan contains a lot of information on the Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast AONB and EMS. It is a large document but the following advice gives you tips on how to find certain information.

### **Want to know why the areas are designated?**

Read the summary on page 4 and look at the table of special AONB features on page 15 and EMS qualifying features on page 16.

### **Want to know where the AONB and EMS are?**

See the map section in the appendices.

### **Want to get a quick impression of what the Plan hopes to achieve?**

Read the overall aim on page 6 and the vision in section 3 on pages 21-22.

### **Want to see how the Plan is structured and what the different elements of the Plan are?**

See the diagram fig 1.3 at the end of the introduction on page 7.

### **Want to get an overview of the Management Plan policy?**

See the summary of all policies in the Action Plan on page 105.

### **Have an interest in a specific subject?**

Look at the Contents page and see which theme listed in Part 1. Section 4 'Conserving and enhancing the Plan area' is most relevant to your area of interest and go to that section of the Plan. Refer to the contents page, Part 2 'Action Plan', for the action plan associated with your theme of interest.

A large print version of this plan is available.  
Please call 01670 534 088.

## **Mapping**

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# 1. Introduction





# 1. Introduction

## Overview

1.1 This Plan integrates the management of two of the region's internationally important designated areas:

- the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); and
- the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast European Marine Site (EMS).

1.2 Previously these two adjacent areas were managed separately; however increased awareness of the importance of managing land and sea in a consistent and integrated way has led to the production of this Plan. It is believed to be the first of its kind in the UK. The term "Plan area" used throughout the Plan is a reference to the combined area of the AONB and EMS.



## What is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)?

1.3 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty were created by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) and given a new impetus by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). AONBs, together with National Parks, represent our finest landscapes. In England and Wales 40 AONBs cover 18% of the land area encompassing the tremendous variety of landscapes in the country from the 16 square km of the Isles of Scilly AONB to the 2,038 square km of the Cotswolds. Scotland does not have an equivalent landscape protection designation to AONB. Currently it relies on the planning designation "Areas of Great Landscape Value" to highlight scenic importance in the local planning development and structural plans.

1.4 The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Countryside Agency guidance on AONBs<sup>1</sup> explains that: "Natural beauty is not just the look of the landscape, but includes landform and geology, plants and animals, landscape features and the rich history of human settlement over centuries". Therefore, although scenic quality is an important feature, natural beauty can be understood to encompass a greater depth and breadth of meaning than the simple idea of an attractive view.

## What is a European Marine Site (EMS)?

1.5 In 1992 the European Commission adopted the Habitats Directive to provide for the conservation of important European habitats and species. This complemented the earlier 1979 Birds Directive. Both these directives are incorporated into UK law as the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994, commonly known as the Habitats Regulations. These regulations are used to designate both Special Protection Areas (SPA) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for other species and habitats. Together these two special areas form the European-wide suite of sites known as the Natura 2000 Network. A European Marine Site is any SAC or SPA that incorporates a marine area. There are 81 marine SACs in the UK.



<sup>1</sup>Countryside Agency (2001b) AONBs: A Guide for AONB Partnership Members Countryside Agency CA24

## The Purpose of these Designations

**1.6** The primary purpose of the AONB and EMS designations, though worded differently, conveys the same underlying meaning: “to conserve and enhance the beauty and special features of the natural environment”.

### AONB

**1.7** The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to conserve and enhance natural beauty.

**1.8** In pursuing the primary purpose of designation, account needs to be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries and of the economic and social needs of the local communities. Particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment.

**1.9** Recreation is not an objective of the AONB designation, but the demand for recreation should be met so far as this is consistent with the conservation of natural beauty and the needs of agriculture, forestry and other users.

### EMS

**1.10** The Conservation Regulations place a general duty on all competent and relevant authorities exercising legislative powers to perform these in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

## The Northumberland Coast AONB

**1.11** The Northumberland Coast AONB was designated in 1958. It covers an area of 138 square km along 64km of coastline from Berwick to the Coquet estuary (see Map 1). The AONB is never wider than 2.5km and only 50 metres in width at its narrowest point, yet this stretch of English countryside contains a tremendous variety of natural and historical interest.

**1.12** The area is best known for its sweeping sandy beaches, rolling dunes, high rocky cliffs and isolated islands. Amidst this striking land and seascape is the evidence of an area steeped in history, covering 7000 years of human activity, conflict and spiritual pursuit. A host of national and international conservation designations including two National Nature Reserves testify to the great variety of wildlife and habitats. A more detailed description of the elements that make up the natural beauty and special features of the area are given in Part 1, Section 2 of this Plan.

## The Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast EMS

**1.13** The Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast EMS is a SAC that for management purposes also incorporates the bird interest features of the Lindisfarne SPA (see Text Box). The SAC was designated in 2000 and encompasses 635 square km of shore and sea extending along 115km of coastline from Fast Castle Head in Scotland, across the border to Alnmouth (see map 1). It includes the St Abb's and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve, the Farne Islands, Lindisfarne, and some of the most dramatic coastal land and seascape in the country.

### Area under international designations

Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar Site

Lindisfarne SPA and Ramsar site

Farne Islands SPA

Berwickshire and N Northumberland Coast cSAC

North Northumberland Dunes cSAC

**For further details see**  
[www.natureonthemap.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk)

**1.14** The Lindisfarne SPA was designated in 1992 because it supports an internationally important assemblage of waterfowl, migratory species and internationally important populations of rare bird species as identified in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. The SPA is also designated under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance.



Lindisfarne Priory



Wolf Fish

## Responsibility for the AONB and EMS designations

**1.15** The statutory duty to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB is the responsibility of the local authorities within the area. This is currently Northumberland County Council, Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council and Alnwick District Council. However, this will change with the vesting on 1 April 2009 of a new unitary council for Northumberland.

**1.16** A partnership, which pursues and champions the need to conserve and enhance the AONB, comprises a variety of organisations from central and local government, parish councils, the community and voluntary sector and the private sector (see Fig 1.1).

### Fig 1.1 AONB PARTNERSHIP

- Northumberland County Council
- Alnwick District Council
- Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Community development trusts within the AONB
- Parish Councils
- National Farmers Union
- Country Land and Business Association
- National Trust
- Northumberland Tourism
- Special interest members drawn from the local and user community

**1.17** The Partnership is supported by an AONB team comprising the AONB Officer, a Recreation and Access Officer, a Natural and Cultural Heritage Officer and a part time Grant Scheme Administrator. The AONB team manages, develops, coordinates and encourages partnership working on projects and actions which help to fulfil the AONB purpose.

**1.18** With respect to the EMS, the conservation of the qualifying features of the EMS rests with the “competent and relevant authorities” for the site. These are bodies whose functions or statutory duties may interact with the site interest features. The EMS Management Group (listed below) comprises all the competent and relevant authorities for the site along with other interested organisations. Ongoing governance is supported by a Steering Group and the EMS Project Officer. There is also an Advisory Group that contributes specialist knowledge for the conservation of the EMS and its special features to the above groups and the Project Officer.

## Role of the Plan

**1.19** The overarching aim of this Plan is to provide the means to conserve and enhance the area for the benefit of the environment, community, visitors and future generations. It is also the management mechanism through which the competent and relevant authorities deliver their statutory duties with respect to these designations.

## Who is the Plan for?

**1.20** The Plan is for the local, relevant and competent authorities to outline, implement and fulfil their responsibilities. In addition the Plan is a document for the AONB Partnership, EMS Management Group, policy makers and stakeholders with an interest in the area, such as local communities, visitors, businesses, landowners, funding bodies, user and voluntary groups.

## Aim of the Plan

1.21 The aim of the Plan is to conserve and enhance the landscape and seascape of the AONB and to ensure the favourable condition of the site features of the EMS. The Plan will achieve this aim through the promotion of sustainable management policies and actions.

### Fig 1.2 EMS MANAGEMENT GROUP

- Alnwick District Council
- Berwick Harbour Commissioners
- Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council
- Burnmouth Harbour Master
- Defra
- Environment Agency
- Eyemouth Harbour Trust
- English Heritage
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- National Trust
- National Trust for Scotland
- Natural England
- North Sunderland and Seahouses Harbour Commissioners
- Northern Lighthouse Board
- Northumberland County Council
- Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee
- Northumbrian Water Ltd
- River Tweed Commissioners
- St Abb's Harbour Trust
- Scottish Borders Council
- Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency (Marine Scotland)
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Scottish Executive Marine Directorate
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Water
- Trinity House



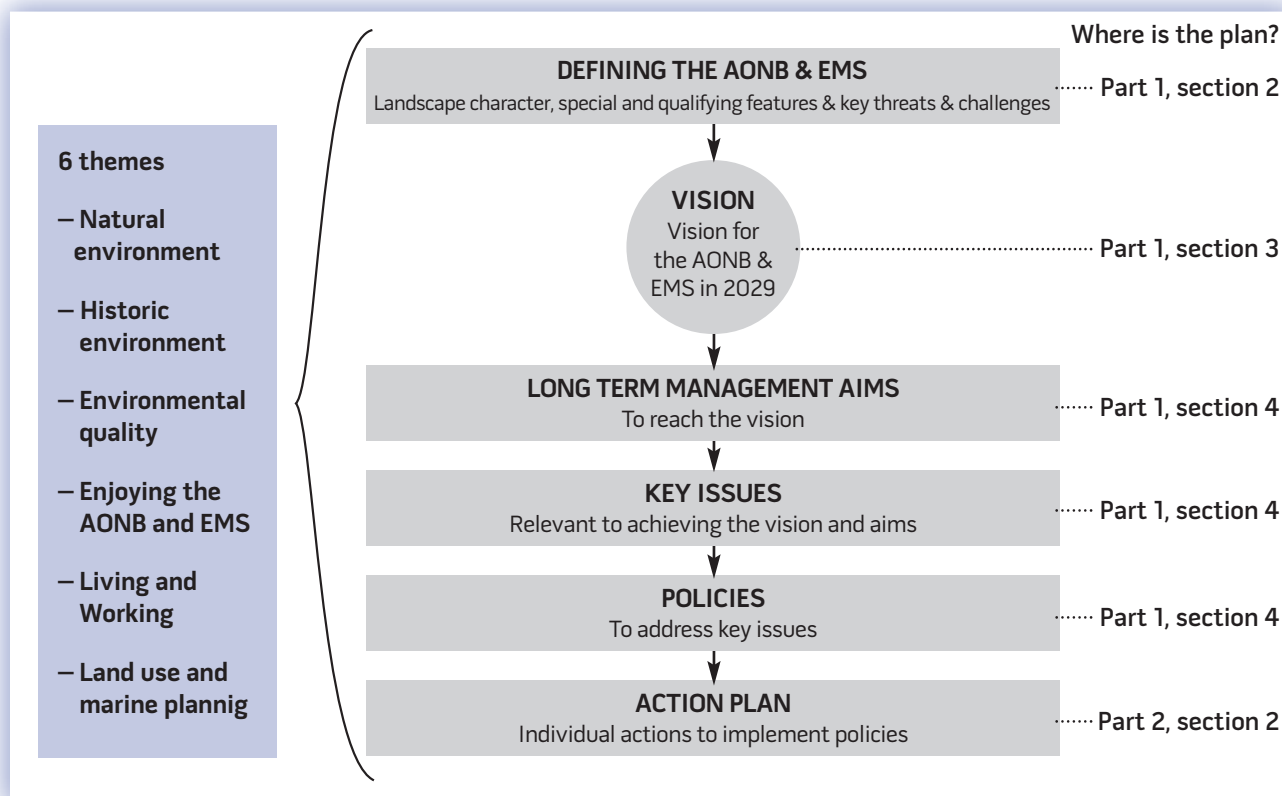
Visits enjoying the summer flowers on Holy Island of Lindisfarne



## Format of the Plan

1.22 The Plan is split in two parts. Part One contains the Vision, Aims and Policies together with supporting information. Part Two sets out the process for implementation of the Vision, Aims and Policies including a detailed Action Plan. The format of the Plan is summarised in the following diagram.

Fig 1.3 Format of the Management Plan



## How has the Plan been produced?

1.23 Previously the competent and relevant bodies (see 1.18) produced and adopted separate plans for the AONB and EMS. The EMS Management Scheme was published in 2001 and the AONB Management Plan was published in 2004. This integrated Plan has been informed by the previous plans, the success of their implementation and the experience of the AONB team and EMS Officer. Consultation on the integrated Plan has been undertaken with the AONB Partnership, the EMS Management Group and wider stakeholders and groups. A concurrent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been undertaken as required under the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). The results of the SEA are available as supporting documents during the consultation period for the draft Plan. The Plan will also be considered under Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) undertaken. Pending the outcomes from consultation the results of the SEA and AA will be incorporated into the final Plan. The Plan will eventually be signed off by the competent and relevant authorities and partners.

## Status of Plan policies

1.24 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) states that local authorities must “prepare and publish a plan which formulates their policy for the management of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and for carrying out of their functions in relation to it”. This Plan includes policies that are intended to direct and influence the subsequent formulation of policy by local authorities (and other public bodies) in all relevant areas of activity that impact on the AONB, including development management, local transport, and conservation. This Plan and its constituent policies will guide interpretation of the duty placed on the councils by Sections 84 and 85 of the CROW Act, to have regard to the purposes of designation in carrying out their function.

1.25 With regard to the EMS, the policies in this Plan are not statutory, but the Plan is the method by which the relevant and competent authorities have chosen to fulfil their statutory duties with respect to the Habitats Regulations.

## Policy context and relationship to other plans

**1.26** The Plan must also take into account many other statutory and non-statutory plans and strategies at the national, regional and local level. These relate to principles such as an ecosystem-based approach, stakeholder engagement and strategic environmental assessment. Consideration must also be given to issues such as biodiversity, climate change, economic development, land and sea planning and tourism.

**1.27** By focusing on the conservation and enhancement of the area this Plan, provides a tool to influence other important statutes, strategies, policies and plans that may affect the area directly or influence its management. Key plans and strategies that influence the conservation of the area have been taken into account in the preparation of this Plan and are listed below. A list of other relevant plans and strategies is given in the References section.

- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- Biodiversity Action Plans
- Planning Policy Guidance 20: Coastal Planning
- Regional Spatial Strategy
- Local Development Frameworks
- North East Climate Change Strategy
- St Abb's to River Tyne Shoreline Management Plan

- Local Authority Coastal Strategies
- River Basin Management Plans
- Tweed Estuary Management Plan

**1.28** The Northumberland Heritage Coast (HC) also overlaps the AONB and EMS as it stretches from the Scottish border to the southern extreme of Druridge Bay and extends offshore to the 10 fathom contour (see Map 1). Heritage Coast is a non-statutory designation, unlike the formal designations of AONB and EMS, and is designed to cover the most unspoilt areas of undeveloped coastline around England and Wales. Many of the objectives of the Heritage Coast (HC) are synonymous with those of the AONB and EMS and implementation of this Plan will provide protection for much of the HC area.

**1.29** It is worth noting that the period during which this Plan was written was a period of significant change with respect to relevant statutes, policy and governance. A new UK Marine Bill (principally for England and Wales) approaches its first passage through parliament bringing a new approach to marine conservation that seeks to build upon the achievements of the existing EMS network. A Scottish Marine Bill is also in development. A new unitary authority will adopt the functions of the county council and district councils in Northumberland. The delivery and implementation of this Plan must take into account these significant changes and at the same time should be used as a tool to ensure the effective management of the AONB and EMS by the unitary authority.

## Objectives of Heritage Coast status<sup>2</sup>

Shaded text accords with the purposes of the AONB designation:

- to conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coasts including their terrestrial, littoral and marine flora and fauna and their heritage features of architectural, historical and archaeological interest;
- to facilitate and enhance their enjoyment, understanding and appreciation by the public by improving and extending opportunities for recreational, educational, sporting and tourist activities that draw on and are consistent with the conservation of their natural beauty and the protection of their heritage features;
- to maintain and improve (where necessary) the environmental health of inshore waters affecting Heritage Coasts and their beaches through appropriate works and management measures;
- to take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing and of the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts by promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development which in themselves conserve and enhance natural beauty and heritage features.

## 2. The Landscape and Seascape





## 2. The Landscape and Seascape of the Northumberland Coast AONB and the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS

### Overview

2.1 While the area is a tranquil combination of land and sea it exhibits great variety of coastal land and seascapes. There is a distinctive wild and dramatic character to both the coastal land and the sea. The long windswept sand beaches, high rock cliffs and extensive rocky reefs, clustered settlements, imposing castles, extensive sea and inland views, abundant wild bird populations and many other elements all contribute to this overall character and to the visual and sensory experience of the coast. Within different parts of the area, however, particular combinations of these elements result in land and seascapes with an individual, local character. Management needs to ensure that both the single distinct identity of this coastal area and the local variations of land and seascape character are conserved and enhanced.



### Forming the landscape and seascape

#### Natural history

2.2 The shape and form of the coastal landscape has largely been determined by the underlying geology. The majority of the rocks on the Northumberland coast were laid down as horizontal layers during a time in geological history when this area was submerged beneath a tropical sea. The combination of the remains of sea animals, sediments from river deltas and swamp vegetation resulted in the formation of bands of limestones, sandstones, shales and coal measures. Movements in the earth's crust forced molten magma into these layers of sedimentary rock forming the hard dolerite rock of the Whin Sill. Extensive scouring action and deposition by ice sheets as this land mass drifted north resulted in a smoothing of landforms and the accumulation of various depths of clay, pebbles and boulders on the land surface.



Geology at Howick

2.3 The Berwickshire coast hosts the highest and grandest cliffs on the east coast of mainland Britain. 500 million years ago the rocks of Scotland, Scandinavia and North America were one continent, which was separated from England and the rest of Europe by the Lapetus Ocean. Around 400 million years ago a continental collision called the Caledonian Orogeny closed the Lapetus Ocean and connected Scotland and England. The remains of sea creatures, graptolites and trilobites that lived on the ocean floor can still be found in the Scottish borders today. Following the Caledonian Orogeny a period of relative quiet occurred when the land was covered with layers of sediment, forming sandstone, coal and other sedimentary rocks. The coast and cliffs are made of old red sandstone and Silurian rocks.

2.4 The interaction of the sea with the geology of the land has resulted in the present day coastline along which rocky headlands and sandy bays alternate. Steep headlands and islands have formed where the sea has met with resistance from hard rock but wave action has cut into the land to form sand bays where there are soft rock or clay outcrops. Deposition by wind, waves or water currents have formed coastal features such as mud and sand flats and sand dunes. Exposures of the resistant Whin Sill has created the dramatic scenery between Cullernose Point and Holy Island, and formed the isolated Farne Islands. The sturdy cliffs of Berwickshire form an imposing 150m vertical platform from which to view the expansive North Sea and all its changing forms and colours and on a good day the back of a passing dolphin or whale.

**2.5** The variations in landform on the coast are intensified by distinctive ecological associations. For example, the stark isolation of the Farne Islands and cliffs of St Abb's Head are enhanced and their attraction increased by the seasonal presence and activity of thousands of nesting seabirds rearing chicks and hunting out to sea. Similarly, the colourful flora associated with the coastal sand dune systems, and the calcareous and acid-loving grassland species which are native to areas of whinstone rock, all add to the character of the landform. The geology of the coast extends under the sea surface to form vast underwater reefs teeming with a huge variety of marine wildlife. Within the reef system are gullies, crevices and sea caves all hosting their own communities of marine animals and plants. Between the reef outcrops are areas of sand alternately gravelly or muddy with burrowing creatures such as Nephrops more commonly known as scampi. Meanwhile above all this in the water column more mobile species glide by; jelly fish, basking sharks, dolphins and whales and many species of fish such as the cuckoo wrasse or strange crevice-dwelling wolf fish.

#### Human history

**2.6** The human history of the coast is closely linked to the features of the landscape. Prominent outcrops of Northumberland Whinstone rock have been favoured throughout the ages as easily defensible sites. It is on such sites that the castles of Holy Island, Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh are located. Berwick has been a fort-like town fought over throughout history and its special heritage is rivalled by few other historic towns. Tranquillity and relative isolation were qualities favoured in the selection of spiritual sites during the early Christian period in Northumberland and this is still apparent at locations such as Holy Island, St Cuthbert's Island and the Inner Farne.

**2.7** On the Northumberland coastline, ports and harbours were established in places where estuaries and bays offered some natural protection. North of Berwick settlements of seafarers and fishers have inhabited Burnmouth, Eyemouth, Coldingham and St Abb's for centuries, where the fishing tradition and connection to the sea continues to this day though somewhat diversified into nature tourism and diving. The St Abb's and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve has been a site of such interesting marine life that for over twenty years a voluntary agreement between fishers and divers has conserved and enhanced the special quality of this marine realm. There is an inextricable link between humans and the sea along this whole stretch of coastline where the livelihoods and survival of communities has centred on fishing and transportation of goods by sea.

**2.8** Available natural resources have determined the location of many traditional industries on the Northumberland coast such as lime burning and quarrying. Local stone and other materials have been used in the construction of vernacular buildings. The

area is rich in archaeology with many periods and cultural strands such as marine, defence, industrial and religious to discover. Agricultural land uses are closely associated with geology and landform, and within the coastal area there are marked contrasts between rich arable farming on glacial soils and the livestock grazing regimes which are characteristic on shallow whinstone and sand soils.

**2.9** Many contemporary management issues on the coast are associated with the loosening of traditional linkages between landforms, geology, ecology and human activity. Extensive use of fertilisers, drainage and other agricultural improvement techniques has reduced the association between the natural fertility of the land and farming activities. This combines with increased sewage and water use to negatively impact the ecological quality and diversity of the coastal waters in the form of nutrient enrichment and the formation of nuisance algal mats which can smother intertidal habitats. Modern fishing practices have also affected the biodiversity and quality of the marine environment. Modern transport systems have broken down traditional pockets of isolation and the ready availability of goods and materials from outside the area has reduced dependency on local supplies. Imported design ideas as well as materials have done much to change the appearance of buildings and settlements.



St Cuthbert's Chapel on Inner Farne



Golf Links and Chalets near Embleton

**2.10** Whilst these direct linkages between the 10,000-strong population of the AONB and the products of sea and land have loosened, the overall importance of the landscape to the local economy has grown. Tourism is now a mainstay of the local economy and an important source of employment. Helping to maintain a healthy and sustainable tourism sector is one reason why the coastal landscape must be maintained and improved. Recreational activities also exhibit the strong link with natural landforms, resources and the sea. Caravan, chalet and development for visitor accommodation has a clear association with the sandy beaches. The relationship of golf courses (such as those on Embleton Links and Alnmouth) to areas of former sand dunes is particularly marked and the growing popularity of activities such as diving is dependent on the natural quality and biodiversity of inshore waters. The expansion of nature-based tourism is also encouraging many visitors to the coast.

## Description of local character areas

**2.11** With the modern day pressures of use and development tending to result in a dilution of local distinctiveness, it is important that the qualities which contribute to the special character of specific areas of landscape and seascape are understood, conserved and enhanced by appropriate management action.

**2.12** Distinctive areas of the land have been identified and described based on their landscape character<sup>1</sup>. The AONB consists of six character areas (see Map 2, Appendix 1):

- Spittal to Saltpan rocks
- Saltpan rocks to Budle Point
- Farne Islands
- Budle Point to Castle Point
- Castle Point to Seaton Point
- Seaton Point to Coquet Estuary

**2.13** A further character area which is outside the AONB but supports the seascape of the EMS has also been identified:

- Fast Castle Head to Berwick

**2.14** The character areas within Alnwick District will be redefined in the future to support the Supplementary Planning Documents on Landscape and Renewables that Alnwick District Council is intending to adopt.

### Fast Castle Head to Berwick

**2.15** This area is largely a Scottish Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). These are designated by planning authorities, in this case Scottish Borders Council, for the purpose of safeguarding locally important areas of outstanding scenic character or quality from inappropriate development. The coastal land is largely rural and sparsely populated adding to its special quality, while the settlements are nestled on the shoreline within the natural dips between high cliffs. This lends to the isolated look of the area that in reality supports close-knit communities. The National Trust for Scotland manages a National Nature Reserve at St Abb's Head and also supports the St Abb's and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve (VMR) Ranger.

### Spittal to Saltpan rocks

**2.16** The northernmost part of the AONB comprises a narrow band of cliff-top farmland fronted by dramatic and geologically important cliffs and with an inland boundary defined by the mainline east coast railway. From the vantage point of the cliff tops there are fine views of the historic town landscapes of Spittal and Berwick-upon-Tweed to the north, Holy Island and Lindisfarne to the south and the Cheviot and border hills to the west. Immediate views inland are dominated by the features of the electrified east coast rail line and it is within this section of coast that rail passengers are afforded the best views of the AONB landscape.

### Saltpan rocks to Budle Point

**2.17** Cocklawburn Beach in the north of the area is the first of the popular sand beaches on the coast. Accommodation for car parking by visitors makes a first appearance and evidence of old industrial structures from the lime burning industry and second world war defences are to be found amongst the dunes. These features are to be found repeatedly in the landscape of the AONB. Moving southwards, the limestone cliffs dip down and give way to sandy coves and low-lying dunes and pastures. Beyond this the AONB widens out to create the distinctive lowland setting for Holy Island and the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve.

**2.18** South of Middle Skerr, as the coastline becomes flatter, the extensive views inland which are a feature of the northern part of the AONB first become apparent. As the AONB broadens into the dune and sand landscapes of Goswick, the low-lying marsh landscape of Fenham and the extensive dunes of Ross Links, an impression of isolation develops. Occasional farmsteads, often protected by groups of trees, provide the main evidence of a human presence.

**2.19** Holy Island exhibits many of the characteristics that are typical of the AONB. Surrounding and within the Island are rich sand dune systems, rocky shores, a compact historic village and fishing harbour, impressive archaeological, historic and ecclesiastical features, productive agricultural land and nature conservation interest of international importance. As one of the most important visitor destinations in the AONB, the landscape of the Island is also influenced by related developments, most notably significant areas for car parking. Holy Island is connected to the mainland by a causeway that is flooded by the tide twice a day, creating a unique feature of the Northumberland Coast AONB.

**2.20** The Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve is centred on the great sweep of Holy Island Sands and Fenham Flats. This tidal area, with its daily exposures of sand-flats, mud and salt-marsh, is a wild and lonely landscape animated only by the internationally important seasonal concentrations of waders and wildfowl and by occasional walkers following the St Cuthbert's Way pilgrims' route across the flats.

**2.21** Between Beal and Elwick rich agricultural farmland borders on the low-lying tidal areas with occasional clusters of buildings, often medieval in origin. The southern end of this local character area is defined by the flat landscape of the isolated Ross peninsula and the tidal mud and sand of Budle Bay. On Ross Links fine sand beaches offering extensive views are in front of improved agricultural land with occasional shelterbelts of trees. At Budle Bay the extensive tidal changes result in a dramatically changing landscape. Whilst the importance of the Bay is now associated with its wild bird populations, the former mill and associated buildings at Waren Mill and the remains of the planned medieval settlement of Newtown hint of the previous importance of trade and industry.

### Farne Islands

**2.22** Off the coast of Bamburgh, the Farne Islands form the easternmost outcrop of the hard rock of the Whin

<sup>1</sup> The Northumberland Coast Landscape, Countryside Commission (1996)

Sill. At low tide the 28 islands are exposed, formed in two distinct groups separated by the 1.5km wide Staple Sound. The unyielding dark rock of the Islands has over the centuries provided a refuge for religious contemplation, a deadly trap for sea farers and a safe breeding location for colonies of seabirds and seals.

**2.23** Many species of seabirds, including eider, shag, guillemot, razorbill and several species of terns, breed on the Islands. The breeding colony of grey seals on the outer Farnes is the most important on the east coast of England and a qualifying feature of the EMS. The density of breeding birds on the larger Islands is such that the sea cliffs have been whitened over considerable areas by bird droppings. The Islands have been designated as a National Nature Reserve, reflecting their outstanding conservation value and are actively managed by the National Trust to ensure their protection. Trips to and around the Farnes from Seahouses are a major attraction for visitors during the spring and summer months and make a significant contribution to the local economy.

### **Budle Point to Castle Point**

**2.24** Moving south from Budle Bay to Dunstanburgh Castle the character of the coastline changes to one of sandy bays separated by prominent rocky headlands. As the coastline begins to offer more shelter so the number of settlements increases. Although this section of coast begins and ends with prominently sited castles, it is fishing and other industries that have had most influence on the form of its ports and harbours. Inland, the topography is more undulating than that of the Lindisfarne area to the north and this is reflected in a diverse pattern of fields and isolated farmsteads.

**2.25** Bamburgh Castle is a key feature in the landscape of the northernmost part of the area and its location on a high whinstone outcrop dominates the surrounding wide sand beaches and open farmland. Between Bamburgh and Seahouses a ridge of high dunes separates the shore line and the interior and limits views of the coast. Bamburgh, Seahouses and Beadnell are the main settlements within this coastal area and each has a wholly different character. Bamburgh retains the ordered form of an estate village within the shadow of the Castle. Once an important fishing port, the character of Seahouses is now strongly influenced by the dominant tourism industry. This facilitates an appreciation of the seascape comprised of the Farne Islands. At Beadnell, the historic harbour area is now isolated within surrounding housing and leisure related developments which have little relationship to local traditions of building.

**2.26** To the south of Beadnell, the sandy bays become longer and wider. Beadnell Bay, Football Hole, Newton Bay and Embleton Bay are amongst the most attractive and secluded parts of the AONB coastline. Rolling dune systems with rich displays of flora during the early summer months are a feature of this coastal area. The contrasting habitats of rock platforms, and reefs, sheltered sand bays and areas of enclosed water, such as at Newton Pools, host significant populations of sea and shore birds.

### **Castle Point to Seaton Point**

**2.27** Within the north of this area, the dramatic profile of the ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle dominates the

landscape. From here to the south of Boulmer, the shore is defined by a series of low, rocky cliffs and by extensive reefs and wave-cut platforms. Much of this landscape is influenced by the Whin Sill, which outcrops on the coast to reveal spectacular formations of strata. Inland, the Whin Sill creates a complementary series of linear outcrops known as Heughs.

**2.28** The whinstone which created the rugged nature of the coastline also influences the appearance of the land with the establishment of extensive areas of rough pasture based on thin soils. These grasslands are botanically unique supporting rare associations of acid-loving and calcareous-loving plants. The high and isolated cliffs at Castle Point and Cullernose Point provide favoured nesting sites for large colonies of sea birds and the white of their droppings contrasts with the black of the rock.

**2.29** Little natural shelter from the sea is to be found along this hard coastline and the compact former fishing villages of Craster and Boulmer are clustered around indentations in the cliffs and reefs. Inland there are small settlements at locations such as High Newton, Dunstan and Howick which are typically distinguished by their compact and ordered form. Near the south of the area RAF Boulmer introduces the contrasting forms of military development.

**2.30** South of Craster the local landscape is transformed by the influence of the Howick Estate. The mixed woodland planting, and the diversity of tree and shrub species, combine with the rolling topography to create an enclosed landscape that contrasts sharply with the surroundings. The wooded corridor of Howick Burn is the only significant example of such a feature within the AONB and the link it provides between coast and inland landscape is particularly special as a result.

### **Seaton Point to Coquet Estuary**

**2.31** Within the southernmost section of the AONB the landscape softens and is characterised by long sweeping sand beaches backed by strongly defined sand dune systems. The AONB narrows in this area to become a relatively slender strip of coastal land with an inland boundary following the A1068. The main part of the area lies between the only two tidal river estuaries in the AONB, those of the Rivers Aln and Coquet.

**2.32** Throughout the area, views of the coast are generally limited by the high dunes and topography. To the north of Alnmouth however the steep bracken and bramble-clad raised beach provides a fine vantage point for views along Alnmouth Bay. The flood plain of the River Aln and the tidal course of the River Coquet form distinctive river landscapes which are unusual within the AONB. The tidal mud and wetlands associated with the estuaries of both rivers form important habitats which are notable for their salt-tolerant flora, such as sea thrift, and for their diverse populations of wading birds. The dune lands too are generally rich in flora and, with the exception of the compact golf course at Alnmouth, have not generally been subject to significant change through development or agricultural use.

**2.33** The settlements of Alnmouth and Warkworth retain a strong historical identity. The planned medieval form of Alnmouth and its one-time importance as a port for trade in agricultural produce has resulted in a character which is quite distinct from other coastal settlements. The line of the main village street, the evidence of adjacent burgrave plots and the considerable number of converted granaries all point to a former importance. Dominated by the impressive remains of its medieval castle and with fine 18th and 19th century architecture, Warkworth also displays evidence of its early origins and later prosperity. Largely contained within a loop of the River Coquet, the form and setting of the villages are particularly visually attractive.

**Table 2.1 Summary of special features of the AONB**

<b>Visual and sensory</b>	Landscape Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dunes and beaches</li> <li>Sandflats and mudflats</li> <li>Cliffs and rocky shore</li> <li>Farmland</li> <li>Woodland</li> <li>Seascapes</li> </ul>
	Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wide, open coast views into and across width of AONB</li> <li>Lateral coastal views containing contrasting landscape types</li> <li>Vertical punctuations (castle, lighthouses, limekilns)</li> <li>A defensive coastline (reflected in castles, cliffs, dunes, military defences, RAF Boulmer, and the location, layout and design of settlements and isolated buildings)</li> <li>Rural industry and trade, past and present</li> <li>Seasonal views such as snow-capped hills as backdrop in winter</li> <li>Impact of changeable coastal weather altering visibility and appearance of land and sea</li> </ul>
	Sensory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of light</li> <li>Overall sense of wildness, remoteness, tranquillity and naturalness</li> <li>Intimacy of small bays, woods and denes</li> </ul>
<b>Natural</b>	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dune and whin grassland and heath</li> <li>Farmland and field margins</li> <li>Rivers and streams</li> <li>Wooded habitats (scrub, hedgerows, hedgerow trees, native woodland)</li> <li>Cliff habitats</li> </ul>
	Geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whin sill</li> <li>Carboniferous sequences of limestone, sandstone shale and coal measures</li> <li>Coastal, estuarine and riverine geomorphology</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural</b>	Archaeology	Remains from Mesolithic to present, including marine archaeology
	Historic landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mesolithic</li> <li>Medieval</li> <li>Industrial (quarrying and lime)</li> <li>Designed landscapes</li> </ul>
	Built Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact traditional fishing, farming, planned medieval and estate settlements</li> <li>Isolated groups of buildings</li> <li>Vernacular non-listed buildings</li> <li>Traditional building materials</li> <li>Castles</li> <li>Ecclesiastical structures</li> <li>Lighthouses</li> <li>Limekilns</li> <li>Harbours</li> <li>Military defences</li> </ul>
	History and cultural Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christianity</li> <li>Fishing</li> <li>Farming</li> <li>Coastal trade and industry</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River water quality</li> <li>Beach water quality</li> <li>Soil quality</li> <li>Air quality</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footpaths, bridleways and byways</li> <li>Access to beaches, farmland, estates, wildlife reserves and National Trust land</li> <li>Access to the sea</li> <li>Long distance walking and cycling routes</li> </ul>

**Table 2.2 Summary of qualifying features of the European Marine Site**

Rocky reefs
Sea caves
Large shallow inlets and bays
Intertidal sand and mud flats
Grey seals
Lindisfarne SPA bird features

### Threats and opportunities for the conservation of the character of the landscape and seascape

**2.34** This Plan seeks to build on the progress made through implementation of its "parent" documents: the 2004-09 AONB Management Plan and the EMS Management Scheme. The Plan and the Scheme developed management actions that sought to address issues and deliver effective management. Many such issues still affect management plan delivery. The sections below revisit the original issues, provide an update on progress towards resolving them, and add new issues that have become more prevalent. It should be noted that the EMS scheme is not required to address issues of landscape and seascape and therefore most of the issues discussed here relate to the AONB and its management primarily. However, many of the qualifying features for which the EMS is designated will make significant contributions to the landscape value of the AONB.

### Threats and Challenges identified in AONB 2004-09 Management Plan

#### *Lack of detailed knowledge and awareness of the designation and landscape (and seascape) character*

**2.35** Significant progress has been made to increase detailed knowledge of the landscape and seascape. The National Trust provide annual population counts for the grey seals at the Farne Islands; Natural England NNR staff provide reports about bird numbers for the Lindisfarne SPA; Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage, as part of their statutory duties, monitor site condition of EMS qualifying features including rocky reefs, sea caves and sandy and muddy shores. In addition there have been regional initiatives such as the Explore Your Environment (EYE) project, the Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC), and the North East Coastal Observatory (NECO). The EYE project aims to involve the public in creating a database and map of wildlife sightings that is both a record and an awareness raising tool. ERIC will bring together, validate and improve access to information on important species, habitats and sites in the North East held by a wide range of organisations. The NECO is a web-based partnership project aimed at providing an information toolbox for the delivery of integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning across the north east. The website aims to provide information and reports in order to assist coastal practitioners in their decision making process. In addition to improving the evidence base for decision making, it is hoped the project will become a forum for exchanging information and linking coastal initiatives. However, despite all these initiatives, a challenge remains to complete the establishment of an environmental baseline against which to monitor changes in the condition of the AONB and EMS, and so assess the ongoing effectiveness of the Plan.



**2.36** Awareness of the AONB designation and features of landscape character has been raised since 2004 among residents, visitors and organisations whose activities impact on the AONB, particularly through the work of the AONB Partnership and staff team. Maintaining this raised awareness forms part of the Plan and will encompass work to raise awareness, understanding and support for the EMS, which is a poorly understood designation beyond organisations involved in its governance.

**2.37** There remains a need to ensure consideration of landscape character impacts in all other plans and strategies relevant to the AONB, EMS and surrounding area.

### *Development pressure and unsympathetic and generic approaches to development and design*

**2.38** Unsympathetic development and design was identified as a threat to landscape character in the first Management Plan. To help address this, the AONB recently produced a Design Guide for the Built Environment which has been a significant resource for developers and planners to guard against the loss of landscape character and erosion of local distinctiveness. It provides strong and unambiguous policy on location and type of development and an understanding of landscape character as the basis for more complementary approaches. It promotes use of vernacular design, and historic settlement patterns. A challenge facing both the AONB and the EMS is harbour development that is sympathetic to conserving and enhancing the landscape and seascape.

### *Pressure from recreation, tourism and leisure use*

**2.39** The area's ever growing popularity with visitors, rising numbers of private cars and an increasing variety of sports activities still pose threats to the fabric of the landscape, seascape, important populations of wildlife and experience of visitors. A recreation guide to the AONB and EMS seeks to focus recreation activities on to those areas where there is capacity to support them.

### *Changing land management which may lead to degradation of features*

**2.40** Changes in farming and other land management practices can lead to the loss of locally distinctive habitats and species, archaeological features and traditional buildings. The AONB staff have maintained a close relationship with farmers and their agents to develop land management for mutual benefit to farming and the AONB. The loss of traditional skills and local knowledge continues to put pressure upon our ability to conserve the special features of the landscape.

### *Rural social and economic factors*

**2.41** The viability of local communities and businesses, and hence their ability to support the purpose of the AONB and EMS designations, is impacted by factors such as demographic change, local

skills, employment, access to services, affordable housing and changes to the fishing industry. There is a need to consider the social and economic needs of communities within the overarching purpose of conserving and enhancing the AONB. The EMS



designation also allows socio-economic activities to the extent they do not adversely affect the favourable condition of the qualifying features.

### *Gradual erosion of a sense of wildness, remoteness and tranquillity*

**2.42** This sense is increasingly threatened by the combined impact of many of the above threats and other pressures, including the "creeping urbanisation" of light and noise pollution and spread of cumulative development. Providing appropriate means of both measuring and mitigating these impacts still presents a significant management challenge.

## **New Threats and Opportunities**

### *Climate change leading to "coastal squeeze" or "roll back"*

**2.43** Climate change is a major issue in the management of the special and qualifying features of the AONB and, to a lesser extent, the EMS. It is predicted that the sea level will rise 100cm in the next 100 years. This could lead to "coastal squeeze", where the shoreline environment is squeezed into a very narrow band between the sea and the sharp barrier of other existing land uses inland. Adaptation to sea level rise allows for "roll back", which allows free functioning ecosystems and their processes to migrate inland.

**2.44** The advantage of "roll back" is that it allows for sustainable conservation of habitats, species, and the enjoyment gained by visitors. "Roll back" would require a dynamic AONB designation to also migrate in order to continue to cover its special features that have moved inland. The disadvantage of "roll back" is the challenge to existing land uses, especially in areas not currently managed for conservation purposes. There will be a need to protect villages and other built developments where appropriate.

**2.45** "Roll back" is a very challenging opportunity to address the threats to the AONB and EMS in a time of

great environmental change. To protect the AONB and EMS in perpetuity processes will need to be put in place to allow the coastline to adapt to climate change in a manner which best reflects the needs of the current designations.

**2.46** Other climate change impacts include increased storminess, and potential loss of species and habitats on the extremes of their ecological range.

### *Invasive species*

**2.47** Invasive non-native species are one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity. Once transported out of their natural range they can negatively impact on native species and habitats across terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. This is a particular issue with respect to climate change and its ability to influence the natural range of occurrence of marine species. Invasive species such as piri-piri burr are vigorously colonising dune grassland at Lindisfarne NNR and other sites along the coast. In some areas of duneland garden waste has provided a ready supply of non-native plants which can smother more fragile dune flora. *Spartina anglica*, introduced as a method of coastal defence, successfully out-competes native species and modifies mudflats and salt marshes. Some work has been undertaken to combat these incursions but further work is necessary. An overarching strategy is needed to combat invasive species on land, in the sea and in freshwater.

### *Ecosystem degradation and changes in food availability for marine species*

**2.48** Degradation of ecosystems through climate change, pollution from land-based and marine sources (single incident, point source or diffuse catchment-wide), and other degradation issues is a general threat, particularly in the marine area. Changes to habitat and food availability can have significant adverse effects on species. A broad understanding of the ecosystem is required to highlight indicators of degradation and its negative consequences and a plan for mitigation and adaptation should be formulated. Pollution contingency planning is still a necessary activity and awareness raising is still a challenge.

### *Coastal Access*

**2.49** The UK Marine Bill promotes the UK Government's vision to provide "a coastal environment where rights to walk along the length of the English and Welsh coast lie within a wildlife and landscape corridor that offers enjoyment, understanding of the natural environment and a high quality experience; and is managed sustainably in the context of a changing coastline." A similar project may take place north of the border in Scotland through a Scottish Marine Bill. Such a level of access is an opportunity (for recreation) and a potential threat (to biodiversity). Coastal Access will need to be implemented very carefully to avoid negative impacts on sensitive

species and habitats, such as through disturbance of roost and feeding sites of coastal birds.

### *Marine planning*

**2.50** UK and Scottish Marine Bills will also introduce a system of marine planning delivered by a new Marine Management Organisation in waters off the coast of England and Wales and an equivalent for Scottish waters. Marine plans will be produced following the national Marine Policy Statement and contribute to sustainable use of the marine environment. This allows opportunities for considering physical, environmental, social, cultural and economic characteristics, living resources, communication, energy and transport systems. This will potentially link strongly with conserving and enhancing the special features of the AONB and the qualifying features and EMS.

### *Data collection and monitoring*

**2.51** It is essential to monitor the condition of the AONB and EMS, and the performance of the Plan towards achieving its vision, aims and policies. The Strategic Environmental Assessment of this draft Plan proposed that condition be monitored against an environmental baseline and identified indicators to enable it to be monitored. All baseline information available at the time of drafting was utilised to inform the development of this Plan (see 2.35). It revealed many gaps in the data sets and monitoring activities. The challenge is to enhance the monitoring of the environmental baseline indicators, with the help of partners, throughout the Plan period. There is potential to jointly fill these information gaps for both designations and develop indicators that tell us something about the AONB and the EMS in an integrated manner. Regular "State of the AONB/EMS" Reports, summarising the baseline data and highlighting trends, could serve to raise awareness of the AONB and EMS and issues for their management.



# 3. Vision Statement





### 3. Vision Statement

#### Overall vision for the Northumberland Coast AONB and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS

A living, working area with a sense of remoteness and wildness with wide open coastal and sea views, a naturally functioning coastline, and distinctive community history and culture. The peace, tranquillity and intimacy of small bays, wooded land and denes endure. Settlements reflect vernacular styles and materials. The coast and countryside is uncrowded, quiet and natural with dark night skies. Individuals, farmers, communities and organisations work together to adapt to the challenge of climate change and conserve and enhance the high quality of landscape, seascape, biodiversity and life.

#### A vision for the AONB and EMS in 2029

3.1 This vision looks ahead to 2029 to describe the type of place we would like the AONB and EMS Plan area to be at that time. The vision draws on comments received through stakeholder and public consultation and is an iteration of the 2024 Vision expressed in the 2004-09 AONB Plan. The overall vision for the AONB and EMS is followed by more detailed vision statements on specific themes that contribute to achieving it. The Plan policies (Section 4) and actions (Part Two) that follow are the means to make the vision become reality.



#### Natural environment

3.2 A rich diversity in wildlife, habitats and geology is flourishing and better understood. Special conservation features are in favourable condition and the area is host to significant populations of regionally, nationally and internationally important species. Vulnerable species and habitats under pressure in the past are now well managed and their range is increased. Ecosystems are allowed to function freely and adapt to climate change.



#### Historic environment

3.3 Links with history, former land uses of land and sea are protected and evident in the landscape and marine area. Settlements use traditional local building materials and designs and respect vernacular settlement patterns.

#### Environmental quality

3.4 Sea, land, rivers, streams and air meet or exceed legislative standards. The area is a tranquil place with high local environmental quality.

#### Enjoying the AONB and EMS

3.5 Information on the natural and cultural heritage is widely and readily available without impacting on the landscape or seascape. The area has sufficient accessible infrastructure for visitors and residents to enjoy the area. A large variety of activities take place without disturbance to wildlife or other people, with benefits for the conservation of the area and diverse groups within communities. People are inspired to take action in support of the AONB and EMS.

### Living and working

**3.6** Diversity in terms of age, income and occupation of residents has been maintained and they share an understanding and appreciation of the area's special qualities. Community members are involved in projects to conserve, enhance, understand and enjoy the AONB and EMS. The rural economy is broad-based with ongoing investment in business development of land- and sea-based, traditional and visitor industries and sustainably produced local products. Farming helps conserve and enhance features of the landscape including traditional buildings and field boundaries, hedgerow trees and a patchwork of mixed arable and grazing habitats. Harbours are lively and active. Access to local services, training, education and employment is improved with good transport links backed up by widely available information.

### Land use and marine planning

**3.7** Planning is integrated across the AONB and EMS. There is meaningful regional input to marine planning. The AONB is extended north and south and management of the whole coastal zone protects the coastal landscape and seascape. New and modified existing development helps conserve the qualifying features of the AONB and EMS, and is sensitively located, scaled, designed and landscaped. Distinctions between settlements, and between settlements and open countryside, are preserved. The effects of "coastal squeeze" on land use as a result of climate change are managed effectively and equitably. Roads are managed with special regard to their location within the AONB.

### Partnership working

**3.8** Good communication, consultation and partnership working are standard. There is recognition by decision makers and policy makers from the local to regional and national level of the local distinctiveness and qualifying features of the AONB and EMS.



## 4. Conserving and Enhancing the AONB and EMS



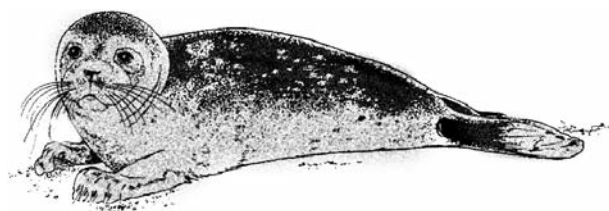


## 4. Conserving and Enhancing

### Overview

4.1 This chapter builds on the vision for the area in Section 3 and sets out in detail how this vision should be achieved.

Policies needed to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB and qualifying features of the EMS are split into the following six themes previously utilised in the 2004-09 Management Plan. Transport is now addressed throughout the other six themes as appropriate:



- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Natural environment   | 2. Historic environment          |
| 3. Environmental quality | 4. Enjoying the AONB and EMS     |
| 5. Living and working    | 6. Land use and marine planning. |

4.2 For each theme the following information is provided:

- **Overview:** An overview of activity and status of the area, including a description of management responsibility under that theme.
- **Long-term management aims:** these are long-term management aspirations, looking beyond the period of the Plan.
- **Key issues:** A discussion of key issues relating to that theme.
- **Policies:** These are provided with individual key issues.
- **Cross-cutting issues:** Reference is made to key cross-cutting issues dealt with in other sections of the Plan.

4.3 Issues, aims and policies have been developed from the equivalent provisions in the previous AONB management plan and EMS management scheme modified through feedback received during the stakeholder consultation process. All policies for each theme collectively work towards the set of long-term management aims for that theme. The individual visions for each theme are repeated at the beginning of each section. The six themes together contribute to the overall vision for the AONB and EMS.

4.4 Part Two of the Management Plan explains how Plan policies will be implemented and monitored and provides a detailed action plan for each of the six themes.

4.5 There are three broad management policies that apply to all themes and the entire Plan across land and sea. These are: taking an ecosystem approach to management, mitigating and adapting to climate change in all activities, and using the principles of integrated coastal zone management to manage efficiently and effectively.



Woodland walk at Howick Estate



Tern colony on the Farnes



Anemone

## Ecosystem approach

**4.6** The ecosystem approach is widely accepted as the best way to manage complex systems. It takes elements that are traditionally managed separately and integrates them to address cumulative impacts on important connectors such as food webs, habitat availability and physico-chemical interactions.

### Policy CE1

Take an ecosystem approach to managing the EMS and AONB, ensuring that the sites are enhanced and conserved holistically by taking into account the interconnectedness of all elements and the services delivered by ecosystems.

## Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

**4.7** Climate change has become a focus at many levels of society and mitigating for changes in weather patterns, sea level, and living and working standards has been advocated. There are many ways that we can contribute to a climate change strategy, from reducing our carbon footprint in the home and office to protecting biodiversity and allowing the roll back of coastal habitats. With all partners working together mitigation and adaptation to climate change should be more successful.

### Policy CE2

Ensure that climate change is taken into account in all management activities in an effort to mitigate it and adapt to the changes it brings.

## Integrated Coastal Management

**4.8** Integrated working with partners is acknowledged as best practice when managing the coast and has been successful in the region. Sharing expertise, work loads, information and resources has ensured the success of several projects and plans. This Plan should continue to build on this very effective method of holistic and practical management.

### Policy CE3

Continue to use an integrated approach to managing the coast by including all stakeholders and working in partnership as much as possible.

## 4.1. Natural environment

### 20 year vision

A rich diversity in wildlife, habitats and geology is flourishing and better understood. Special conservation features are in favourable condition and the area is host to significant populations of regionally, nationally and internationally important species. Vulnerable species and habitats under pressure in the past are now well managed and their range is increased. Ecosystems are allowed to function freely and adapt to climate change.

### Long-term management aims

1. Employ best practice to manage the natural environment and activities that can disturb or damage it, in order to conserve and enhance the diversity and condition of the special natural features.
2. Create a healthy, naturally functioning ecosystem with processes that help to mitigate climate change and coastal squeeze, control invasive species and safeguard geodiversity.

3. Improve knowledge about the natural environment through community involvement, data collection, monitoring and education.



### Introduction

**4.1.1** The many elements of the natural environment operate collectively to form an ecosystem whose processes and function are inextricably linked. These elements include the geodiversity, soil, inshore and offshore waters, habitats and lifecycles of species that live in the area along with the physical and chemical processes that make the ecosystem function.

**4.1.2** This section of the Plan considers the conservation and enhancement of the special features of the natural environment. It seeks to outline the potential conflicts in use and mitigate detrimental effects on the special features and processes of the ecosystem. It also considers the key issues and cross-cutting key issues involved in managing the natural environment.



Dune systems are a special feature that require conservation action

### Overview

#### Conservation Legislation

**4.1.3** Conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and its biodiversity is central to the delivery of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Birds Directive 1979, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. The UK and Scottish Marine Bills will strengthen the conservation and management of marine and coastal species and habitats by creating new conservation zones and powers for Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Agencies, streamlining licensing for all marine activities, introducing a marine spatial planning regime and rationalising implementation and enforcement.

#### Designated areas

**4.1.4** The number and variety of designations testify to the diversity, quality and importance of the natural environment (see table below and map 3). A key driver for activity is the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to have 95% of the SSSI area in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. Condition monitoring on the rocky reef, sea cave and mud and sand flats of the EMS have confirmed that they are in favourable condition. Further monitoring shows that the SPA bird features are in favourable

condition and that the grey seal population at the Farne Islands is healthy and stable. The St Abb's and Eyemouth VMR is not a statutorily designated site but is a very important part of the EMS' suite of conservation areas.

**4.1.5** The boundaries of the designated sites do not, however, define the limits of actual or potential conservation interest. Many areas that have not been afforded formal recognition hold considerable local conservation importance or form part of interrelated sites which are together of high value. The highly mobile nature of some important species means that consideration should be given to the connectivity of wider networks of sites beyond the sites covered by this Plan.

### Characteristic habitats and species

**4.1.6** The area contains a striking diversity of coastal and marine habitats (see map 4). Many of the terrestrial vegetation types are detailed in Northumberland County Council's 1995 Phase 1 Vegetation Study and Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and accompanying GIS, while the EMS habitats have been identified and mapped by Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural England. Some of these habitats

have been recognised as locally important and identified in the Northumberland and Berwickshire BAPs. The updated Northumberland BAP includes specific habitats and species with specific actions for their conservation and enhancement and can be viewed at

<http://www.northumberlandbiodiversity.org.uk>

**4.1.7** The habitats and species that are important elements in defining the character of the area are outlined below.

### Lowland farmland

**4.1.8** Agricultural uses occupy over 80% of the land within the AONB and have been fundamental in shaping the current landscape. Mixed farming is increasingly difficult to maintain as arable crops become more popular resulting in an overall loss of temporary and permanent grassland. Generally, farming is changing through economic pressure and government policy, for example production of novelty crops (non-staples), but will increasingly need to respond to climate change and associated coastal squeeze.

**4.1.9** Mixed farming (associated with raising and producing livestock, root crops, cereals and grass) has

**Table 4.1.1 Conservation designations on the Northumberland and Berwickshire Coast**

Designation	Number	Area	Type	Details
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	16	7855 ha	National	Includes habitats, species and geological features.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	4	~5486 ha	European	Site for birds designated under the European Birds Directive.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	2	664,950 ha	European	Sites for habitats and species designated under the European Habitats Directive.
European Marine Site (EMS)	1	635,000 ha	European	Site with six special features designated under the European Habitats Directive.
Ramsar site	2	~4000 ha	International	Wetlands of international importance for birds – Lindisfarne, Northumbria Coast and St Abb's.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	3	3717 ha	National	Lindisfarne, the Farne Islands and St Abb's.
Northumberland Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve	2	52 ha	Local	Annstead Dunes, Arnold Memorial Reserve at Craster.
Local Wildlife Sites (formerly Sites of Nature Conservation Importance)	7	Not available	Local	Holy Island Heugh, Holy Island Lough, Seahouses Quarry, Beadnell – Long Nanny, Embleton Quarry, Beadnell Bay, Aln and Coquet Estuaries and Alnmouth Bay.
Voluntary Marine Reserve	1	1030 ha	Local	St Abb's and Eyemouth

created a patchwork of small fields and hedgerows that can provide valuable habitats for a range of wildlife species including brown hare, grey partridge and skylark. National and Northumberland populations of farmland birds have significantly declined especially the corn bunting. Other habitats such as wet and whin grassland have been lost or significantly reduced due to production pressure on land. Agri-environment schemes have attempted to reverse the decline in farmland birds and animals as well as encouraging a sympathetic management approach to other important habitats by developing management regimes which are designed to enhance the environment for a range of habitats and species (see map 7 for land under DEFRA Agri-environment agreements). Whole farm or landscape-scale schemes are a logical progression advocated in the Northumberland BAP.

### Woodland, scrub, hedgerows and hedgerow trees

4.1.10 The woodland resource across the AONB is diverse but not extensive. Woodland comprises:

- hedgerows and hedgerow trees;
- small, mature copses associated with settlements;
- shelter plantations;
- scrub woodland on unproductive land; and
- semi-mature deciduous woods along streams, rivers and denes.



Whin grassland on Holy Island

Woodland in all its forms provides important feeding and nesting habitats for breeding and migrating birds as well as being used by bats to roost and insects and small creatures to feed and hibernate. Woodland habitat is an important 'green corridor' for wildlife connecting it to separated sites and, when managed correctly, can provide a functioning and diverse ecosystem.

4.1.11 The design and location of non-diverse conifer shelter plantations can have a significant impact on the landscape. An AONB-commissioned report provides guidance for improving visual impact of shelter belts and suggests appropriate species and age

diversification. Over the years the quality of hedgerows has degraded but this negative impact has now been reversed by successive agri-environment schemes.

### Whin grassland

4.1.12 The whin sill is a hard dolerite, igneous rock, rich in minerals. The landscape associated with it is quite distinctive and exposures are exemplified by gently sloping land leading to cliffs or rock outcrops. The east facing, dipping slopes and the hardness of the rock combine to produce shallow, lime-rich, and drought-prone soils that are some of the most distinctive habitats in the region and unique to the area. These factors combine with harsh maritime influences to produce a specialised floral community which is very vulnerable.

4.1.13 An inventory of this habitat carried out in 2007 by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT), has indicated many sites have either been lost or are in a degraded condition compared to a survey carried out in 1980. The diversity of grassland at each individual location highlights the importance of conserving and enhancing it. Loss and degradation has occurred because of "improvement" to land and forestry. Some HLS schemes are attempting to reverse forestry encroachment. Further work has been carried out by NWT to collect seeds to create a local seed bank to provide a resource for enhancement or restoration schemes.

### Lowland or Coastal Heath

4.1.14 Lowland heath occurs at altitudes less than 150m above sea level and is associated with acidic grassland and is generally dominated by heather species. It is found within or near the older dune systems and can be found associated with whin grassland. On the coast, heath has suffered greatly from habitat fragmentation, encroachment by scrub such as gorse, and agricultural improvement by fertilization and cultivation. As a result this habitat is now restricted to a number of small sites. Opportunities exist to re-establish this habitat and manage the opportunistic invasion of non-native species.

### Maritime cliff and slope

4.1.15 Formed by slippage or erosion, maritime cliffs and slopes can be divided into two main groups: 'hard' (such as Whin Sill and carboniferous strata) or 'soft' (generally formed from glacial till). There is approximately 19km of cliff and slope on the Northumberland coast. Of this, 16.9km is classified as hard and 2.1km is soft. Hard cliffs and slopes are resistant to erosion and weathering and have resulted in the formation of hard rocky cliffs and headlands such as Lindisfarne Dyke. Distinctive cliff-slope and cliff-top vegetation communities are associated with both hard and soft types and are further influenced by intensity of sea spray and level of exposure. Cliff faces can support a range of lichens such as the rare *Ramalina polymorpha* recorded on the Farne Island and recently at a mainland site.

## Sand dune

**4.1.16** An impressive part of the Northumberland coastal landscape are the long sandy beaches and fine single-ridge sand dune systems such as at Embleton, Alnmouth and Warkworth. Most of the dune systems are calcareous due to the high shell content of the substrate, and are relatively young being 200 to 300 years old. Older dune systems based on the glacial sands and clays are to be found in the extensive dunes of the Lindisfarne area, at Ross, The Snook (Holy Island) and the Goswick/Cheswick area. These older systems are characterised by having an acidic element which allows lowland or coastal heath to occur. Within the Lindisfarne NNR there is a rich array of rare and endangered species including the Lindisfarne Helleborine (*Epipactis sancta*) recently described to science and found nowhere else.

**4.1.17** Within the Northumberland Coast AONB there is approximately 1300ha of sand dune that supports a range of grassland communities. Their composition is dependent on the degree of stability, alkalinity/acidity and the effects of grazing pressure. There are a variety of types, including embryo dunes, yellow and grey dunes, bare sand and dune slacks, each of which provides a unique, often colourful, habitat and a natural form of coastal defence. Threats to sand dune system biodiversity come from invasive species such as piri-piri burr (once only on Lindisfarne but now found all along the coast), garden waste dumped in dunes by neighbouring gardeners and encroachment from inappropriate species, such as sycamore, in nearby planting schemes. Pressure will also come from climate change and sea-level rise with resulting erosion creating coastal squeeze. These processes can be managed through dune rollback and other forms of managed realignment.

## Sandflats, mudflats and estuaries

**4.1.18** The Plan area contains extensive intertidal sand and mud flats, ranging from wave-exposed to more sheltered areas. The animals and plants which are supported by a sand or mud flat vary according to the type of sediment present, its stability and the salinity of the surrounding water. Lindisfarne, Budle Bay and the coast north of Holy Island form the most extensive area of intertidal sand and mud in North East England. Other areas of sand and mudflat are found at Druridge, Alnmouth, Embleton, Beadnell, Bamburgh and on the Tweed. These support the largest intertidal beds of the narrow leaved eel grass *Zostera angustifolia* and dwarf eelgrass *Zostera noltii* on the east coast. A diverse collection of animals live within and on the sediment including large beds of the blue mussel *Mytilus edulis*. Many of the bays along the open coast support communities of small crustaceans and marine worms. More sheltered areas, such as Newton Haven, support

communities of burrowing heart urchins *Echinocardium cordatum* and bivalve molluscs. They also provide rich feeding grounds for waders and wildfowl and offer important staging posts and winter quarters for migratory birds.

## Large and shallow inlets and bays

**4.1.19** Large and shallow inlets and bays are large indentations of the coast that are relatively shallow (water less than 30m over most of the area) and have little freshwater influence. They comprise complexes of interdependent subtidal and intertidal sandy habitats that are used extensively by feeding birds and other marine creatures. The North Northumberland



Saltmarsh at Lindisfarne

coastline has three characteristic, sediment-dominated bays, including Budle Bay, Beadnell Bay and Embleton Bay. The bays are characterised by rich crustacean/polychaete and bivalve/polychaete biotopes and form one of the most extensive areas of sandflats between the Firth of Forth and the Wash.

## Salt marshes

**4.1.20** Salt marsh grows when salt tolerant plants colonise sediments deposited where rivers and streams meet the incoming sea in sheltered areas. The variation in the frequency and length of time of tidal inundation creates a zoning of salt marsh species adapted to different conditions. Salt marsh supports a special range of flora, and provides an important feeding area for wildfowl and waders and nursery habitats for many marine fauna. It is restricted to a few locations on the Northumberland coast fringing the marine mudflats such as Lindisfarne and the Aln Estuary. At both sites, the invasive cord grass (*Spartina*) is encroaching across the mud and salt marsh. Some successful control of cord grass has been carried out on the open mudflats of Lindisfarne but is damaging to salt marsh. The 4shores project, led by the Environment Agency and supported by the AONB, has created areas of saltmarsh such as the Aln Estuary.

### Rocky shores and reefs

**4.1.21** Reefs are found throughout the area and encompass a wide variety of shapes and forms including areas of cobbles, vertical rock walls and horizontal ledges, areas of broken bedrock and boulder fields. The majority of reefs are found in the subtidal zone (below the low water mark). However reefs also extend into the intertidal zone, an area often referred to as the rocky shore. The reefs within the EMS are some of the most diverse known on the north east coast. Many of the animals present are characteristic of cold water, including the anemone *Bolocera tuediae* and the bottle brush hydroid *Thuiaria thuja*. However, some species more common to warmer waters are also found such as Devonshire cup coral *Caryophyllia smithii*.

### Sea caves

**4.1.22** Sea caves including tunnels or caverns are found throughout the area associated with intertidal and subtidal reefs and can include tunnels or caverns. The type of bedrock from which a cave is made and the location of the cave can influence its shape, morphology and the animals and plants which it supports. Caves vary in size, from a few metres to extensive systems that extend hundreds of metres into the rock. They are typically colonised by encrusting animal species but can also support shade-tolerant algae near their entrances. Examples of partly submerged caves can be found in the sandstone cliffs to the north of Berwick, in the limestone at Howick, and on the north side of Lindisfarne. Submerged sea caves, tunnels and arches occur in the volcanic rock around St Abb's and off the Farne Islands.

### Offshore rocks and islands

**4.1.23** Offshore rocks and islands provide a safe nesting and breeding area for major populations of seabirds, seals and other colonising species where the low level of disturbance is one of the principal attractions for the wildlife. Feeding and loafing areas in the sea adjacent to these offshore rocks and islands are also very important.

### Birds

**4.1.24** Bird populations are fundamental to the wild character of the area and various coastal habitats are vital for nationally and internationally important species. The intertidal area acts as an important resting and feeding station during the spring and autumn for species which are undertaking huge migrations between wintering and breeding areas. In winter the intertidal zone of the open shore and estuaries host vast numbers of waterfowl that migrate here to take advantage of the abundant food supply. Northumberland is the southernmost breeding ground for eider on the east coast. Coastal woodland and scrub are important first "land-fall" and re-fuelling sites for both common and rare migrating passerines. Agricultural land has traditionally played its part in supporting populations of passerines feeding on

winter stubbles and providing high-tide roosts. Unimproved agricultural land, water areas, woodland and scrub are amongst the habitats which support a range of characteristic and declining species such as waders, tree sparrows, linnets and corn bunting.

The Special Protected Area (SPA) for birds at Lindisfarne, which has been designated for the following three qualifying bird interests:-

- It regularly supports an important population of golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), which are listed under Annex 1 of the Birds Directive.
- It supports significant numbers of greylag goose (*Anser anser*), light-bellied Brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*), wigeon (*Anas penelope*), ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) and redshank (*Tringa totanus*) which are important migratory species under Article 4.2 of the Birds Directive.
- It is used by internationally important assemblages of wintering waterfowl (greater than 20,000 birds).

### Seals

**4.1.25** The UK supports approximately 33% of the world population of grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*), this represents 95% of the total EU population. The seal colony on the Farne Islands is the largest on the east coast of England and supports a population of approximately 4000 individuals. The main concentrations of breeding seals are on the outer Farne Islands where females give birth from September to December, often selecting sites close to



Grey Seal

where they gave birth in the previous season. Access to undisturbed pupping areas is a key requirement of

the seals and the success of the Farne Islands colony is thought to be largely due to the isolated nature of the Islands. Seals also use relatively inaccessible rocky beaches to the north of Fast Castle Head, on Coquet Island, south of Alnmouth and the sand flats of Lindisfarne while the whole EMS is used as a passageway between grey seal colonies. The migrations of marine mammals can be extensive and therefore should be taken into account when managing the area.

### Other species

**4.1.26** Common seals also breed at Lindisfarne and whales and dolphins use the EMS for feeding and travelling. On the mainland, old buildings and similar habitats support a number of species of bats while the dunes support various important moth species. Lichens are also an important flora found in various habitats along the coast. The generally high quality of rivers and streams in the AONB supports otters, water voles, salmon, sea trout and lamprey. However, there is increasing concern that non-native invasive species of plants and animals may cause detriment to the local flora and fauna. A red squirrel reserve buffer zone overlaps the northern area of the AONB.

## Responsibility for conservation of the natural environment

**4.1.27** Land managers and owners play the most significant role in the stewardship of the natural environment of the area. Their work is supported and augmented by the activities of a variety of different statutory, non-governmental and voluntary organisations including the following:

- **Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage:** the government agencies with responsibility for nature conservation.
- **Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and the Environment Agency:** regulation of environmental quality.
- **National Trust for Scotland and National Trust:** responsibility for the ownership and management of coastal sites.
- **Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council:** responsibility for the Habitats regulations and the biodiversity duty.
- **Northumberland and Scottish Wildlife Trusts:** responsibility for the management of reserves and maintenance of a register of Sites of Nature conservation Importance (SNICIs).
- **Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Agency and Scottish Fishery Protection Agency:** responsible for managing harvested marine resources.

- **Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group:** provides advice on good nature conservation practice to farmers and landowners.
- **Voluntary Conservation Agencies:** RSPB.
- **Forestry Commission:** the organisation which administers woodland grants and licence agreements.

## Key issues

**4.1.28** The key issues relating to conserving and enhancing the natural environment include:

- ecosystem and habitat functionality;
- Fisheries and marine management;
- agricultural and land management practices;
- climate change including coastal squeeze;
- invasive species;
- protection of vulnerable species;
- conserving geo-diversity; and
- data collection, analysis and management.

**4.1.29** Cross-cutting key issues dealt with elsewhere in this Plan:

- development;
- fishing practices and marine development;
- water resource protection and pollution;
- disturbance and visitor pressure;
- improving understanding and enjoyment; and
- community involvement.



Eider duck

### Ecosystem and habitat functionality

**4.1.30** It is recognised that the most effective way to conserve and enhance the natural environment is to take an ecosystem approach to management.<sup>1</sup> This approach helps decision making to achieve sustainability. It is essential to manage the delicate, complex processes, functions and interactions between organisms and their environment because if any part of an ecosystem is damaged then it impacts on the whole ecosystem. The approach requires an overall policy that protects the natural environment from destruction and promotes sustainable use of resources while recognising that humans and their cultural diversity are an integral part of ecosystems. The biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act also highlights the need to protect habitats for all associated species as well as identifying key species whose loss would have a large impact on the Berwickshire and North Northumberland coastal and marine area. The approach links a number of cross cutting environmental challenges into a single coherent framework. This should enable management of cumulative pressures so that living is within environmental limits and mitigates and adapts to environmental change.

#### Policy N1

Use an ecosystem approach to conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

### Agricultural and land management practices

**4.1.31** A general loss of ecological diversity and landscape quality within the AONB were concerns in the previous AONB plan (2004-2009) however, some work has been done to improve agricultural practices through environmental stewardship and AONB work. Spreading best practice in farming and land management throughout the wider coastal plain within which the AONB sits is a priority for Higher Level Stewardship. It would help to protect the quality of resources and provide extensions to habitats, thus ensuring a more sustainable future for the species they support.

#### Policy N2

Promote mixed farming and good practise in farm management within the AONB as a means of maintaining a characteristic mix of habitats, supporting the conservation of lowland farmland birds and enhancing diverse habitats for priority species.

#### Policy N3

Increase the area of cover and the condition of existing natural and semi-natural grasslands.

#### Policy N4

Assess, re-establish and expand the range of existing maritime cliff and slope vegetation and cliff top vegetation.

#### Policy N5

Assess, retain, and where appropriate expand all existing native woodland, scrub and hedgerows and improve their nature conservation value.

#### Policy N6

Improve the landscape impact of new and existing planting, including shelter belt planting

<sup>1</sup> Convention on Biological diversity

### Fisheries and marine management

**4.1.32** Fishing is one of the main commercial activities that occurs in the area with several important fishing ports located here. The main target species are prawns off Berwickshire and lobster and crab off North Northumberland. Seasonal fisheries for fish and other shellfish also occur. The Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee (NSFC) and the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA) are managing fisheries resources within the site. New approaches to managing fisheries are being advocated by the EU including a ban on discarding and a reduction in detrimental fishing practices. The Scottish and UK Marine Bills will set out new guidelines for managing inshore fisheries.

**4.1.33** The National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland at St Abb's and the harbour masters at St Abb's, Eyemouth, Berwick, North Sunderland and Seahouses are also responsible for conserving and enhancing the qualifying features of the EMS. In particular some of these authorities are responsible for conserving the populations of grey seals and sea birds. The SPAs contain a number of habitats that the bird species listed use as roosting and feeding areas. Lindisfarne is also a Ramsar site.

#### Policy N7

Ensure sustainable fishing practices are used within the EMS.

#### Policy N8

Maintain the populations and habitats of grey seals and SPA birds in favourable condition.

### Climate change and coastal squeeze

**4.1.34** Adaptation and preparation for climate change has become important. The adoption of flexible nature conservation that focuses holistically on the environment, allowing the development and migration of habitats and species, is critical to managing the effects of climate change.

**4.1.35** Flood defences and land use can prevent free flow of the coast and result in the extinction or deterioration of important habitats and species. Saltmarshes, mudflats and sand dunes are examples of habitats experiencing coastal squeeze and in need of protection and managed realignment. It is preferable to retain a free functioning physical environment on the coast to allow habitats to develop and adapt naturally. This approach has the benefit of increasing the effectiveness of natural coastal defences. The Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2) is predicting that some areas of the Northumberland coast will need to be allowed to roll back into the terrestrial area over the next 20 to 100 years. This knowledge provides an opportunity for further managed realignment and preparation for changes in the coastal line.

#### Policy N9

Protect the extent of all existing transitional habitats (natural, semi-natural, marine, terrestrial), advise on competing land uses, and identify and promote opportunities to re-establish and expand free functioning coastal habitats.

#### Policy N10

Promote biodiversity within the Shoreline Management Planning and coastal defence system.

### Invasive species

**4.1.36** Invasive species are colonising species that benefit from limited indigenous competition. They can cause habitat damage and out-compete native wildlife causing ecosystem deterioration. It is therefore important to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

**4.1.37** On land a number of invasive species have arrived, including sycamore in dunes (most notably at Bamburgh), and piri-piri burr in the dunes on Lindisfarne and other areas. Giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed are also problems. Common ragwort is an important dune species but it should be controlled in certain areas where it is a risk to livestock, where grasslands are cut for hay, or where, due to certain management regimes, it dominates at the expense of other plants. Garden and golf course waste should be carefully managed through composting or collection programmes.

**4.1.38** Managing marine litter, ballast water, hull fouling, aquaculture, mariculture, climate change, globalisation, overfishing and alteration of nutrient cycles helps prevent invasive marine species. Of particular concern are the signal crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) in the River Tweed, the cord grass hybrid (*Spartina spp.*) that has colonised some mudflats, the Chinese mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) currently undermining the Tyne and the possibility of colonising mussel species such as zebra mussel (*Dreissana polymorpha*).

#### Policy N11

Halt the spread of, and where appropriate eradicate, invasive species.

### Protection of vulnerable habitats and species

**4.1.39** Species which are characteristic of the area but happen to be outside statutorily protected sites require active conservation. These include:

- several species of nesting and feeding birds, such as waders and corn bunting;
- bats, such as Natterer's bat;
- species listed in the Red Data Book for Northumberland; and
- species on the Red and Amber Lists for birds of conservation concern.

**4.1.41** There are also many marine species that are integral to good functioning of the ecosystem but which are not specifically protected. These include the sand eel, lobster and crab. It is hoped that these species will benefit from protection of habitats within the protected sites. However, further management to protect them as they move through the marine environment is desirable.

#### Policy N12

Conserve and enhance appropriate habitats for the benefit of vulnerable species that are characteristic of the area.

### Conserving Geodiversity

**4.1.42** Geodiversity incorporates all the variety of rocks, minerals and landforms and the processes which have formed these features throughout geological time. It is a key characteristic of the area and is responsible for the special landscape and seascape as well as for unique habitats. Threats to the conservation of geodiversity come from a lack of understanding and awareness of the value and interest of both the solid geology and geomorphological processes such as dune building, coastal erosion and deposition. Geology forms major aspects of the EMS through subtidal rocky reefs, intertidal rocky shores, offshore islands, sea cliffs and sea caves. Understanding the development and contribution of geodiversity and its associated species to the character and ecology of the area should inform conservation measures, shoreline management planning and mitigation of coastal squeeze and climate change.

#### Policy N13

Improve understanding and conservation of the geodiversity of the area according to a geodiversity action plan.

### Data collection, analysis and management

**4.1.43** To underpin management decisions and examine management effectiveness it is necessary to maintain a good understanding of basic ecological and socio economic data. There are many studies carried out in the area but there are no coordinated databases or data management regimes. Particularly with the advent of the Marine Bill, which will require marine planning, it will be necessary to have a better understanding and identify and rectify gaps in knowledge.

#### Policy N14

Carry out site condition monitoring and collection of data to examine management effectiveness.

### Cross-cutting key issues

#### Development

**4.1.44** Development can cause the loss or damage of habitats and can lead to new or increased levels of visitor activity that can prove damaging to the natural environment. Legislation stipulates that authorities take biodiversity and the ecosystem into account when planning and developing on land and in the sea. There are also recommendations on how to plan and develop smaller projects in a sustainable and sympathetic way.

Cross reference: Land Use and Marine Planning LP1, LP2, LP11, LP14, LP18, LP22 and LP23.

#### Fishing practises and marine development

**4.1.45** Fishing activities can be detrimental to both habitats and species and should be managed in a sustainable way. Development of fisheries, or fisheries diversification could affect the ecosystem function negatively. Inadequate management measures and lack of data to monitor and enforce conservation objectives could also increase the negative impact of fisheries activities. Marine development can disrupt habitats and species and should be carried out with consideration for the natural environment using guidelines produced by conservation agencies.

Cross reference: Living and Working policies LW2, LW3 and LW4

#### Water resource protection and pollution

**4.1.46** Pollution can harm habitats and species and reduce ecosystem function. Water quality legislation has set standards to prevent habitat and species destruction. All land and water management practices should support and enhance the natural environment.

Cross reference: Environmental quality policies EQ1 and EQ3

#### Disturbance and visitor pressure

**4.1.47** Visitors to the area can and do cause localised disturbance to wildlife and put pressure on sensitive habitats. In some areas this is the main threat to the conservation of the natural environment. This is dealt with as a key issue in the management of visitors, recreation and associated facilities but requires liaison with many partners and open and transparent processes within tourism and recreation sectors. Sustainable tourism is a priority that requires a thorough understanding of the impact of maintaining or increasing visitor numbers. This is particularly the case given the coastal access advocated by the Marine Bill and the nature-based tourism being explored by One North East and Northumberland Tourism.

Cross reference: Enjoying the AONB and EMS policies EN1, EN3, EN6 and EN8  
Land Use and Marine Planning policies LP10 and LP11

#### Improving understanding and enjoyment

**4.1.48** The natural environment provides a wonderful resource for people to explore and discover a variety of coastal environments. Good information and interpretation can assist this and can help promote responsible behaviour.

Cross reference: Enjoying the AONB and EMS policies EN5, EN8, EN9 and EN10

#### Community involvement

**4.1.49** Involving the community in the conservation of the natural environment can help improve local stewardship, conserve habitats and species, and increase data and knowledge.

Cross reference: Living and working policies LW1, LW2, LW3, LW5, LW6, LW9, LW10 and LW11

## 4.2 Historic environment

### 20 year vision

Links with history, former land uses of land and sea are protected and evident in the landscape and marine area. Settlements use traditional local building materials and designs and respect vernacular settlement patterns.

### Long-term management aims

1. Improve the identification and conservation of historic sites and features that are important to the character, distinctiveness and understanding of the historic environment.
2. Increase community involvement and enhance the skills base in all stages of identifying and conserving the historic environment.
3. Facilitate understanding of, and physical and intellectual access to, the historic environment without damage to its integrity.



### Introduction

**4.2.1** The history of human activity and occupation in the landscape is integral to the character of the area. This section of the Plan considers all elements of the historic environment that are central to the identity of the landscape, seascape and communities throughout the area including archaeology, historic landscapes and features, the built environment and local cultural and historical associations.

**4.2.2** The Historic Landscape Character of Northumberland has been mapped in a joint project between Northumberland County Council, Northumberland National Park, English Heritage and the AONB. It provides an overview and map of the historic landscape to help us to understand the human activities that have shaped the countryside.

good access for transport and trade, and strategic locations for attack and defence has resulted in a record of sites and buildings which is extraordinary in its diversity. The presence of 744 entries on the Historic Environment Record for the area of the AONB including 277 Grade I, II\* and II listed buildings is a testimony to this rich heritage (see Map 5, Appendix 1).

**4.2.4** As the last Ice Age ended, tundra conditions retreated and rising sea levels resulted in Britain becoming an island. The first human presence in Northumberland was recorded at this time. About 8,500 years ago small groups of Mesolithic peoples were hunting, gathering and fishing within the Berwickshire and Northumberland coastal plain. Camp sites have recently been discovered at Howick and in areas such as Holy Island and Ross Links. Large numbers of flint tools from these people have been found.

**4.2.5** During the Neolithic period (about 4500-2500 BC) more settled conditions began to prevail and social and technological change was marked. Within Holy Island village, excavations have revealed remains of settlement from this period and distinctive Neolithic stone and flint tools continue to be found along the coast. The Bronze Age (about 2000-800 BC) was characterised by increasing settlement and cultivation and the development of social rituals. The intensity of later land use along the coast has obliterated much evidence from this period but occasionally (as recently occurred at Low Hauxley to the south of the AONB) shifting sand dunes reveal evidence of burials.



Volunteers rebuild a mesolithic hut at Howick



Visitor related erosion at St. Ebbas, Beadnell

### Overview

**4.2.3** The Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast has a long record of human occupation dating back to the Mesolithic period of 8 to 10 thousand years ago. The combination of rich grounds for fishing and farming,

**4.2.6** The deterioration in climate, which was a feature of the transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age (about 800 BC to 40 AD), resulted in greater pressure on low lying fertile lands such as those within

the coastal plain. The construction of enclosed and fortified settlements was a response to this pressure and there is clear evidence of such settlements at locations such as Howick and Craster.

**4.2.7** The present day built heritage of the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast dates back to the Anglo-Saxon period when this area was both a military and cultural centre for the extensive kingdom of Northumbria. Bamburgh at this time was a royal base whilst nearby Holy Island became the centre for Christian scholarship with close associations with St Cuthbert and the preparation of the magnificent Lindisfarne Gospels. These key points symbolised the flowering of Anglo-Saxon culture, during a period which became known as the Golden Age of Northumbria. Aidan, followed by Cuthbert, based at Lindisfarne, were inspirational in the establishment and development of the Christian kingdom of Northumbria. The culture of this kingdom was in turn to have influences which stretched widely throughout Britain and Europe.

#### Designations in the AONB (see Map 5)

##### Listed buildings

Grade I	10
Grade II*	15
Grade II	252

##### Scheduled ancient monuments

21

##### Wrecks

16

##### Register of historic parks and gardens

Howick (Grade II)  
Lindisfarne Castle (Grade II)

##### Conservation areas

Warkworth  
Alnmouth  
Lesbury  
North Sunderland Seahouses  
Bamburgh  
Embleton  
Holy Island

Spittal and Amble Conservation areas form the gateways to the AONB.

**4.2.8** One of the first Viking raids into England during the eighth century struck Holy Island in AD 793 and was the precursor to instability in the early medieval period with individual kingdoms battling for supremacy. Whilst outstanding physical remains from

this period are few in number, the Norman invasion of England was to have a profound impact on the built heritage of the coast. Disputes between England and Scotland, which began in the early 14th century, started nearly three centuries of warfare and raiding. The Northumberland coast assumed a strategic importance that was to lead to the construction of the major castles of Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Warkworth and the town defences at Berwick and Coldingham. It was during the medieval period that the finest of the ecclesiastical buildings on the coast were built, such as Lindisfarne Priory and St Laurence church at Warkworth.

**4.2.9** With the conclusion of the main period of border dispute and warfare at the beginning of the 17th century, conditions were to become favourable for the development of agriculture, trade and industry on the coast. Profound changes in the organisation of agriculture were to occur throughout Northumberland as former wasteland was brought into cultivation and large new farm units were established. Agricultural development and a rapidly expanding fishing industry were to fuel the growth of ports and harbours such as Berwick, Holy Island, Seahouses and Alnmouth. The frequently treacherous coastal waters resulted in increasing numbers of ship wrecks, which now form a valuable element of the known marine archaeology record. To support the changes in the economy of the county, new industries were to develop along the coastline. Notable amongst these was the lime industry, with large kilns at sites including Cocklawburn, Holy Island, Seahouses and Beadnell supplying an essential raw material for the improving land fertility. The volume of lime production was such that a significant export trade developed. Craster also developed as a significant port for the export of whinstone to the Continent, with pantiles coming in as ballast. A distinct architecture is associated with this period of growth in trade and industry with agricultural warehouses and merchant houses being amongst the building types, which survive to the present day. The increased wealth amongst major landowners was to result in the building of fine stately houses with associated landscaped grounds. Adderstone Hall near Belford and Howick Hall are prominent examples.

**4.2.10** During the twentieth century the requirements of defence again left a built legacy on the coast. With the long sand beaches along the coast seen as possible locations for invasion, extensive concrete and wire defences were erected during the Second World War period. The wary vigilance of the Cold War has also left a legacy on the coast at sites such as Newton Point. Throughout the 20th century pressures for leisure development were also to be experienced along the coast. Chalet and caravan sites, hotel conversions, farm conversions and holiday homes, formed a new built legacy along the coast.

**4.2.11** The historic evolution of settlements on the coast and their relationship to landform, climate and available building materials has resulted in special and distinctive characteristics. These characteristics of the built landscape are integral to the special qualities and attraction of the Plan area.

**4.2.12** In the AONB the historic landscape character is thus a patchwork of different character types dating from the 16th or 17th centuries. They include a mix of fieldscapes and coastal types, interspersed with settlements. More than three-quarters of the AONB landscape has survived unchanged since the mid-9th century, while the rest is the result of late 19th and 20th century changes. Fieldscapes are the most varied landscape type and their patterns and shapes reveal some with origins in the 16th or 17th century as well as more recent 20th century creations.

**4.2.13** The history of the AONB and EMS is inextricably linked and provides a common thread that supports integrated management. In the marine area English Heritage have commenced an historic seascape classification process based principally around mapping of wrecks. Once complete the findings will be utilised to inform management and review relevant policies.

### Responsibility for the historic environment

**4.2.14** Ultimately the most important custodians of the historic environment are individual land and building owners. Organisations involved in the conservation of the historic environment include the following:

- **English Heritage:** the UK Government's advisors on the historic environment, and managers of historic sites in the AONB.
- **Historic Scotland:** the executive agency of the Scottish Government charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment and promoting its understanding and enjoyment on behalf of Scottish Ministers.
- **Northumberland County Council:** provides building and archaeology conservation advice, administers a conservation grant scheme and maintains the Sites and Monuments Records for Northumberland (available online via [www.keystothepast.info](http://www.keystothepast.info)).
- **Alnwick District, Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough (Northumberland County Council after 31 March 2009) and Scottish Borders Councils:** provide buildings conservation advice and enhancement schemes.
- **National Trust:** own and manage various historic sites and buildings.
- **Amenity groups:** various amenity groups take an active interest in the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

**4.2.15** The UK Government, in its vision for the historic environment<sup>1</sup>, emphasises the importance of partnership working between the historic environment, the natural environment, tourism and other sectors.

### Key issues

**4.2.16** The key issues relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment include:

- an integrated landscape/seascape-scale approach to conserving and enhancing the historic environment;
- conservation of listed buildings, scheduled monuments, buildings, wrecks and areas of historical and architectural interest;
- impact of agricultural practices;
- natural processes of erosion and deposition;
- marine archaeology;
- impact of diving on wrecks; and
- preserving written, oral and illustrated history.

**4.2.17** Cross cutting key issues dealt with elsewhere in this Plan include:

- development pressure and the conservation of the historic environment and settlement character;
- visitor management, access and interpretation;
- involving the local community;
- climate change and its consequences;
- skills development and training; and
- collection and management of data about the historic environment.

### An integrated landscape/seascape-scale approach to conserving and enhancing the historic environment

**4.2.18** Conservation and enhancement of the historic features of the Plan area would be improved by allowing them to be understood and managed in the context of their wider landscape setting including the natural and palaeo-environmental landscape. Historic and archaeological features provide a common thread through land and sea. The EMS would benefit from a similar detailed historic seascape character assessment to complement the historic landscape character assessment completed for the AONB. English Heritage intend to undertake a character assessment of the English marine area, based largely around mapping of wrecks. Scottish Borders Council are developing a marine wrecks GIS for the Berwickshire area. In terms of types of landscape, Howick Estate is the only registered park and garden. This provides a unique example of a designed landscape in the AONB making the conservation of its character of particular importance.

<sup>1</sup> DCMS & DTLR (2001) The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future DCMS

### Policy H1

Inform conservation of the historic environment through historic landscape and seascape character assessments.

### Conservation of listed buildings, scheduled monuments, buildings, wrecks and areas of historical and architectural interest

**4.2.19** The large number of listed buildings and scheduled monuments within the Northumberland Coast AONB necessitates the targeting of advice and grant aid for conservation works. Limited resources need to be focussed initially on the identification and conservation of buildings and monuments of recognised historic or architectural importance, which are at particular risk. Grade II and unlisted buildings require particular attention because funding for conservation works is harder to obtain than for Grade I and II\* listed buildings.

**4.2.20** Throughout the AONB, there are a wide range of buildings associated with the farming and fishing industry and other human activities, which, although not listed as being of historic or architectural importance, are nevertheless of importance to local character. The following are essential to the conservation of this local inheritance:

- identifying and mapping such buildings;
- stimulating research, conservation and recording; and
- guiding the development of new appropriate uses for redundant structures.

**4.2.21** Conservation plans for buildings, sites or areas can also help ensure informed development by identifying what is significant and must be retained. The eight Conservation Areas within and two adjacent to the AONB (see 4.2 Historic Environment) provide an important tool for the preservation or enhancement of the areas of special architectural or historical interest in the AONB. In some cases Conservation Area appraisals and follow up awareness and management schemes are needed for the designations to work effectively. The local authority should also consider the designation of other new Conservation Areas where merited and where there appears to be public support. Volunteers have a significant role to play in terms of the monitoring and conservation of archaeology.

### Policy H2

Extend surveying and recording of the historic environment within the Plan area to ensure information is available to support its conservation, particularly currently unidentified, under-recorded or undesignated features.

### Policy H3

Maximise the uptake of grant schemes that assist in the conservation of the historic environment.

### Policy H4

Encourage the production of conservation plans and landscape plans for historic buildings, parks and gardens, sites and other areas within the Plan area as a means of identifying the significance of an historic asset and influencing proposals for change.

### Policy H5

Strengthen the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of conservation areas by making full use of Conservation Area appraisals, encourage the completion of outstanding appraisals and ensure development and implementation of Management Schemes.

### Policy H6

Reduce the risk levels to Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings.

## Impact of agricultural practices

**4.2.22** As the most extensive land use within the coastal area, agriculture has a major impact on the conservation of sites and buildings of archaeological and historic interest. Within arable farmland, drainage and repeated ploughing can result in damage to and concealment of archaeological sites. Damage to prominent or concealed structures may be a consequence of the establishment of trees, shrubs and other vegetation with extensive root systems. As agricultural practices change and modernise, many traditional farm buildings that are important features of the landscape become unusable and can be lost through insensitive conversion or dereliction due to insufficient funds for their maintenance. There is a need for greater dissemination of management and conservation advice and steering to appropriate grant schemes. The High Level Stewardship scheme is available to assist farmers to achieve historic environment protection as part of sustainable farming.

## Natural processes of erosion and deposition

**4.2.23** The coastal plain and coastal edge have been favoured areas for settlement, defence, industry and trade. As a result, erosion of historic remains by the sea, streams and rivers, as well as exposure to the movement of the tide, sand and sediment, is a common occurrence. It is important to address the following issues:

- ensuring the adequate recording of threatened historic and archaeological sites and buildings;
- identifying those coastal sites at urgent risk of loss; and
- identifying sites where active conservation is a priority..

The proposals contained in the Strategy for Coastal Archaeology in Northumberland<sup>2</sup> have now largely been implemented. The North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment commissioned by English Heritage in 2007-08 will contribute to a new framework to guide future action.

**4.2.24** The movement of sand and sediments along the coast and seabed results in both the covering and the exposure of archaeology. This is a particular issue within sand dune areas where the burial of sites and consequent changes in landform may result in the concealment of sites for extended periods of time.

### Policy H7

Develop a mechanism to address the identification and monitoring of historic sites impacted upon by coastal and marine environmental change.

## Marine archaeology

**4.2.25** The rising sea levels that accompanied the ending of the last Ice Age resulted in land that is likely to have had a significant population in the early Mesolithic period being submerged. Later changes in sea and land levels and the wreck of vessels using the coast for transport, trade and military operations have resulted in a wealth of marine archaeology, which is as yet little understood and under recorded. English Heritage and Historic Scotland have responsibility for maritime archaeology. English Heritage aim to establish a maritime archaeology archive and historic seascape classification for the English area<sup>3</sup>. Scottish Borders Council are developing a GIS for wrecks off the Berwickshire coast. Ensuring that this marine archaeological inheritance is recorded as far as possible and that recreational, industrial and other off-shore activities do not compromise its variety and quality are management challenges.

### Policy H8

Promote the designation of wrecks as a mechanism for their protection.

## Preserving written, oral and illustrated history

**4.2.26** Much archival material exists in the form of photographic and written records held by individuals and communities. This resource, together with songs such as sea shanties and folk history, is a vital historical record of human activity that depicts human association with the coast. This cultural heritage is easy to lose and should be recorded.

### Policy H9

Identify and assist in preserving written, oral and illustrative records to better preserve the cultural heritage of the coast and its communities.

<sup>2</sup> Northumberland County Council (1993) A Strategy for Coastal Archaeology in Northumberland Northumberland County Council

<sup>3</sup>English Heritage (2003a) English Heritage in the North East 2003-5 English Heritage

### Climate change and its consequences

**4.2.27** Erosion and deposition caused by climate change exacerbates natural processes (see 4.2.23). This can lead to exposure, damage or loss to historic features and artefacts especially in coastal dunes. English Heritage has commissioned a North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment to develop a database of (sometimes vulnerable) sites.

**4.2.28** All historic buildings and monuments are threatened through chemical effects caused by climate change and pollution. Action to address climate change may over time reduce this damage. It is necessary to prioritise restoration work to remedy the adverse effects.

#### Policy H10

Promote management of historic sites to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

### Skills development and training

**4.2.29** English Heritage has highlighted the shortfall in traditional construction skills and inventorying skills needed to survey and conserve the historic environment to an appropriate standard, both in local authorities and the construction industry<sup>3</sup>. The Government has also recognised the importance of improving training in craft skills<sup>4</sup>.

#### Policy H11

Promote training and mentoring of professionals and volunteers in skills necessary for the description, recording and conservation management of the historic environment.

## Cross cutting key issues

### Development pressure and the conservation of the historic environment and settlement character

**4.2.30** Pressures for new development in the AONB are considerable and there are ever-present risks of damage to the rich archaeological resource and traditional character of settlements and individual buildings.

Cross reference: Land use planning, paragraphs policies LP5, LP6, LP10

### Visitor management, access and interpretation

**4.2.31** The dual issues of stimulating interest in the historic environment of the coast whilst protecting sensitive sites from the pressures resulting from popular use are linked to the challenges of visitor management.

Cross reference: Enjoying the AONB and EMS policies EN10

### Involving the local community

**4.2.32** Involvement of the community in all stages of conservation work is vital to improving understanding, ownership, stewardship, and, ultimately, enjoyment, of the local historic environment. It is an opportunity of which more could be made particularly in the AONB. Community involvement should be considered not simply in terms of passive receipt of information, but in terms of active involvement in identifying, surveying, monitoring, recording and practically conserving the historic environment. This requires training and mentoring support for volunteers from local communities (see 4.2.26).

Cross reference: Natural Environment

Cross reference: Enjoying the AONB and EMS policies EN11

Cross reference: Living and Working policies LW6, LW9

<sup>4</sup>DCMS & DTLR (2001) The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future DCMS

## 4.3. Environmental Quality

### 20 year vision

The quality of sea, land, rivers, streams, ponds and air meet or exceed legislative standards. The area is a tranquil place with high local environmental quality.

### Long-term management aims

1. Maintain and improve the environmental quality of inshore and inland waters by ensuring that sources of pollution are controlled and progressively reduced.
2. Improve education and awareness of litter issues and increase community involvement in reducing, recycling and monitoring litter and pollution.
3. Safeguard and protect tranquillity in the area.



### Introduction

**4.3.1** Environmental quality focuses on protecting land, inland waters and inshore waters from pollution and litter. This protection ensures the special features and condition of the natural environment are maintained and the experiences of visitors and residents are enhanced. This will, in turn, benefit the local economy and the sustainability of settlements.

**4.3.2** This section of the Plan considers conserving and enhancing the environmental quality of the Plan area. It outlines policies to mitigate threats to the preservation and improvement of environmental quality.



Beach visitors expect good environmental quality

causing organic enrichment such as eutrophication and acidification.

**4.3.5** Sewage and slurry is broadly a combination of domestic, industrial and agricultural liquid effluent and suspended solids. It consists of organic faecal matter, bacteria, viruses, fats, chemicals, heavy metals, debris and nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous. If released in large quantities, sewage and other agricultural pollutants can cause nutrient enrichment that changes the biology of the ecosystem and physically impacts on marine habitats and species. Results include poisoning, smothering, and the disruption of growth, respiration, reproduction, and the immune system.

**4.3.6** Run-off from the land can introduce heavy metals and other toxic chemicals to inland and coastal waters. These point sources of pollution can change the temperature, pH and salinity of waters thus making them uninhabitable for the native species and potentially creating environments for opportunistic and non-native species to invade. Run-off from phosphate stripping could cause eutrophication on intertidal zones such as Budle Bay. The impact of this is reduced feeding opportunity for migrant and over-wintering wading birds through the growth of *Enteromorpha*.

**4.3.7** DEFRA's Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) programme should help to control agricultural pollutants. CSF is land management that keeps diffuse water pollution to levels consistent with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. DEFRA's CSF team regulate, support and advise on:

- appropriate use of fertilisers, manures, herbicides and pesticides;
- promoting good soil structure and rain infiltration;
- avoiding run-off and erosion;
- protecting watercourses from contamination, sedimentation and pesticides;
- reducing stocking density;

### Overview

**4.3.3** Pollution is the introduction of harmful contaminants to an environment. These can include oil, sewage, run-off from land, sea and river-borne litter and fly tipped waste.

### Water Pollution

**4.3.4** Oil spillage can arise from accidents at sea from routine activities including tank cleaning and bilge emptying in ports and at sea. Oil pollution is very toxic and can have a devastating effect on wildlife and coastal habitats. It can also cause non-toxic contamination of habitats by increasing turbidity or

- managing stock on farms to avoid compaction and poaching of land; and
- separating clean and dirty water on farms.

**4.3.8** Numerous studies have shown that swimming in sewage-contaminated water can lead to gastroenteritis and acute febrile respiratory illness as well as ear, nose and throat infections. Shellfish grown in sewage contaminated waters can cause food poisoning because filter-feeding animals such as mussels and oysters concentrate sewage related pathogens and toxins in their tissues.

## Water Quality

### Water Framework Directive (WFD)

**4.3.9** The Water Framework Directive (WFD) governs water quality and is implemented by the Environment Agency (EA) in Northumberland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in Berwickshire. It is designed to improve and integrate management of inland and coastal water bodies. It was transposed into UK law in 2003 and aims to have good chemical and ecological status for all water bodies by 2015. It will promote the sustainable use of water and reduce pollution. River basin management plans focus on individual river catchment systems and develop programmes to achieve the objectives of the WFD in particular areas. The objectives are to:

- help better manage the water environment;
- look at the interactions between water and land environments, and between water bodies;
- help ensure that management is based on a better understanding of environmental processes;
- consider cost effectiveness and social and economic impacts when deciding on programmes to protect and improve the water environment;
- provide a defined time frame to meet the objectives for each water body;
- improve links to other planning activity, for example that of land uses; and
- encourage more people to get involved in management and planning by widespread consultation and communication.

**4.3.10** There are a variety of watercourses that flow through the AONB and into the sea. The two larger rivers, the Coquet and the Aln, are both in the southern end of the AONB and the remaining water courses consist of smaller burns and streams cutting across the gentle coastal plain. The Tweed flows into Berwick and is a major influence on the coastal water quality. Most stretches of rivers and streams comply with EA monitoring standards (river quality objectives) suggesting the water quality is generally good, although there are a small number of stretches, such as the lower reaches of the Aln, which have returned marginal results in recent years. Improvements at

Northumbrian Water's sewage treatment works at Norham, Ellingham and Powburn, Alnwick and Belford, have been completed and have improved the quality of receiving streams.



Clean bathing water is expected by visitors

### EC Bathing Water Directive (BWD)

**4.3.11** The main objective of the 1976 EC BWD is to protect public health and the environment from faecal pollution in bathing waters. The Directive requires member states to identify popular bathing areas and to monitor water quality at these bathing waters throughout the bathing season (mid May to September). The Directive sets a number of microbiological and physico-chemical standards that bathing waters must either comply with a pass ('mandatory' standards) or endeavor to meet pass (G) ('guideline' standards).

**4.3.12** In Northumberland and Berwickshire, the bathing water regulations are implemented by EA, SEPA and the local authorities. Eight out of ten bathing beaches in Northumberland and Berwickshire consistently achieve 'guideline' water quality (see table below). Spittal suffers from poor quality due to the effect of the River Tweed. Eyemouth regularly fails and the River Eye is implicated as the pollution source. SEPA is working with farmers to reduce this pollution.

**Table 4.3.1 Bathing water beaches and their guideline water quality.**

Coastal Bathing Waters	2008	2007
St Abb's	n/a	Pass (G)
Coldingham	n/a	Pass (G)
Eyemouth	n/a	Fail
Spittal	Pass*	Pass
Bamburgh Castle	Pass (G)	Pass (G)
Seahouses North	Pass (G)	Pass (G)
Beadnell	Pass (G)	Pass (G)
Low Newton	Pass (G)	Pass (G)
Warkworth	Pass (G)	Pass (G)
Amble Links	Pass (G)	Pass (G)

**4.3.13** A revised BWD (2006/7/EC) came into force in 2006. It incorporates scientific developments, knowledge about the risks of bathing, and changes in environmental protection. It includes tightening water quality using four new standards (excellent, good, sufficient and poor) and all bathing waters are expected to achieve at least “sufficient” by 2015. A management plan will be agreed between the Environment Agency and the local authority to fulfil requirements. These include provision of information about bathing waters through real time beach signage and online by 2016.

**4.3.14** A number of voluntary beach award schemes have bathing water quality as an essential requirement. These include the Blue Flag scheme, Quality Coast Award (QCA) and the Good Beach Guide. The QCA replaced the ‘Seaside Award’ in 2006/7.

### Beach litter

**4.3.15** Litter can come from a variety of sources. Some is dropped on the ground or overboard while some (cigarette butts, balloons and litter dropped in the streets of inland towns) is transported to beaches and the sea via drains, rivers and the air. Some litter in the sea will not break down but instead leaches toxins into the water which are ingested by animals causing slow and painful deaths. Plastic litter is increasingly pervasive and has a much longer life in the sea where it cannot photodegrade. Litter from the sea is periodically left on beaches by currents and the tides.

**4.3.16** Beach litter is on the increase according to the statistics prepared by the Marine Conservation Society. A study carried out by volunteer beach surveyors in 2007 on beaches within Berwickshire and North Northumberland highlighted the top ten types of rubbish found on our beaches.

### All beaches in the study area

Position	Item	% of total litter	Items /km
1	Plastic pieces 1 – 50cm	14.35	117.02
2	Fishing line from Anglers	8.23	67.12
3	Plastic rope	6.05	49.34
4	Crisp, Sweet and lolly wrappers	5.85	47.73
5	Cigarette stubs	5.75	46.87
6	Plastic pieces <1cm	4.69	38.23
7	Polystyrene pieces <50cm	4.66	38.03
8	Glass pieces	4.03	32.88
9	Cloth pieces and string	3.88	31.67
10	Plastic drinks bottles	3.27	26.67

**4.3.17** Amenity beaches are irregularly hand cleaned from May to September and occasionally in winter months. The exception is Spittal which is mechanically cleaned of large items once a year before the bathing season.

### Fly tipping

**4.3.18** Fly tipping is illegal dumping of waste. It can vary in scale from a bin bag of rubbish to large quantities of waste dumped from trucks. Fly tipping incidents can have a great impact on the land and seascape and there are occasional hotspots on the coast. Some improvement has been achieved with the issuing of fixed penalties and Northumberland Council has a policy to collect material within 24 hours from public land. If fly tipping has occurred on private land the landlord or tenant is responsible for removal. The scale of waste will determine the response and involvement.

### Recycling

**4.3.19** Recycling from residential properties occurs throughout the area by doorstep collections. Segregation at source for recycling litter has been trialled by Alnwick District Council but it will only work if the bins were serviced frequently enough to prevent contamination.

**4.3.20** Household waste recovery sites are available within or adjacent to the AONB at Alnwick, Berwick and North Sunderland. Local recycling centres or “bring-bin” within the AONB are located at Warkworth, Craster, Embleton, Seahouses, Beadnell, Bamburgh and Holy Island.

### Light pollution

**4.3.21** Light pollution is a brightening of the night sky caused by artificial light. This results in loss of dark skies and their associated tranquillity in rural areas. Light pollution has reduced our ability to see the stars, impacts on the feeling of remoteness, can cause migrant birds to collide with buildings and increases moth deaths. Light pollution may be regarded as a ‘nuisance’ under common law and has been added to the list of statutory nuisances in the Environmental Protection Act. The Government has indicated that the principal means of tackling lighting issues are:

- increasing public awareness of the problems that badly designed and installed lighting can cause;
- advice on ways of minimising negative impacts; and
- more effective use of existing planning powers.

The AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment offers general advice on lighting and the AONB Partnership continues to make representations to the Planning Authority on the impact of light pollution arising from development proposals.

## Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

**4.3.22** This Act provides local authorities, parish and community councils and the Environment Agency with more effective powers and tools to tackle poor environmental quality and anti-social behaviour. In particular the Act contains sections on nuisance and abandoned vehicles, litter, graffiti, waste, noise and dogs.



Beach litter can come from a variety of sources

## Responsibility for environmental quality

**4.3.23** Responsibility for the control of pollution on land and in coastal waters rests with a range of agencies and authorities including the following:

- **Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council:** waste disposal and minimisation authorities and responsible for land and beach litter collection, fly tipping from public land and dog control and enforcement; also define amenity (bathing) beaches and are responsible for emergency responses to oil pollution incidents.
- **Parish councils in England:** issue fixed penalty notices for litter offences and make a range of dog control orders, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 1990.
- **Northumbrian Water:** responsible for the treatment and disposal of sewage including outfalls to the sea.
- **Environment Agency and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency:** they control the volume and composition of discharges into river and coastal waters and monitor compliance with certain UK regulations and European Directives. The agencies also assist with fly tipping on public land.
- **Natural England:** advises on agro-chemical application to farmland and control and creation of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.
- **DEFRA:** Catchment Sensitive Farming programme.
- **Non-governmental and charitable organisations:** carry out awareness-raising of the causes of litter and water quality problems and other

promotional and participatory schemes, such as ENCAMS, Quality Coast Awards and the Marine Conservation Society's Adopt-a-Beach scheme. Locally, organisations such as the National Trust, National Trust for Scotland and community groups carry out litter surveys on beaches and other locations.

- **Individuals:** also play a vital part in maintaining the quality of the wider environment.

## Key issues

**4.3.24** The key issues relating to environmental quality include:

- maintaining, improving and advising on water quality;
- the threat of marine oil and chemical pollution and area response measures;
- beach awards;
- impacts of litter;
- fly-tipping;
- recycling and litter collection facilities;
- dog issues; and
- light pollution.

**4.3.25** Cross cutting key issues dealt with elsewhere in the plan:

- managing visitors; and
- enhancing the natural environment.

## Maintaining, improving and advising on water quality

**4.3.25** Implementation of the water framework and bathing water directives has improved the monitoring of water quality within the area. Over the next ten years it is expected that water quality, ecological standards and maintenance of good public health should become widespread providing benefits to the habitats, wildlife and people in the area.

**4.3.26** Sewage treatment standards continue to improve and pollution incidents have decreased but where they do occur prompt action is needed. Natural occurrences of decomposing marine algae are sometimes mistaken for sewage related deposits, such as annually at Newton Haven or periodically at Burnmouth, highlighting a need to raise awareness on what constitutes natural deposits on beaches. Nevertheless, relevant authorities will need to continue to monitor standards and take prompt action when necessary.

**4.3.27** A number of popular stretches of shoreline do not qualify as official bathing beaches and therefore bathing water quality is not routinely monitored. Nonetheless, it is equally important that the environmental quality of these beaches is maintained.

**4.3.28** Increased signage that is poorly designed or located could have a detrimental and urbanising effect on the area.

### Policy EQ1

Protect the quality and quantity of all water courses through education, monitoring, full implementation of relevant legislation and targeting of the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

### Policy EQ2

Encourage the local authority to carefully consider the design, location and numbers of signs at beaches.

## The threat of marine oil and chemical pollution

**4.3.29** Pollution of surface waters, ground waters and coastal waters can be toxic to habitats and wildlife. Motorised water sport and commercial vessel oil discharged on land or sea is a constant threat. Emergency and contingency plans for marine pollution need to take full account of the environmental sensitivity of the AONB coast. Education of commercial and recreational watercraft users is important to reduce the number of small scale pollution incidents.

### Policy EQ3

Ensure the environmental and aesthetic sensitivities of the AONB and EMS are taken into account in pollution emergency planning and use of the marine environment.

## Beach awards

**4.3.30** All the bathing beaches in the AONB achieved Seaside Awards in the past. However the QCA requires a ban on dogs to be imposed if the beach was promoted for bathing or watersports. Only Beadnell (with a seasonal dog ban) meets the requirements for Blue Flag. All of the Bathing Beaches in the AONB have been included in the Marine Conservation Society's 'Good Beach Guide' which does not require beaches to have dog bans but does require good bathing water quality.

### Policy EQ4

Pursue high environmental standards on all bathing and rural beaches and strive to meet even higher standards of both water quality and beach cleanliness on bathing beaches which are regularly used for watersports.

## Impacts of litter

**4.3.31** The perception of an unspoilt, wild stretch of coast is one of the defining features of the area; just a small deterioration in environmental quality can have a disproportionately large impact on its appearance and character. Litter is harmful to wildlife and dangerous to visitors, especially children. Plastic litter is often ingested by wildlife and it leaches toxins that can accumulate in the tissues causing disease and death.

**4.3.32** The strandline is a valuable habitat and it is therefore important that any beach cleaning regime only removes artificial debris, which means hand cleaning only. Voluntary beach cleaning and survey schemes offer a valuable opportunity to involve the community in management and has helped identify the main types and sources of litter. This is also an opportunity for community groups to learn more about coastal and marine wildlife and habitat conservation. Providing beach survey information to national schemes such as the Marine Conservation Society Adopt-A-Beach scheme can also help address the problem of beach litter at a national level. Further campaigns to educate and improve the disposal of litter such as at sea would be very beneficial.

### Policy EQ5

Ensure standards for litter collection from streets and open land with public access are met and that adequate facilities exist for the collection of waste from marine vessels, and where possible enhance standards for the area.

### Policy EQ6

Retain hand beach cleaning regimes on all beaches and continue to involve the community and voluntary groups in beach litter monitoring work.

### Policy EQ7

Continue to highlight the impacts of beach and marine litter and promote the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' and 'pack in pack out' message.

### Fly-tipping

**4.3.33** Fly-tipping is of particular concern to landowners, residents and visitors and, although irregular, there are some local hotspots such as Cocklawburn. Within the AONB the most stringent of response times should apply where reasonably practical. To ensure fly tipping does not become more of a problem, a combination of education, advice, monitoring and prosecution is required, consistent with the policy of local authorities and the Environment Agency.

### Policy EQ8

Promote a 24-hour collection time target for fly tipping incidents on public land within the AONB and seek a reduction in fly tipping through targeted education material.

### Recycling and litter collection facilities

**4.3.34** The inappropriate sighting and design of bins to collect litter and dog waste can detract from the area. Litterbins in remote coastal areas can create more litter rather than reduce it. They can also add to a gradual process of 'urbanisation' of otherwise remote and natural rural areas.

**4.3.35** The principle of "reduce, reuse, recycle" fits with the aims of this Plan. Further opportunities to recycle waste should be encouraged where they do not detract from the landscape. The message should be that everything brought to an area should be taken away from that area and reused or recycled using designated facilities.

### Policy EQ9

Avoid the installation of litter and dog waste bins in the AONB outside settlements except where local authorities already serve large car parks. Empty bins regularly.

### Policy EQ10

Seek to increase the provision of recycling facilities, where they do not impact on the landscape.

### Dog issues

**4.3.36** Dog walking, particularly on beaches, is one of the most popular activities in the AONB. Dogs and dog fouling are often cited as an issue in the AONB. However the AONB Visitors Survey (2006) indicated that only 2% of visitors wanted more dog waste bins to be provided.

### Policy EQ11

Reduce dog waste in the AONB through a combination of facilities, awareness raising and enforcement; and resist the establishment of dog bans in the AONB other than in specific designated sites where wildlife is highly sensitive to disturbance by dogs.

### Light Pollution

**4.3.37** The AONB recognises that excess or unwanted artificial lighting can cause individual nuisance and safety problems and be detrimental to the enjoyment of the night sky by the community. Local authorities, planners, developers and engineers will be encouraged to ensure that all external lighting under their control is:

- fit for purpose but not excessive;
- power efficient;
- downward directed if possible; and
- shielded to reduce light pollution.

#### Policy EQ12

Advise and support provision of lighting infrastructure using the Design Guide for the Built Environment to reduce inappropriate use of lighting and urbanisation in rural areas.



inappropriately sited bins can actually increase coastal litter



Dog walking is a very popular activity on the coast

### Cross cutting key issues

#### Managing visitors

**4.3.38** An important part of minimising negative impacts on the environmental quality of the area is through careful management of visitors and provision of good quality and readily available information and advice.

Cross reference:      Enjoying the area policies EN6, EN8 and EN9

#### Enhancing the Natural Environment

**4.3.39** Enhancing environmental quality enhances the natural environment for the wildlife and the people, who visit, live and work in the area.

Cross reference:      Living and working policies LW2, LW3, LW4, LW5 and LW8  
Natural Environment NE1, NE2, NE7, NE8, NE9, NE10, NE11 and NE12.

## 4.4. Enjoying the AONB and EMS

### 20 year vision

The area is enjoyed and appreciated by the local community and from outside visitors. Information and infrastructure is widely and readily accessible without detracting from the landscape or seascape. A large variety of activities take place without disturbance to wildlife or other people, with benefits for the communities and conservation of the area. Visitors and local people are champions, actively engaged to protect and enhance the area.

### Long-term management aims

1. Facilitate quiet, sustainable enjoyment.
2. Reduce negative visitor impact on the special features whilst maximising the benefit of visitor legacy.
3. Promote understanding and responsible enjoyment.
4. Advise on sustainable management of a variety of activities to increase enjoyment.



### Introduction

**4.4.1** The term 'visitor' is used throughout this section to refer collectively to tourists, day and longer stay visitors and residents who are important users of the coast. Many hundreds of thousands of people enjoy visiting the coast each year for relaxation, recreation and general enjoyment which together enhance quality of life.

**4.4.2** This section of the plan deals with all aspects of enjoying the AONB and EMS including management of visitor activities, promotion of the area and the provision of information and interpretation.

### Overview

**4.4.3** Visitors to the coast provide a vital economic resource; visitor interest and spending stimulates and supports the conservation of many historical and natural assets. Equally, visitors are a source of pressure on the unique assets and qualifying features of the coast. Visitor numbers appear to be increasing and this is expected to continue through further promotion.

**4.4.4** Within the coastal experience there is a great variety of individual attractions for visitors and a host of opportunities for education and recreation, discussed in more detail below. The obvious visitor attractions include the miles of sweeping sandy beaches, castles, islands, nature reserves, wildlife, the underwater world, fishing villages and harbours. But visitors also come for houses and gardens, museums,

Christian heritage, crafts, and many other attractions. Most visitors come for a variety of the above, rather than one specific activity. Conserving all aspects of the cultural and natural environment is therefore essential for sustaining the highlights of the area.

**4.4.5** Despite the attractions, the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast does not, in general, attract the intensity of visitor use evident in other traditional holiday coast areas. Within an overall pattern of moderate visitor activity, there are areas of intense



Visitors bring economic benefit to coastal communities



Visitors use a wide range of attractions

use and localities in which there is negligible interest. Visitor activity is also highly seasonal with the great majority of activity taking place during the months of May to September. There are threats and opportunities in this pattern of tourism that should be addressed through sustainable and holistic management.

**In 2006 the AONB commissioned a visitor survey as part of a wider sustainable tourism strategy.**

**Key findings from the survey included the following:**

- 35% of visitors were from within the North East. Visitors from outside of the area were mainly from Yorkshire and the Humber (18%), the North West (10%), Scotland (7%) and the East Midlands (7%). A further 6% of visitors were from overseas, mainly Canada, the USA and Australia.
- Participation in more walking and cycling activities were appealing to the majority of respondents (78%).
- For just under three quarters of respondents the use of environmentally aware restaurants (71%) and accommodation (70%) were seen as popular.
- A high proportion of visitors (66%) went for short walks of two hours or less.
- Just under two thirds of respondents agreed that more frequent buses (63%) and cheaper public transport (59%) would be beneficial in reducing their environmental impact.
- 62% stated they would slightly (27%) to greatly (35%) be willing to contribute to an environmental improvement fund.
- 42% engaged in both longer (17%) and shorter walks (25%) as their main activity.
- Just under a quarter (23%) visited attractions.
- The majority were satisfied with the number of activities available.
- Respondents were most satisfied with accommodation, attractions, Tourist Information Centres, activities and brown signage, which were all rated between good to very good.
- However key areas for improvements included toilets, public transport, shopping, and eating out facilities. Comments for improvements focused mainly on car parking (11%) and toilets (11%).

**4.4.6** According to the North East Coastal Tourism Framework, the visitor market is expanding but so is the competition. Simply developing "more of the same" will fail to realise the full potential of the Northumberland coast. To develop the visitor economy the quality of existing activities and experience should be raised.

### Recreational activities

**4.4.7** Opportunities for recreation are many and varied. A consultation workshop with recreational users of the AONB identified 64 different recreational activities undertaken in the AONB and EMS, from such passive pursuits as shopping to fast and furious activities such as jet skiing with a plethora of more widely undertaken activities in between. Some of the more significant activities in terms of AONB and EMS management are discussed below.

### Walking

**4.4.8** Walking is the most popular activity undertaken within the AONB. To accommodate it, there is a network of public rights of way and permissive paths, supplemented by access along the foreshore. Community trails and walk leaflets have also been developed. The Northumberland Coast Path was opened in 2006 and is part of the North Sea Trail which provides coastal walking routes in the countries that border the North Sea. In the AONB the path is 64 miles (103km) in length between Cresswell and Berwick-upon-Tweed and provides a significant recreational and tourism asset which is widely promoted. Other promoted routes in the area include:

- St. Cuthbert's Way. Established in 1997 from Melrose to Holy Island. Only the last few miles are in the AONB.
- Berwickshire Coast Path. From Berwick-upon-Tweed to St Abb's.
- St Oswald's Way. Created by Alnwick District Council, from Holy Island to Heavenfield on Hadrian's Wall. It piggybacks entirely on the Coast Path throughout the AONB, using Coast Path waymarking.

### Cycling

**4.4.9** Cycling is growing in popularity and this activity is promoted nationwide as a sustainable form of transport and low impact holiday activity. The Coast and Castles Cycle Route is part of Route 1 of the National Cycle Network. 51km of this route is within the AONB, of which 19km is traffic free. The route is promoted and managed by Sustrans with input from NCC and the AONB team. Improvements in recent years include new traffic-free sections along the Coquet Estuary, between Warkworth and Alnmouth and between West Mains and Cheswick. Many cycling trips are circular day trips, with visitors bringing their bikes to the AONB by car. To cater for this market the AONB has produced a cycling guide with details of five circular routes. Potential for visitors to bring bikes to the Plan area on public transport is limited. There are a small number of spaces on trains, but buses do not carry bikes. Changing this would be expensive and requires more investigation into demand and costs.

### Horse riding

**4.4.10** This is an activity that is generally accommodated on the existing roads, tracks and bridleways within the coast area, although horse riding on sand beaches is also a popular leisure activity. Overall the bridleway network is generally sparse and fragmented which means that use is mainly by local riders. There are a number of riding stables and livery yards in and near the AONB and some actively promote riding holidays in the AONB.

### Nature-based tourism

**4.4.11** Nature-based activities are a significant component of visitor activity in the AONB and EMS with birdwatching an especially popular year-round activity. Promotion of birdwatching in Northumberland has been undertaken in conjunction with Northumberland Tourism, Northumberland National Park, North Pennines AONB and wildlife guides. Trips to the Farne Islands and St Abbs to see grey seals, summer colonies of nesting sea birds and underwater life are also popular.



Horseriding on the beach is popular at a few locations

**4.4.12** Private sector operators are developing nature-based products but infrastructure to support this is often lacking. There is a great potential to develop the strengths of the region in birdwatching and general natural history. Development could be done in co-ordination with the North East Biodiversity Forum as part of a consortium promoting the area or county. The Coastal Framework suggests that destination management is the key to future success and that Northumberland Area Tourism Management Plans (ATMAPs) could deliver this co-ordination.

### Water and beach sports

**4.4.13** The coast and river estuaries within the AONB accommodate a range of water sport activities including sailing, sea kayaking, windsurfing, water-skiing, sub-aqua, and jet skiing. There has been an increase in the popularity of kite-based activities in recent years. A review of water and beach sports was undertaken by a working group in 2004/5. It was agreed that, within the AONB, Beadnell Bay and Amble should remain two of

the main hubs for motorised watersport. Diving from boats and from the shore is popular, especially around St Abb's where Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative have been instrumental in setting up Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association (BDTA) which adds value to the existing dive businesses in that area. The coastal area provides a good resource for water and outdoor education. To explore this further ONE North East has commissioned a feasibility study into the sailing market.

### Golf

**4.4.14** In terms of land area, golf is one of the most significant recreation activities with seven golf courses within the AONB, five of which are links courses. A 'Passport' scheme allows golfers to use multiple courses in the scheme for one fee.

### Angling and bait collection

**4.4.15** Shore and sea angling occurs throughout the coastal area and bait is collected from foreshore areas such as Holy Island Sands, Newton Haven and Boulmer Haven. In the past there have been significant environmental, disturbance and safety problems caused by suspected commercial bait collection and as a result bye-laws exist to manage activity at the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, Newton Haven and Boulmer Haven.

### Field sports

**4.4.16** Field and game shoots occur in parts of the AONB and include organised shoots on areas of private land, as well as wildfowling on the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve.

### Education and learning

**4.4.17** The AONB and EMS provide resources for education and learning on the coast and many of the AONB partner organisations develop and promote these resources. Examples include the production of leaflets and guide books, the organisation of events and volunteering, giving presentations and the setting up of the Our Coast Our Sea education website and forum, all of which provide ways for people to engage with the cultural and natural heritage of the area.

### Accommodation

**4.4.18** The visitor accommodation available in the AONB includes self-catering, B&Bs, hotels, guesthouses, and permanent and seasonal caravan and campsites. Demand for accommodation is high in the summer and this has been intensified by the impact of The Alnwick Garden and general increase in visitor numbers. There are also groups of private chalets on Embleton and other bays and there are a large number of second homes throughout the AONB. Caravan sites are significant features in parts of the AONB. These sites swell the population of the neighbouring settlements in summer months bringing

in significant revenue, supporting seasonal employment and a variety of retail services that might otherwise not be available to the local community. Sites on the outskirts of the AONB, such as Haggerston Castle Holiday Park, also add considerably to the visitor numbers in parts of the AONB.

## Responsibility for promotion, visitor management and interpretation

**4.4.19** Currently organisations with key roles are as follows:

- **One NorthEast:** strategic responsibility for tourism in the North East.
- **Northumberland Tourism:** develops and co-ordinates delivery of the Area Tourism Management Plan (ATMaPs).
- **Local authorities:** visitor development and management, infrastructure and development, highway network and rights of way.
- **Tourism business partnerships:** private marketing and promotional activities and specialist product groups.
- **National amenity organisations:** promote specialist activities. Examples are Sustrans, Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and British Sub Aqua Club (BSAC).
- **Land and attraction owners and managers:** may provide information, access, facilities and visitor management. These include Natural England, the National Trust, the National Trust for Scotland, English Heritage, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, golf course managers, harbour authorities, outdoor education organisations, and private land and attraction owners.
- **Accommodation and service providers:** can influence the activities of visitors through any advice and information that they give.

**4.4.20** At the county level, the role of the AONB Partnership in tourism and visitor management is recognised in the Cultural Strategy Tourism Objectives and Implementation Plan<sup>13</sup>. It identifies and advocates support for the AONB Partnership as a key partner in the promotion of the county's high quality cultural landscape.

## Key issues

**4.4.21** The key issues for enjoying the area include:

- impacts of visitor pressure on land and sea;
- visitor infrastructure;
- coastal access and visitor management;
- potential for special interest tourism;
- responsible promotion, information and interpretation; and
- education and volunteering provision.

## Cross cutting key issues

**4.4.22** Cross cutting key issues dealt with elsewhere in the Plan include:

- development of visitor facilities and accommodation;
- traffic and parking problems; and
- community involvement.

## Impacts of visitor pressure on land and sea

**4.4.23** There is an inherent tension in visitor management between making the area accessible for visitors and preventing damage to the very resource that attracts visitors. Conservation is one of the primary purposes of the AONB and EMS designations and managing activities and visitors sustainably will help fulfil this overriding purpose. The impact of visitors on the landscape and seascape is very variable with some areas reaching saturation point at certain times in the peak season (such as Seahouses, Bamburgh and Holy Island) whilst other areas have light levels of visitor use. Larger settlements and large caravan and chalet sites exert localised high visitor pressure as well as environmental quality impacts. They provide obvious locations for awareness raising and provision of guidance and information.

**4.4.24** Visitor spend in local communities benefits local businesses and supports employment but increases disturbance and traffic congestion which may be detrimental to local communities. Mitigation of perceived detrimental impacts on rural communities is becoming a mounting challenge as visitor numbers increase.



Cycling is low-impact tourism

**4.4.25** Access to the shore causes problems of habitat degradation in places, such as sand dunes, mudflats and saltmarsh. This can be exacerbated in areas where access is sought by beach users. Wildlife disturbance can be a problem in a number of locations particularly at Lindisfarne and at high-tide roost sites both on the shore and inland. Some watersports and other recreational activities can be very noisy or visually intrusive, impacting over a large area. They can cause disturbance to other users as well as to wildlife. This impacts on breeding, feeding and roosting birds and seals using the offshore and tidal zone. High numbers of visitors can also cause damage to historic sites.

**4.4.26** Positive and strategic management solutions in partnership with others are needed to ensure that as wide a variety of people as possible are able to enjoy themselves whilst preventing damage to the natural and cultural heritage and preserving the qualities of remoteness, wildness and tranquillity that are valued so highly by the local community and outside visitors alike. To achieve this there is a critical need to develop a better understanding of the levels and types of pressures visitors are exerting on the special qualifying features. Until such information is available, visitor impacts could be mitigated through:

- careful management of access points, sites and linear routes;
- sensitive use of signage that reaches its audience without cluttering the countryside;
- consideration of zoning to prevent safety problems and protect particularly sensitive sites;
- raising public awareness; and
- use of wardens.

### Policy EN1

Assess impact of recreational activities on the identified special features of the landscape including sensitive habitats, species, historic features and characteristic views and reduce the impact through targeted visitor management programmes.

### Policy EN2

Work with time-limited forums, action groups and niche partnerships to resolve tensions between user groups in order to enhance enjoyment for a variety of users.

## Visitor infrastructure

**4.4.27** Visitor infrastructure includes accommodation, services, facilities, transport, attractions and rights of way. Provision of infrastructure influences where visitors go and what they do and hence it is a vital element of visitor management. The AONB Partnership must engage with policy-makers and investors to highlight the distinctiveness of the AONB in both the county and the region, in order to ensure that improvement in infrastructure to serve increasing visitors numbers is achieved without deterioration in the natural beauty of an already pressured protected landscape.

**4.4.28** Information, services and attractions are often unavailable outside the main April to October season. Limited extension of opening hours for main attractions and tourist information centres in the AONB would go some way to helping address the seasonality of visitor activity. The area could also benefit from improved quality in food and service provision, better promotion and use of local products in shops and eateries, and increased provision of single night stay and group accommodation in the peak season.

## Public rights of way and access infrastructure

**4.4.29** Public rights of way provide one of the main ways for people to enjoy the coast on foot, cycle and horseback. These activities have significant benefits for health and general quality of life. The Highway Authority is responsible for the management and maintenance of the network of public rights of way. Its Rights of Way Improvement Plan helps ensure that the network meets the needs of users. Potential exists in the AONB for the development of links between settlements, walking routes and public transport; also the creation of shorter circular walking and cycling routes from main settlements and car parks. Any proposed development must have regard to the potential impact of increased pressure on the coast's sensitive habitats. Agri-environment schemes could help secure further areas of permissive access and complement the rights of way network, particularly by securing improvements for horseriders. During the life of this Plan it is expected that the Government's proposals for improved coastal access will be implemented. The proposals offer both an opportunity and a challenge; the opportunity is improved foot access to the coast but the challenge is that the alignment of the access trail and associated spreading land will need to take account of sensitive habitats and species.

## Cycling infrastructure

**4.4.30** In order for cycling to increase as a feasible and attractive form of transport in the AONB, storage facilities are needed in service and employment centres and at visitor attractions and accommodation. Route safety may need to be improved. Infrastructure improvements need to be well promoted to ensure good usage.

**4.4.31** Potential for visitors to bring bikes to the AONB on public transport are limited. There are a small number of spaces on trains, but no buses carry bikes. More investigation of demand and costs would be required before changes could be considered.

## Large facilities

**4.4.32** The larger visitor facilities in the AONB include golf courses and caravan and chalet parks. Many of these occupy widely visible coastal locations. In recent years, advice has been provided to some caravan site owners to develop landscaping schemes to reduce the visual impact of their site. This work could usefully be extended to offer advice on developing environment and landscape plans to all caravan sites and golf courses.

#### Policy EN3

Support the implementation of coastal access to ensure that the proposed route has regard to the appropriate management needs of vulnerable species and fragile habitats.

#### Policy EN4

Enhance the quality of Public Rights of Way and other access routes through targeted investment and encourage the uptake of access options within agri-environment schemes that improve accessibility and increase connectivity of the access network.

#### Policy EN5

Support the further development of recreational walking, riding and cycling routes and hubs that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

#### Policy EN6

Encourage improvement in the landscape and wildlife benefits of existing caravan, chalet and camping sites and golf courses.

### Accessibility and visitor management

**4.4.33** Many parts of the coast are inaccessible to some people, especially those with mobility difficulties. There is much that can be done to provide access into a landscape. Improvements in accessing the foreshore for all users can often be achieved through sensitively designed schemes that do not detract from the special features of the area. In addition, there are ways to make it easier for visitors to access areas with good views of landscapes, seascapes, lateral coastal views, views into the AONB from the coastal plain and views inland across the coastal plain to the Cheviots.

**4.4.34** Access to the marine world is limited to divers but there are opportunities to introduce the underwater realm in other ways to residents and visitors. These include publicising film footage, underwater cameras and underwater photography. These would increase awareness and understanding and help conserve and enhance the marine ecosystem.

#### Policy EN7

Audit and improve the accessibility of the foreshore, visitor facilities, attractions, view points and public rights of way and make the underwater world more tangible for visitors.

### Special interest tourism

**4.4.35** The niche market of nature-based or wildlife tourism is slowly increasing in popularity. The AONB and EMS has a great deal to offer this type of visitor. Nature-based tourism, though often reliant on the use of private cars, is generally a low-impact form of tourism. Investment in infrastructure to support this form of tourism is required and could be developed through the ATMaP.

**4.4.36** Water-borne tourists arriving in the area are under-catered for as there are few facilities or moorings for visiting craft. A managed increase in this tourism could be sustainable and possibly provide income through mooring fees and additional tourism spend.

#### Policy EN8

In partnership with tourism agencies and providers develop and promote a sustainable tourism product ensuring that there is no negative impact on the special features.

#### Policy EN9

Encourage schemes that promote, or provide facilities for, visiting craft and water-borne tourists where this can be achieved without impacting on the character, special features or quiet enjoyment of the area

### Responsible promotion, information and interpretation

**4.4.37** Pursuing sustainable tourism activity and promotion is a significant management challenge. Promotion and marketing of locations by organisations greatly influence the sites and locations visitors choose to visit. Promotion that leads to significant increases in visitor numbers or a significant increase in disturbing or damaging activities cannot be accommodated without localised loss of quality and character of the landscape and coast. Within the AONB there is still potential to increase the economic benefit from existing visitor numbers by encouraging the further use of local services, purchase of local products, turning half-day visits into full days and passing day visits into overnight stays.

**4.4.38** The emphasis for promotion and marketing should not, therefore, be an unqualified drive for yet more visitors. Instead the emphasis should be on better management of existing visitors, better services for them, and changing their behaviour. This could be coupled with some targeted marketing for certain specialist and sustainable activities in, and outside, the main tourist season, such as bird watching, conservation breaks, diving, walking, cycling, historic and religious interest visits and golf tourism (the latter being an area where existing facilities could accommodate increased use). Promotion and marketing activity should also be encouraged to support informal zoning of visitor activity.

**4.4.39** Good quality and readily accessible information and interpretation helps people to understand, enjoy and respect the designated areas. This is a key role for the AONB Partnership and EMS Officer. Audiences include local communities, short and long distance visitors and the full variety of different recreational and accommodation users. The objective should be to provide high quality interpretation that has low environmental and landscape impact. Benefit would be derived from an interpretation strategy developed in partnership with all relevant organisations.

### Education and volunteering provision

**4.4.40** Opportunities for volunteering are important for residents and visitors of all ages. Volunteering increases understanding and appreciation of the designation as well as providing assistance in managing the natural and cultural resource and improving health. Opportunities to volunteer are currently provided by the natural and cultural heritage organisations and government agencies on the coast, although this is uncoordinated. The AONB partnership established a Young Rangers programme in 2006, which provides opportunities for young people from the coastal area to learn about, appreciate and enjoy as well as take care of the AONB.

#### Policy EN10

Encourage carefully targeted marketing and development of the coastal area as a tourism destination that respects the special characteristics and sensitivities of areas.

#### Policy EN11

Continue to provide education, training and volunteering opportunities and enhance and diversify volunteering opportunities through a co-ordinated approach.

### Cross cutting key issues

#### Development of visitor facilities and accommodation

**4.4.41** Development of appropriate visitor facilities and accommodation is central to enjoyment. It is controlled through land use planning. Parking allows visitors to come to the coast but also intrudes visually.

Cross reference: Land use and marine planning LP9 and LP10

#### Community involvement

**4.4.42** Community involvement is essential for successful management and promotes widespread enjoyment.

Cross reference: Living and working LW6, LW8 and LW10

## 4.5 Living and working

### 20 year vision

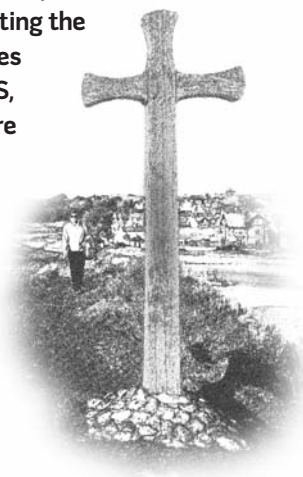
Diversity in terms of age, income and occupation of residents has been maintained and they share an understanding and appreciation of the Plan area's special qualities. Community members are involved in projects to conserve, enhance, understand and enjoy the AONB and EMS. The rural economy is broad-based with ongoing investment in business development of land and sea-based, traditional and visitor industries and sustainably produced local products. Harbours are lively and active. Access to local services, training, education and employment is improved with good transport links backed up by widely available information.

### Long-term management aims

1. Increase awareness of the existence and purpose of the AONB and EMS designations amongst all local residents and businesses, in order to increase commitment to the conservation and enhancement of the coastal landscape.
2. Increase the sustainability of local communities through access to services, employment and housing, and the retention of a mixed, balanced community in terms of demographic structure and local and holiday populations.
3. Encourage the development of sustainable economic activity and rural diversification that conserves the special and qualifying features of the AONB and EMS.

4. Ensure all economic and community strategies and initiatives affecting the Plan area recognise the purposes and value of the AONB and EMS, and seek to conserve and, where possible, enhance their special and qualifying features.

5. Slow the increase in car dependence and increase the availability, promotion and integration of transport services with links to employment centres, services, facilities and attractions.



In Seahouses, fishing vessels have been replaced by tourist boats

conservation management of their qualifying features as a multi-user site. This section of the Plan seeks to identify those issues that can have an adverse effect on natural beauty of the AONB and the qualifying features of the EMS. To the extent it is consistent with conservation the Plan can promote sustainable economic and community development.

### Overview

#### Local Economy

**4.5.2** The population of the Northumberland coast is mainly based within what were traditional fishing and farming villages and numbers 10,000 people<sup>1</sup>. Seahouses and Eyemouth are the largest settlement within the Plan area. These communities have strong traditional links to the land and sea. Other principal settlements within the area, such as Bamburgh and Holy Island, have early historical connections with the development of Christianity. Whilst the quality of the

### Introduction

**4.5.1** AONB Management Plans must take account of economic and social needs in pursuing the conservation and enhancement of the AONB. Management Schemes for the EMS provide for the

<sup>1</sup>Office of National Statistics (2003) Census Data 2001 accessed from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

landscape adds to the quality of life of residents, there are still numerous social and economic challenges.

**4.5.3** The communities of the AONB and EMS are economically linked to settlements and economic conditions in the surrounding coastal and marine area. In economic terms it is necessary to view the AONB and EMS in the context of wider trends and changes.

**4.5.4** Today, employment in farming has greatly reduced with just 380 people employed in farming (farmers and employees) out of a total working age population in the AONB of just over 6000<sup>2</sup>. There is also a trend towards a smaller number of larger farms. However, farm income is variable with a rise of 8.7% in 2007 with arable farmers benefiting the most. The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (2004-12) will reduce import controls and transfer subsidies to land stewardship rather than specific crop production.

**4.5.5** With continual declines in white fish stocks, fishing activity is now focused mainly on crabs, lobsters, prawns and shellfish harvesting and the existing fishing industry is experiencing a decline in vessels, fishers and landings<sup>3</sup>. Unlike Eyemouth, the biggest fishing harbour on the east coast, leisure rather than fishing craft now dominate within some harbours. To address these changes, the Market Towns Initiative has assisted in developing feasibility studies and Management Plans for Holy Island, North Sunderland, Craster and Amble harbours. Holy Island harbour is now managed by the Island's Development Trust. In Berwickshire the SSMEI has assisted with an analysis of the fishing industry potential and ways to improve sustainability. It has also developed plans for improving St Abb's harbour. There are very large processors at Eyemouth, processing fish from Northumberland and Scotland (especially Eyemouth). There are few processors within the AONB and those that exist import fish from other areas.

**4.5.6** The economy is now changing to one where tourism is one of the most important sectors<sup>5</sup>. The villages and towns along the coast are popular tourist destinations during the summer months, with the population of Coldingham, St Abb's and Seahouses estimated to triple during this season. Although tourism is an important industry, much of it is based around caravan accommodation and whilst the industry provides a significant number of jobs in the AONB, many of them are relatively low paid and often seasonal. In Berwickshire many jobs and businesses are reliant on dive-tourism.

**4.5.7** Half the population of the AONB earn less than £16,500 a year<sup>4</sup> and the lack of economic prospects has forced young people out of the villages. The

population composition of the area shows a disproportionately high level of people over 60 – 30% compared to the national average of 21%<sup>1</sup>. This is due to the loss of young people from the area and the in-migration of retired people from other areas. As a result of balanced in-migration and out-migration the population level has remained relatively stable.

**4.5.8** The Northumberland Rural Strategy and Action Plan<sup>5</sup> provides a rural focus to regeneration in the county. The aim is to raise the economic performance of rural Northumberland and improve the quality of life of its people capitalising on the county's unique assets. These could be inferred to include the AONB and EMS. The Scottish Borders Environmental Strategy and Action Plan<sup>6</sup> promotes sustainable development in the hinterland to the EMS.

### Economic value of the environment, landscape and seascape

**4.5.9** Where the AONB is acknowledged in existing economic strategies it is often in relation to the high landscape value of the area. It is seen as a resource that could be exploited to encourage tourism and leisure activities. However, the landscape is also an economic asset other than for tourism, including land- and sea-based industries, local products, location attractions for businesses, and the quality of life and health of local communities. In a survey of 87 businesses in the AONB,



Like most rural areas access to public transport is limited

three quarters said that the quality of the landscape affected the performance of their business and half said that the quality of the landscape influenced their decision to locate in the area<sup>7</sup>. The quality of the landscape therefore supports business investment. It also supports public health by providing a place for exercise, and reflection. Existing economic strategies do not make direct reference to the EMS.

<sup>2</sup>DEFRA (2003) June Agricultural Census 2001 accessed via [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

<sup>3</sup>Phillipson and Williams (2003) Review of the North East Fisheries Regeneration Initiative, Centre for Rural Economy, University of Newcastle

<sup>4</sup>CACI Ltd (2002) The Wealth of the Nation Report 2002 CACI London

<sup>5</sup>Shared Intelligence (2003) Northumberland Rural Strategy & Action Plan NSP

<sup>6</sup>Scottish Borders Council (2001) New Ways Environmental Strategy and Environmental Action Plan Scottish Borders Council

<sup>7</sup>SQW (2004) The Economic Value of Protected Landscapes in the North East One North East

## Rural Services and Transport

**4.5.10** As in many rural areas access to services is limited. This can cause problems for those without private transport unless the service required is connected by good, affordable public transport. For example, half the population of the AONB live over 4 km from a bank or doctor and three quarters over 8 km from a job centre<sup>1</sup>. There are also difficulties for communities with access to affordable housing. House prices are affected by the high level of second home ownership which reaches 41% in Beadnell, the second highest rate of all wards in England<sup>1</sup>.

**4.5.11** Some parishes and settlements are now actively involved in shaping their own future through the activities of community groups, parish councils and community development trusts. Market Town Welcome Plans have been completed for Berwick, Alnwick, Seahouses, and Amble. Parish Plans are a process that can help communities understand their locality and their community needs better and go on to take community action to address them. To date five parish councils have taken up this opportunity (Adderstone with Luckier, Belford, Ord, Newton-by-the-Sea, and Ellingham).

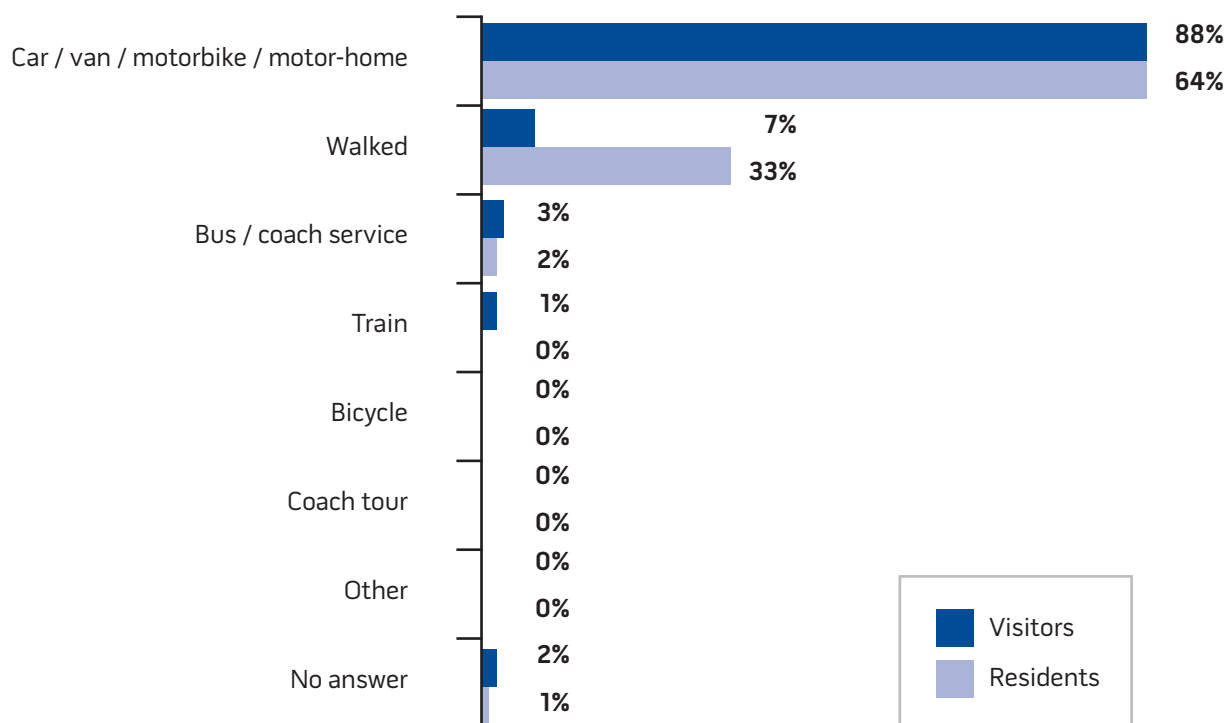
**4.5.12** There is high car dependency amongst residents in the AONB with a third of all households

owning more than one vehicle<sup>8</sup> (see Figure 4.5.1). 88% of visitors to the coast used private cars with only 3% using public transport.

**4.5.13** Buses and, to a lesser extent, rail services provide the public transport system within the Plan area. A variety of operators provide bus services into the Plan area, most linking settlements to the large service centres of Alnwick, Berwick, Morpeth and Newcastle. There are no railway stations actually within the Plan area, but Alnmouth for Alnwick and Berwick stations are close to the AONB boundary and provide important visitor and commuter links for the AONB. Chathill station serves the centre of the Plan area, but services are limited to two trains per day. There is a proposal to reopen the station at Belford within the life of this Plan. A number of initiatives have been implemented to promote use of public transport including "Bus meets Train" and "Coast & Castles Connection".

**4.5.14** The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) requires buses to be accessible to disabled users by 2015. Access to the bus network within the AONB for wheelchair users is limited to the 518 Route from Amble to Alnmouth. Outside the AONB, the rail service is accessible for disabled customers from both Berwick and Alnmouth.

**Figure 4.5.1: Main Form of Transport by Visitors / Residents**

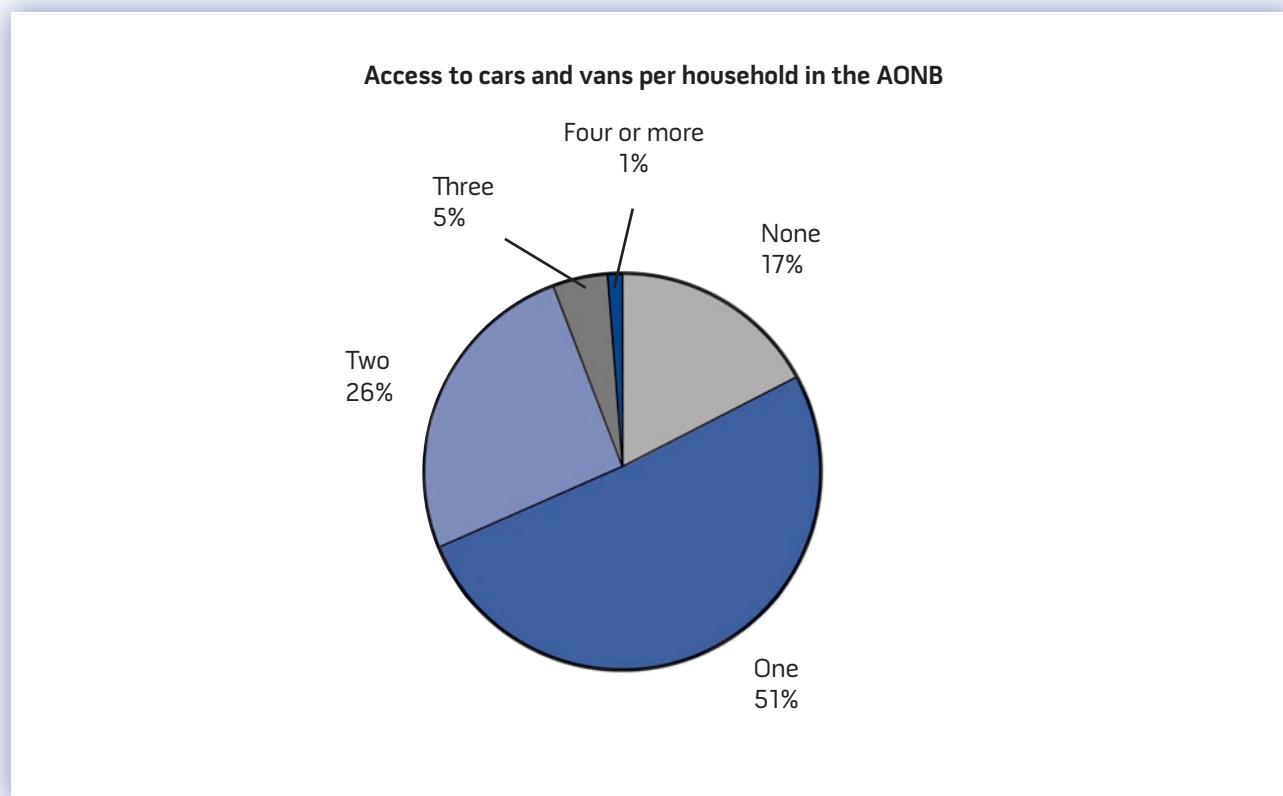


Base: 2122 Visitors, 267 Residents

<sup>8</sup>QA Research and Bowles & Green Ltd (2006) Northumberland Coast AONB Visitor Survey Report QA Research, York

**4.5.15** Taxis and private hire vehicles also play a role in transport into and around the Plan area. Apart from Seahouses, most firms serving the areas are based outside the Plan area.

**Figure 4.5.2 Access to cars and vans in the AONB in 2001 (Office of National Statistics, 2003).**



**4.5.16** Resources and assistance are available to develop community transport initiatives in the area. Initiatives in the AONB include the Holy Island community minibus. Transport In North Northumberland (T.I.N.N) makes under-used minibuses available for community groups.

### Responsibility for community, economic development and transport

**4.5.17** This is a very broad area that encompasses the activities of a large variety of organisations. Some of these include the following:

- **ONE North East:** the regional development agency has responsibility for setting and implementing the agenda for economic development throughout the North East of England. It is also DEFRA's delivery agent for the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).
- **Scottish Enterprise:** promotes economic development in Scotland.
- **Northumberland Strategic Partnership:** co-ordinates economic, social and environmental regeneration throughout Northumberland.
- **Local authorities:** involved in a variety of community and regeneration work, and provide the statutory highways and public transport authority in partnership with transport providers.
- **Local Strategic Partnerships:** after 31 March 2009 a single, non-statutory multi-agency LSP, covering the old Alnwick and Berwick council areas, will continue to work to improve local decision-making.
- **Market Town Welcome:** these initiatives work to revitalise market towns. Initiatives in or near the Plan area include Seahouses, Amble, Berwick and Alnwick.
- **DEFRA:** supports various rural development opportunities through the RDPE.
- **Business Link:** provides advice to businesses on all aspects of business start up and development.
- **The North East Chamber of Commerce:** represents numerous businesses within the AONB.
- **Parish Councils:** represent and work for local communities.

- **Community Action Northumberland and Northumberland Association of Local Councils:** provide support to communities, groups, initiatives and parish councils.
- **Development Trusts:** take a lead in community enterprise at Holy Island, North Sunderland and Seahouses, Craster and Amble.
- **New Leader Northumberland Coast and Lowlands:** works to deliver the RDPE in the Plan area and provides funding streams that can support community-based economic development initiatives.
- **Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative (SSMEI):** engages with marine community to determine sustainable socio-economic potential.
- **Private bus operators:** provide services on a commercial basis with certain routes being subsidised by the County Council.
- **Train operators:** Cross Country and National Express operate long distance trains and Arriva Trains Northern run regional rail services in the area.



Beadnell Bay is popular for a wide range of watersports

**4.5.18** The role of the Plan in economic and community development is one of signposting, highlighting distinctiveness, identifying gaps, and promoting the importance of the AONB and EMS and their benefits to business and the community alike. Where gaps in delivery exist, the AONB and EMS staff can take an active role in promoting and supporting economic and social development activity that contributes to conservation and enhancement of the AONB and EMS.

**4.5.19** It is recognised that management of transport issues is dealt with at a scale much larger than the Plan area. The role of the Plan is to influence joint working with others rather than direct delivery.

## Key Issues

**4.5.20** The key issues relating to living and working in the Plan area include:

- awareness of the existence and purpose of the AONB and EMS designations amongst local residents and businesses;
- support for the purpose of the AONB and EMS amongst policy makers;
- the need for sustainable and diversified rural enterprise, farming and fishing;
- skills development and training;
- access to services and facilities;
- transport provision and integration;
- changing social structure;
- the health agenda; and
- community capacity to access grants.

**4.5.21** Cross-cutting key issues dealt with elsewhere in this Plan include:

- affordable housing;
- conversions and re-use of redundant buildings;
- cycling infrastructure;
- tourism promotion; and
- climate change and its consequences.

### Awareness of the existence and purpose of the AONB and EMS designations amongst local residents and businesses

**4.5.22** Awareness of the AONB and especially the EMS still needs to be raised amongst those who live and work in the area in order to increase their:

- sense of ownership of the designations;
- support for the purpose of the designations; and
- active involvement in management of the area.

Alongside awareness-raising there needs to be identification, development and promotion of opportunities for involvement in AONB and EMS management.

### Policy LW1

Ensure active consultation with communities and local businesses on AONB and EMS initiatives, and encourage involvement in activities that relate to the purpose of AONB and EMS designations and assist in delivery of the Plan.

#### **Support for the purpose of the AONB and EMS amongst policy makers**

**4.5.23** Rural economic development and regeneration are key priorities in many regional, county and local initiatives at present (see the list of relevant plans and strategies at the end of section 4.5). However, there is a risk that economic development and regeneration can damage the special and qualifying features of the AONB and EMS, if it is implemented without full consideration of wider reaching impacts on the landscape and environment. An increased awareness of the economic and social benefits of the designations, and the special and qualifying features they protect, can help policy makers to ensure that economic development policy does not inadvertently undermine the special and qualifying features of the area. There are also good opportunities for joint working in order to pursue sustainable development that enhances the AONB and EMS, such as with Market Town Welcome initiatives and development trusts.

**4.5.24** A large proportion of the AONB is under the care of large estates and estate owners and managers have a very significant role to play in conserving and enhancing the landscape of the AONB. It is therefore important to provide AONB input to the development of estate plans whenever they are initiated. This includes land owners such as the National Trust, National Trust for Scotland, Crown Estates and foreshore owners.

### Policy LW2

Promote good practice in countryside and environment management within economic, regeneration and community strategies and initiatives.

#### **The need for sustainable and diversified rural enterprise, farming and fishing**

**4.5.25** The decline in the traditional industries of fishing and farming have implications for the traditional patterns of land, sea and harbour use which contribute to the local character of the Plan area. The accessibility of the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast to visitors presents a number of opportunities for farm and fishing diversification activities. Berwickshire has a large offshore fishing fleet, however, elsewhere there has been a reorientation towards inshore fishing away from deeper sea fishing. Opportunities also exist in the development and marketing of sustainably produced local products. Potential for using the AONB and EMS to help promote and support such products should be investigated with relevant organisations and initiatives such as Northumbrian Tourism, Made in Northumberland and Taste of Scotland. Cross promotion of local services, visitor facilities and local products would also benefit the rural economy as would development of farm shops and farmers' and fish markets.

**4.5.26** The production of biofuels and biomass are new areas that could help sustain farm businesses and are promoted in the Northumberland Renewable Energy Strategy<sup>9</sup>. As technologies develop they will become more attractive as alternative sources of electricity and fuel. DEFRA should assess the full implications of energy crop options in AONBs. DEFRA must consider the impact on energy policy and the visual and social impact of the consequent major changes in agricultural practices.

**4.5.27** A key element of sustainable rural enterprise, which is also important for the AONB and EMS designations, is enabling people to live and work in rural areas thus reducing travel and providing increased employment opportunities. As well as accessible employment, business support and appropriate accommodation, improved telecommunications infrastructure can help, but it is important that implementation of the County ICT strategy takes account of the AONB. It is preferable that business accommodation in the AONB maximises use of existing facilities through sensitive conversions and that re-use of redundant buildings should all be promoted over new buildings (see 4.5.38) to maintain the character of the built environment.

<sup>9</sup>Entec UK Ltd (2003) Northumberland Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy Northumberland Countywide Renewables Group on behalf of Northumberland Strategic Partnership

**4.5.28** The lack of variety and often low pay of existing employment in the AONB leads to the dual problem of many residents working outside the AONB, or even leaving the Plan area, whilst employers are left with difficulties in recruiting service staff in the peak tourist season, which has an impact on service provision. These issues need considering by policy makers and funding organisations in economic development and the tourism industry at a county and regional level.

**4.5.29** Promoting the Green Tourism Business Scheme in the Plan area, or a replacement appropriate environmental accreditation scheme, provides an opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of businesses and visitor facilities whilst providing award winners with an opportunity for positive promotion. In the long term it is desirable to have "green tourism" criteria mainstreamed into general tourism accreditation frameworks.

### Policy LW3

Support the development of business opportunities, support services and infrastructure that are in keeping with the purpose of AONB and EMS designations, and that increase the ability of people to live and work locally.

### Policy LW4

Support and promote sustainable farm and fishing diversification activity within the Plan area.

### Policy LW5

Seek to improve the environmental performance and awareness of new and existing businesses and visitor facilities.

## Skills development and training

**4.5.30** A skills gap exists in a number of different areas in the AONB associated with problems over access to training and education. Some gaps identified that are relevant to the purpose of the AONB designation include:

- skilled labour in the tourism industry;
- trade skills;
- traditional skills and training in conservation architecture and conservation building work;
- understanding about the AONB and EMS and abilities to pass on this information; and
- skills to care for the natural and historic environment and an ability to transfer them to others.

**4.5.31** These work force and volunteer skills need improving through good access to education, training, volunteering and life-long learning. The AONB Partnership and EMS Steering Group needs to continue to bring these issues to the attention of policy makers, course organisers and funders, and liaise directly with the Learning and Skills Council. There is a need to facilitate and coordinate volunteering effort.

### Policy LW6

Encourage the promotion and development of volunteering, training and education opportunities for the population of the AONB, in particular those that can contribute to better management and enhancement of the Plan area.

## Access to services and facilities

**4.5.32** There continues to be a general decline in services. This requires residents to travel further and incur greater expenditure, reducing the viability of local communities. Although the increased number of visitors to the coast has been a catalyst for supporting a better range of some services, such as shops, restaurants and pubs, it has not supported the provision of professional services such as health or legal services. While service provision is not the direct responsibility of this Plan, more flexible approaches may be needed to provide services in the Plan area, such as mobile services, drop-in centres and sharing of accommodation. Better siting of any new facilities outside the Plan area, with good links to public transport, can help.

### Policy LW7

Support the provision of and access to a range of community services and facilities for all ages and seek innovative means of provision.

<sup>10</sup>LDR<sup>2</sup> (2003) Connecting IT Project: Strategic Review and programme for ICT Connectivity in Northumberland Northumberland Strategic Partnership



A flexible approach to providing rural services is essential



Local projects rely on the ability of community groups

### Transport provision and integration

**4.5.33** A good transport network, including adequate condition of roads and a good choice of well integrated transport options, is fundamental to enabling access to facilities, services, employment and employees, encouraging investment, tackling social exclusion, reducing environmental impact of cars and bringing visitors to services offered in the Plan area. It is a vital element of more sustainable living.

**4.5.34** Much of the Plan area is commercially unattractive for bus operators outside of the summer season. Apart from this period few routes are viable without subsidy from Northumberland County Council, especially in the evenings and on Sundays. This means that adapting, promoting and making the best use of existing services and maximising opportunities for integration of existing services provide the most realistic immediate opportunities for improving provision within the Plan area. The Northumberland County Bus Strategy will be re-written during the life of this Plan as part of the Land Transport Plan. It should seek to further integrate and promote the use of public transport in the AONB.

#### Policy LW8

Support increased and more integrated public transport services and community transport initiatives that aim to improve the viability of local communities, allow access to employment opportunities and service centres within and outside the Plan area, and reduce the adverse effects of transport.

### Changing social structure

**4.5.35** A balanced demographic structure is vital to ensuring thriving communities but it is a significant challenge in the AONB. Whilst the needs of an increasingly ageing population need to be met, it is even more important to provide better facilities and services for young people and families if a reasonably mixed age structure is to be retained. Large numbers of holiday houses can bring about a “ghost town” quality to some areas in the winter months making it hard for local services to survive or remain open during this time. However, new people moving into an area can bring new resources, skills, enthusiasm and support for community initiatives. Attaining a mixed, balanced demographic structure in communities in the AONB and increasing social inclusion in community initiatives are significant challenges. A mix of seasonal and permanent employment including self-employment opportunities is crucial.

#### Policy LW9

Seek to ensure all members of local communities have the opportunity to participate in AONB, EMS and community activities, through the use of a variety of mechanisms.

### Health agenda

**4.5.36** The citizen health agenda is increasingly paramount in central government thinking. Recreational access throughout the AONB, with views out to the EMS, provides opportunities for physical exercise, mental well-being and spiritual reflection.

#### Policy LW10

Support initiatives to generate health benefits for local communities and visitors that do not have significant adverse effects on the AONB and EMS.

### Community capacity to access grants

**4.5.37** There are many grant schemes and initiatives set up to support community initiatives and social enterprise, including the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund and the DEFRA-funded New Leader. A constraint on the development of community transport initiatives is often the capacity of community groups to access the available grants, including difficulties relating to drivers and vehicle purchase, maintenance and insurance. However, even if awareness of grant and support opportunities were high, capacity to access them is often low given limited time and experience and the complexity of schemes. Groups do exist to support communities in accessing funds and the AONB Partnership and EMS Steering Group can play important roles in signposting community and voluntary groups and individuals.

#### Policy LW11

Promote availability of grants for community and business development initiatives that are consistent with the AONB and EMS designation, signposting all potential applicants to support organisations.

### Cross cutting key issues

#### Affordable housing

**4.5.38** Affordable housing is critical to sustainable living and working in the AONB. Community action can help address this problem, such as the affordable properties retained by Holy Island Development Trust. The land use planning system can also assist in directing new development to include affordable housing.

Cross reference: Land use and marine planning policies: LP9

#### Conversions and re-use of redundant buildings

**4.5.39** Converting redundant and other buildings for business use offers major economic opportunities within the AONB. Control of this activity relates to land use planning.

Cross reference: Land use and marine planning policies: LP7, LP8

#### Cycling infrastructure

**4.5.40** To further promote cycling in the AONB, storage facilities are needed at service and employment centres, visitor attractions, transport nodes and accommodation. Route safety needs to be improved, with the extension of traffic-free routes where these do not impact on the AONB. Infrastructure improvements need to be well promoted to ensure good usage. Opportunities need to be encouraged to allow visitors to bring bikes to the Plan area on public transport.

Cross reference: Enjoying the AONB and EMS policies: EN5

#### Tourism promotion

**4.5.41** The way in which tourism is promoted in the AONB affects both the quality of life of local communities and the viability of visitor-related businesses and facilities.

Cross reference: Enjoying the AONB and EMS policies: EN8, EN9

#### Climate change and its consequences

**4.5.42** Coastal squeeze and roll-back will also put pressure on the road network requiring protection, relocation or closure.

Cross reference: Natural Environment policies: N11

Cross reference: Conserving and enhancing policies: CE2

## 4.6 Land use and marine planning

### 20 year vision

Planning is integrated across the AONB and EMS. There is meaningful regional input to marine planning. The AONB is extended north and south and management of the whole coastal zone protects the coastal landscape and seascape. New and modified existing development helps conserve the qualifying features of the AONB and EMS, and is sensitively located, scaled, designed and landscaped. Distinctions between settlements, and between settlements and open countryside, are preserved. The effects of “coastal squeeze” on land use as a result of climate change are managed effectively and equitably. Roads are managed with special regard to their location within the AONB.

### Long-term management aims

1. Ensure all new development in the Plan area is sustainable and accords with frameworks for land use planning and marine planning frameworks to actively support the conservation and enhancement of the special and qualifying features of the AONB and EMS.
2. Use regional and local planning documents as an opportunity to increase the coverage and protection of the special and qualifying features of the AONB and EMS.

3. Promote sensitive planning and management of traffic, highways and car parking in order to reduce adverse effects on the Plan area.



### Introduction

**4.6.1** Towns, villages, individual buildings and the use of land and sea are all vital elements of the distinctive character of the Plan area. The principal way in which these elements can be conserved and enhanced is through the application of a set of comprehensive and robust land use and marine planning policies. Development pressure, on and off shore, and from a broad range of sectors is considered to be the most important issues to tackle in the Plan area.

### Overview

#### Development patterns in the AONB and EMS

**4.6.2** The relative remoteness of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland coast from major areas of economic activity has historically resulted in low development pressures. Development within the AONB is mostly controlled by the Town & Country Planning system and influenced by land use policy documents such as Local Development Frameworks all of which extend to the mean low water mark. Most planning applications relate to new housing, alterations to existing housing, the conversion of farm and other buildings for holiday use, and signage. Pressure for development has, however, been gradually increasing in recent years. Increased personal mobility has made the AONB more accessible to those who work in larger towns and conurbations such as Alnwick, Berwick and Tyneside and this has contributed to rapid property development in some parts of the AONB. The popularity of the AONB as a visitor destination has also led to an increase in second and holiday homes and visitor-related facilities.



Sign for the Northumberland Coastal Route

Some of these developments pay little reference to the coastal building vernacular and are occasionally out of scale within small settlements. Such pressures and changes are beginning to have a cumulatively negative effect on the diversity and distinctiveness of the character of the area.

**4.6.3** Development within the EMS is regulated under a variety of statutes. Most importantly is alone or in combination with other proposals. Development that might affect the EMS includes coastal development that may require consents to discharge, port and harbour development, coastal defence schemes and windfarms. Most of these works are consented either through the planning system or the Food & Environment Protection Act (FEPA) which controls construction or deposition of any materials upon the seabed.

**4.6.4** The Plan seeks to promote the importance of linking land-based planning to marine planning. It is important that local authorities are made aware of this integrated management plan approach and how both areas relate to each other.

## Transport

**4.6.5** Car access to the coastal area is principally via the north-south primary roads: the A1 trunk road, which provides access to Edinburgh in the north and Newcastle in the south, the A1068 and the A189. A network of secondary and local roads links these through-routes to settlements on the coast. A Coastal Route is signposted between the Moor Farm roundabout at the junction of the A189/A19 and the junction of the A1 and B1340 near Belford. There are AONB gateway features in the south at Amble and in the north near Belford at Harper's Heugh and on the National Cycle Route at Spittal. In the summer months, when visitor numbers are at their highest, the reliance on cars to access the AONB can cause local congestion and slow moving traffic on small country roads at peak times. A limited programme of car park surface improvement has been undertaken over recent years. This has resulted in a level of provision that is generally adequate other than at peak periods, when indiscriminate roadside verge car parking becomes an issue. Seasonal "green" overflow facilities may help to meet demand. However, the rise of dive tourism creates car parking issues at St Abb's, Coldingham and Eyemouth. While outside the Plan area they are concern as they have adverse effects on the seascape and on visitor experience. The SSMEI is addressing them in conjunction with the Harbour Trust and Scottish Borders Council.

## Responsibility for land use planning, marine planning and roads and traffic

**4.6.6** Responsibilities are as follows:

- **Local planning authorities:** Northumberland County Council (from 1 April 2009) (NCC) and Scottish Borders Council deal with planning

issues. NCC is the highways authority for Northumberland.

- **Government Office North East:** advises and acts on developments of regional significance.
- **North East Regional Assembly:** led the development of the new Regional Spatial Strategy.
- **Central Government and Scottish Government:** exert a key influence over the planning system through guidance, regulation and reserve 'call-in' powers.
- **Environment Agency and Scottish Environment Protection Agency:** administer FEPA licences for marine development.
- **Natural England:** works in marine protected areas designations.
- **Planning Inspectorate:** decides appeals against refusals of planning and other permissions.

## Role of the Management Plan and Planning Applications

The role of this plan is to provide strategic advice, guidance and support to land and marine planning authorities controlling development and other plans, projects and consents. This advice and guidance seeks to ensure that the national and international importance of the area is conserved and enhanced. The Plan does not provide site-specific policies on the development of the land and sea area.

The AONB and EMS designations are material considerations in determining any planning application in the Plan area. The role of the AONB Partnership, EMS Steering Group and staff teams is in assisting planning and other competent authorities in interpreting and applying Management Plan policy. This is primarily achieved through commenting on relevant planning and other applications and providing input to draft planning documents.

**4.6.7** National Planning Policy is currently set out in a series of Planning Policy Statements (PPS), Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), Minerals Policy Statements (MPS) and Minerals Planning Policy Guidance Notes (MPGs). The most relevant is PPS7, "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" and PPG 20 "Coastal Planning". Under the forthcoming Marine Bill there will be a national framework for marine planning. This framework will potentially be implemented by regional marine planning groups.

**4.6.8** National planning policy is translated into regional, through:

- The Regional Plan for the North East of England (Regional Spatial Strategy) and the Regional Transport Strategy;
- Alnwick and Berwick-upon-Tweed Local Development Framework and Local Plan policies;
- Minerals Local Plan (2000) and Waste Local Plan (2001) (being reviewed under the Minerals and Waste Development Framework);
- Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan;
- Scottish Borders Development Plan; and
- St. Abbs to River Tyne Shoreline Management Plan (currently under review).

**4.6.9** In addition to this hierarchy of plans and guidance, there is supplementary planning guidance on various subjects (separate from Supplementary Planning Documents). Parish Plans and Village Design Statements can also help shape the future of local development.

#### Planning status and current policy coverage

**4.6.10** Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, alongside National Parks, have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 extends the biodiversity duty to public bodies and statutory undertakers to ensure due regard to the conservation of biodiversity.

**4.6.11** In AONBs, the Government's planning policy is that planning permission for major developments (including renewable energy projects) should only be granted where it can be demonstrated that the objectives of the designation of the area will not be compromised. Proposals for renewable energy projects should go through a rigorous assessment (set out in PPS7) and should only be allowed to proceed in exceptional circumstances where national public

interest can be demonstrated. The North East of England Plan<sup>1</sup> and Local Development Documents reiterate and reinforce this national guidance.

**4.6.12** The Habitats Regulations require that all plans, projects and consents given by competent or relevant authorities are assessed for any "likely significant effect" upon the qualifying features of the EMS. If there is deemed to be a likely significant effect, the authority must undertake an "appropriate assessment" in order to assess if despite available mitigation, there will be an "adverse effect upon the integrity" of the site. If the conclusion is that there will be such an effect, then the consent may not be given. The competent authority has a statutory duty to take into account the views of Natural England in conducting this appropriate assessment. The only way such a consent may then be granted is for "imperative reasons of overriding public interest", a decision on which can only be made by the Secretary of State. If the Secretary grants the decision on this basis they must instruct the applicant to provide adequate compensation for any impacts upon the EMS.

**4.6.13** In this respect, the legal governance of the EMS varies from that of the AONB in that all authorities granting whatever plans, projects and consents must put them through the Habitats Regulations process before issuing consent. In this respect the Habitats Regulations act as a centralised "legal clearing house" for all activities with the potential to affect the EMS.

**4.6.14** Natural England guidance also states that development management policies for AONBs should promote the conservation of those special features that contribute to their special character<sup>2</sup>.

**4.6.15** The North East of England Plan includes a range of policies relating to the conservation and enhancement of protected landscapes. It states the importance of a balanced approach to landscape protection that takes account of the need to develop sustainable local communities.

**4.6.16** Local Development Frameworks contain a variety of policies that protect and encourage conservation and enhancement of the AONB such as Alnwick District Council's Policy S13 which states: "All proposals for development and change will be considered against the need to protect and enhance the landscape character of the District".

**4.6.17** The UK Marine Bill and Scottish Marine Bill (if enacted) will introduce marine planning. The Marine Management Organisation and Marine Scotland will be responsible for planning in waters off the coast of England and Scotland.



Good building conversion can maintain character

<sup>1</sup> Government Office for the North East (2008) The North East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021) GONE

<sup>2</sup> Countryside Commission (1991) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A Policy Statement Countryside Commission CCP 356

## Key issues

**4.6.18** The key issues relating to land use planning, marine spatial planning and roads and traffic include:

- recognition for the AONB and EMS and protection from major development;
- gateways to the AONB and EMS;
- integrated management of the North Northumberland Heritage Coast;
- design, scale and location of new development and conservation of AONB natural beauty and EMS qualifying features;
- design for conversions and farm diversification;
- affordable housing;
- visitor and recreational infrastructure;
- harbour maintenance and development and shoreline management;
- highways design, signage, lighting and car parking;
- renewable energy, bio fuels and biomass;
- network utilities and undergrounding;
- transport and access;
- service provision;
- green infrastructure;
- climate change leading to “coastal squeeze” and increased storminess

**4.6.19** All land use planning issues that are cross-cutting with other topics are dealt with as key issues in this section.

**4.6.20** Cross-cutting key issues dealt with elsewhere in the Plan include:

- transport provision and integration;
- community capacity to access grants;
- biodiversity issues;
- light and noise pollution;
- flytipping;
- planning of Conservation Areas.

### Recognition for the AONB and EMS and protection from major development

**4.6.21** There has been considerable progress since the 2004-09 AONB Plan and the 2000 EMS Management Scheme in raising awareness amongst developers, utility operators and other organisations of the status and implications of the AONB and EMS in planning terms. It is necessary to sustain this awareness into the new unitary Northumberland Council and to ensure that best practice identified in the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment and Highways Design Guidance is acted upon.

**4.6.22** This Plan will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment and AONB Highways Design Guidance have been developed as actions from the previous Plan. They are included with this Plan as appendices (see <http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org>).

#### Policy LP1

Major development in the Plan area should only be allowed where it can be demonstrated to have satisfied the requirements of the Habitats Regulations or to be for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and could not be located elsewhere, in line with national planning guidance on AONBs and EMSs. Impact on the AONB and EMS of major development proposals close to their boundaries should also be considered when assessing the design, scale and location of major development.

#### Policy LP2

All proposed developments in the AONB and EMS should be assessed in terms of “alone or in combination” impacts on the special features and landscape of the AONB, qualifying features of the EMS, and the setting of the AONB and EMS or the character of short and long views into and out of the AONB and EMS.

## Gateways to the AONB and EMS

**4.6.23** As a narrow coastal strip within a wider area of low-lying coastal plain, the character and setting of the AONB and EMS can be greatly compromised by development outside the Plan area that is not sympathetic to the qualifying features of the AONB and EMS. In particular, development along the boundary, in key gateway areas and in the wider coastal plain can impact on the experience of entering the AONB or affect long and short range views into and out of the AONB and EMS. To reinforce awareness of the AONB boundary gateway features have been installed at three key entry points into the AONB: Spittal, Harpers Heugh and Amble.

**4.6.24** Other key gateways to the AONB include:

- West Mains and Beal;
- Cragmill Hill (coast route entry from the A1 near Belford);
- Swinhoe;
- Christon Bank;
- Craster approach from Alnwick;
- Longhoughton approach from Alnwick;
- Lesbury and Alnmouth railway station; and
- the Coquet Estuary area.

**4.6.25** Key Intertidal Areas and Harbours are the principal gateways to the EMS:

- St Abb's
- Eyemouth Harbour
- Tweed Estuary (mouth)
- Lindisfarne (Causeway & Harbour)
- Seahouses & the Farne Islands
- Beadnell
- Low Newton
- Boulmer
- Alnmouth



Gateway features can increase the awareness of the designation



St Abb's harbour, a gateway to the EMS

**4.6.26** Local authority landscape character assessments, for Alnwick (in conjunction with Castle Morpeth) and Berwick, as well as regional character assessments<sup>3</sup>, are useful tools to identify and conserve the character of the broader area of coastal plain within which the AONB sits and to determine landscape capacity to absorb development. Supplementary Planning Documents on Landscape Character and Renewables are being prepared by Alnwick District Council in 2008.

## Integrated management of the North Northumberland Heritage Coast

**4.6.27** A Landscape Character Assessment commissioned by the AONB has confirmed that a narrow strip of land to the north and south of the AONB (that is also within the North Northumberland Heritage Coast definition - see Map 1, Appendix 2) is of a high landscape quality and likely to meet the criteria as an AONB. It is therefore the aspiration of this Plan that the whole stretch of the North Northumberland Heritage Coast, which extends to the north and south of the AONB, should be managed in accordance with Plan policy for the AONB until such time as it is possible to undertake a boundary review for the AONB. The Heritage Coast to the north of the AONB, as far as the Scottish border, lies within the EMS. All three designations have similar objectives.

### Policy LP3

Continue dialogue with Natural England to establish a mechanism for reviewing the AONB boundary.

### Policy LP4

Responses to planning applications will be made by the AONB Partnership on land that is considered suitable for inclusion in the AONB (including the North Northumberland Heritage Coast) in order to seek to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.

<sup>3</sup> Benson, J. F., Scott, K.E. & Anderson, C (2002) Landscape Appraisal for Onshore Wind Development Landscape Research Group, Newcastle University, Government Office North East Report NREG/2002/004

### Design, scale and location of new development and conservation of AONB natural beauty and EMS qualifying features

**4.6.28** It is worth noting that there are many aspects of land-based development that may affect coastal and marine features. Development related issues such as sewage treatment, storm water overflow, construction noise and visual disturbance to name but a few must all be taken into account when considering land-based development from a marine perspective.

**4.6.29** Good design and buildings conservation are considered as high priorities to maintain the character of the AONB. In order to conserve the diversity and distinctiveness of the built environment it is important to resist inappropriate development. However, it is equally important to ensure that any development, including new, alterations, conversions and maintenance, is of a suitable scale, well designed and relates well to its landscape setting. Useful guidance for new developments is provided by the national "Building for Life"<sup>4</sup> standard and the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment, which has been distributed to planning departments.

**4.6.30** Recent decades have seen the individuality of coastal settlements and traditional building styles compromised. Some settlements have expanded rapidly and building styles and materials have been introduced that have limited connection with local traditions. Also, many small-scale developments take place under permitted development rights without the need for planning permission and are therefore difficult to influence. However their individual and cumulative impact can lead, and in some settlements has already led, to a loss of character. Capacity studies could be helpful for managing any further residential development in some settlements and residential development should also be resisted outside existing settlements.

**4.6.31** Existing local authority plan policies help to protect the historic environment including listed buildings, archaeology, historic parks, gardens and conservation areas. There is, however, the opportunity to increase awareness through emerging Local Development Framework documents of the local distinctiveness of the AONB. High standards can only really be achieved by co-operation between developers, architects, builders and local authorities supported by adequate AONB information and guidance primarily through the Design Guide for the Built Environment.

**4.6.32** Ensuring good design and conservation of existing character also requires commitment and awareness on the part of the community. Development of Village Design Statements and Parish Plans can help in this process of involvement and are useful tools for reflecting and helping conserve local distinctiveness. Some settlements have already developed or are in the process of developing Village Design Statements and this should be encouraged throughout the AONB. The challenge is to promote good contemporary design that embraces the local vernacular.

**4.6.33** The coastal area adjacent to the EMS in Scotland is identified by Scottish Borders Council as an "Area of Great Landscape Value" (see Map2). It does not have the same standing as an AONB, but is still a planning designation that recognises the significance of the landscape. It is considered by authorities when making decisions.

#### Landscaping and Lighting

**4.6.34** Even with good design and location, detrimental impacts on important character-defining views of the AONB and EMS are still possible from large or small developments, car parks and some types of holiday accommodation. Inappropriate lighting can cause significant light pollution way beyond the property, reducing rural amenity through "creeping urbanisation". Advice on appropriate species and design for developing appropriate landscaping and lighting schemes is available via the Design Guide for the Built Environment.

#### Policy LP5

Improve quality of design and landscaping in new buildings, alterations and maintenance work and in materials and skills employed through advocacy of the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment. Resist proposals that would have an unacceptable impact upon landscape quality, settlement character, features of historic importance or their setting.

<sup>4</sup>CABE, Building for Life. <http://www.buildingforlife.org/>

### Conversions and farm diversification

**4.6.35** Conversions of rural buildings can be beneficial to the rural economy and, in particular, can help support viable farming which may continue to conserve the AONB landscape. However, inappropriate conversions that significantly alter the original character of buildings or their setting can lead to a gradual erosion of local distinctiveness and an irreversible decline in the quality of the landscape. Current Local Development Frameworks are supportive of conversions that retain existing local character and this provision, together with existing supplementary planning guidance, should be applied comprehensively throughout the AONB.

**4.6.36** In any farm diversification initiative, the re-use of redundant buildings is to be encouraged over new buildings. The preference for employment use as a first choice for conversions, discussed in PPS7 and reiterated in Local Development Frameworks, is appropriate for the AONB although issues of access to services and choice of transport should be considered (see 4.6.52).

### Nature conservation interest

**4.6.37** All bats and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c Regulations) (1994). Many older buildings in the AONB provide ideal sites for bat roosts and hole nesting birds and conversions of such buildings can have a particular impact on these species. Natural England provides guidance on bats and development and Concern for Swifts provides guidance on hole-nesting birds. It is important that both sets of guidance are applied rigorously throughout the AONB as the NERC Act extends the CRoW biodiversity duty to public bodies and statutory undertakers to ensure due regard to the conservation of biodiversity.

Cross reference: Policies: LP18, LP19

#### Policy LP6

Ensure that building conversions for all new uses respect the character and integrity of the existing structures and their setting and do not detract from the rural character and local distinctiveness of the area.

#### Policy LP7

Assess all conversion applications for potential impacts on bat roosts and hole nesting birds, and ensure appropriate spaces and access are retained in accordance with the NERC Act.

### Affordable housing

**4.6.38** For communities to be sustainable there is a need for affordable housing so that people are able to live and work within the Plan area. This helps maintain a balanced community, support local services, provide a local work force and reduce travel. Local Development Framework policies need to secure a mix of housing in all settlements, backed up by local authority initiatives to identify demand for, and appropriate means of, securing adequate affordable housing.

#### Policy LP8

Support efforts to secure provision of adequate affordable housing in the AONB where there is a demonstrable need and where the provision of services to such housing will not adversely impact upon the AONB and EMS.

### Visitor and recreational infrastructure

**4.6.39** Development associated with visitors, including accommodation and all forms of recreation, is one of the most significant pressures on the coastal area, especially the AONB as it is within the Plan area. There is a need to retain a balance between the improvements to the economic viability of communities that can flow from increased visitors and the potential deterioration that can flow from disruption, loss of local character, changes in local services and competition for housing stock. Overdevelopment risks damaging the very resource that attracts visitors in the first place. To better manage such issues the SSMEI has produced a visitor management strategy for Berwickshire.

### *Purpose-built visitor accommodation*

**4.6.40** A proliferation of purpose-built visitor accommodation (caravan, chalet and camping sites and holiday cottages) throughout the AONB could result in significant erosion of the quality and character of the area through individual and cumulative impacts on the landscape, views and character of the traditional built environment. Equally the need for mainstream services may have potential impacts upon water quality within the EMS with respect to nutrient enrichment, already an issue in some key areas of the site. To seek to avoid this, any new visitor accommodation should be located adjacent to existing settlements. Many dune chalets are reaching the end of their functional lives and replacements, repairs or improvements may well be required. A generally agreed protocol stipulates that any replacement should not exceed the footprint or maximum height of the existing structure. A single structure in dark, matt grey-green with a uniform pitched roof that avoids “urbanising” elements (such as a mown wide “lawn”, paving, and exotic plants such as daffodils) is encouraged.

**4.6.41** The AONB has a good supply of many types of accommodation. However, there is a lack of more basic and short stay accommodation which can support people undertaking various activities in keeping with the AONB and EMS designations (such as walking, cycling and horse riding), or can provide a one night stay for people moving around Northumberland. Unfortunately, a recent trend has seen short term accommodation facilities converted into more permanent residences. Opportunities to address this gap in the market and develop this type of accommodation should, therefore, be considered. The local community have bought the St Abb's Hostel, to provide accommodation for recreational users, generate tourism income (especially diving,) and promote awareness of the EMS.

### *Visitor and recreation facilities*

**4.6.42** The AONB and EMS attract a wide variety of visitor activities (see 4.4.6 onwards for further details). Visitor activities bring a demand for services and facilities to support them. The development of facilities to support activities should be promoted where it can be achieved without impacting on the purpose of AONB and EMS designations. Emphasis should also be on facilities for better management of existing activities rather than increasing the type and number of visitors without addressing existing management problems. To minimise adverse impacts on the AONB and EMS, whilst improving the management and provision of facilities for visitors, there should be a preference for locating facilities in identified settlements (see box below).

**4.6.43** Outside identified service centres, facilities should only be considered where they are small in scale and associated with existing developments and

farm diversification activities and where they do not negatively impact on the landscape quality and setting of the area. Particular care should be given to avoid facilities that could increase erosion or pressure on sensitive habitats, species or elements of the historic environment or lead to increased disturbance to other visitors.

**4.6.44** Taking the criteria discussed above into account, the type of facilities that are lacking in the Plan area include year-round improved launch, changing and showering facilities at Seahouses, Beadnell and St Abb's, wet weather attractions, year-round information facilities and a focal point for interpretation of the AONB and EMS. The SSMEI is facilitating improved development of visitor facilities, including through harbour development plans. St Abb's Village Hall has been donated to the St Abb's Voluntary Marine Reserve.

**4.6.45** It is considered inappropriate to develop more golf courses in the AONB. However improvements to existing facilities that can help maximise the potential benefits to the local economy and habitats should be considered where they accord with policies elsewhere in this Plan.

#### **Key settlements in the Plan area**

Warkworth  
Alnmouth  
Longhoughton  
Craster  
Newton-by-the-Sea  
Embleton  
Beadnell  
Seahouses  
Bamburgh  
Holy Island  
Eyemouth  
Coldingham  
St Abb's

#### **Key settlements on the periphery of the Plan area**

Amble  
Alnwick  
Belford  
Berwick, Spittal and Tweedmouth

(Also see Map 1, Appendix 1)

#### Policy LP9

Support the development of visitor facilities where they are in keeping with the quiet enjoyment of the countryside and marine environment, can be developed without a detrimental impact on the character and distinctiveness of the AONB landscape and EMS seascape, are associated with identified settlements and are of a scale appropriate to their location within the AONB. Visitor facilities outside service centres should only be considered where they are associated with existing structures and rural diversification activity, are small scale in relation to existing development, and support positive management of the AONB and EMS.

#### Policy LP10

Support the development of short-stay visitor accommodation with a preference for where existing buildings are reused and where the proposals accord with policies elsewhere in this Plan.

### Harbour maintenance and development and shoreline management

**4.6.46** Harbours are an essential part of the cultural heritage of the Plan area and traditionally the hub of the coastal settlements. Revenue from recreational uses is becoming increasingly important alongside a declining fishing industry. In order to maintain the harbours as economically viable working harbours at the heart of the community, more development and diversification is needed. The historic features and character of the harbour also needs to be conserved and enhanced and conflicts between different users prevented.

**4.6.47** The Shoreline Management Plan is vital in this regard for the entire English coastline of the Plan area.

#### Harbours in the Plan area

- Amble marina (southern gateway)
  - Warkworth
  - Craster
  - Beadnell
- North Sunderland and Seahouses
  - Holy Island
  - Berwick
  - Burnmouth
  - Eyemouth
  - St Abb's

There are also sheltered moorings at:

- Alnmouth
- Boulmer
- Low Newton
- Burnmouth
- Eyemouth

#### Policy LP11

Development and diversification of harbours in the Plan area should be supported where it benefits the local community, accords with quiet enjoyment of the AONB and EMS, does not produce adverse effects on the special and qualifying features and enhances the historic character of the harbour area.

### Highways design, signage, lighting and car parking

**4.6.48** The significant part that roads play in the landscape is acknowledged in the Service Aims of the NCC Highways Service Plan 2007/08. It states that the highway network "helps to shape the character and quality of the local areas that it serves".

**4.6.49** NCC and the AONB Partnership have produced guidance on the management and maintenance of rural roads in the AONB. The guidance brings together all the physical features that affect the appearance of the roads within the AONB. It provides guidelines and policies on appropriate measures to reduce the influence of those features that detract from the landscape and recommends measures to conserve and enhance those that add to the character and distinctiveness of the AONB. The guidance covers roadside verges and boundaries, maintenance and design of the carriageway, signage and highway furniture, safety and traffic calming schemes and lighting.

**4.6.50** Car parking pressure has been and continues to be a significant management challenge in the AONB and one of the main activities that can detract from the quality and character of the AONB landscape. The size, siting, design and condition of some existing parking facilities detract from the natural beauty of the area. There is a need to re-site, improve or landscape existing facilities that have a detrimental impact on the landscape of the AONB<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup>Ove Arup Partners International Ltd (2002) Alnwick District Parking Survey and Report Alnwick District Council

New car parks should meet the highest standards in design and landscaping and should not be located so as to increase pressure on sensitive features of the AONB. The use of back-up green parking space for extra summer capacity should be promoted over the development of extensive hard surface car parks. Future proposals for coastal car parks or redevelopment of existing ones should take into account sea level rise and more specifically, the policies contained within the Shoreline Management Plan.

**4.6.51** Visitor parking can cause problems in the summer months with cars parked along roadside verges and other undesignated parking areas. This creates traffic flow problems, can erode natural habitats and is a visual intrusion that can have a lasting negative impact on visitors' perception of the area. Parking legislation should be enforced in settlements to help deal with this problem. Appropriate highways management and careful use of signage is also important in order to direct visitors to suitable parking facilities both within and outside settlements.

**4.6.52** The guidance on the management and maintenance of rural roads in the AONB also addresses the potential for increased light pollution from highways lighting. The current Northumberland Local Transport Plan (2001-2006) contains a strategy for street lighting. There has been a gradual increase in outside lighting in the AONB and CPRE record a general increase in light pollution<sup>6</sup>.

### Policy LP12

Improve the visual impact of highways maintenance and management through utilisation of Highways Design Guidance adopted as Northumberland County Council policy and, where appropriate, implement the Northumberland BAP Transport Corridors Habitat Action Plan.

### Renewable energy

**4.6.53** Government targets to produce 20% of all UK electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020 and the accompanying White Paper "Our Energy Future"<sup>7</sup> is driving an increase in development of renewable energy sources throughout the UK. The North East has responded by developing regional and county renewable energy strategies<sup>8,9</sup>.

**4.6.54** Whilst renewable energy is in keeping with the principle of sustainable development, there are certain forms of renewable energy that can significantly change the character of the AONB landscape, such as the large scale planting of biomass crops, or development of windfarms. Proposals for renewable development close to the boundary of the AONB and EMS on the low lying coastal plain may also impact on their landscape and seascape setting. Alnwick District Council is currently preparing Renewable Energy and Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Documents to which the management plan will have regard.

**4.6.55** There is no provision within the Habitats Regulations to create a blanket opposition to any proposal, including large-scale renewable energy developments, in the EMS. Such developments can be considered after completion of an Appropriate Assessment to prevent destruction or damage to the qualifying features of the EMS.

### Onshore wind

**4.6.56** The Regional Renewable Energy Strategy and the Regional Plan promote wind farms while recognising the need to protect the AONB from insensitive development. Small-scale domestic turbines are a separate consideration, offering opportunities for local energy efficiency. The policy approach should be positive as long as any proposed turbine is associated with existing development that can absorb its impact, and negative wildlife and community impacts are avoided. As the cumulative impacts of a number of individual turbines in the landscape could be considerable, every application should be the subject of a landscape character assessment, considering both individual and potential cumulative impacts.

### Offshore wind

**4.6.57** Offshore wind is being developed nationally with the Government and Crown Estate operating an offshore licence system. In Northumberland there are two wind turbines 1km offshore at Blyth to the south of the AONB. The deep waters of the EMS currently limit the opportunity for economically viable offshore windfarm development. Should future technology permit deeper water development wind farms should not normally be permitted within the coastal waters off the AONB due to the negative impact this would have on the seascape and the national and international nature conservation importance of the coastal waters. The impacts upon the EMS features must be assessed through the Habitats Regulations. Therefore, there is the potential for divergence in the policy context for the AONB and EMS. The competent authority will take both into account in making their decision.

<sup>6</sup>CPRE (2003) Night Blight! Regional Maps accessed via [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

<sup>7</sup>DTI (2003) Our Energy Future: Creating a Low Carbon Economy Government White Paper, CM5761 HMSO

<sup>8</sup>TNEI (2003) North East of England Renewable Energy Strategy Government Office North East Report NREG/2002/005

<sup>9</sup>Entec UK Ltd (2003) Northumberland Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy Northumberland Countywide Renewables Group on behalf of Northumberland Strategic Partnership

### *Tidal and wave*

**4.6.58** Attention will increasingly be focused on other renewable energy technologies especially wave and tidal generation. It is essential such developments in the EMS are subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations to assess any adverse effects on the qualifying features.

### *Biofuels*

**4.6.59** A move to reduce dependency on conventional oil-based fuels has led to development of alternative technologies using fuel from crops. There is also an emerging interest in biomass crops, such as coppicing willow, to heat boilers. The resulting changes to the traditional mixed farming regime have potential visual and environmental impact.

#### Policy LP13

Commercial wind farms should only be permitted within the AONB in exceptional circumstances and should be avoided in areas adjacent to the AONB where the development would compromise the landscape character of the AONB.

#### Policy LP14

Commercial wind farms should only be permitted within the EMS where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will not have a significant adverse effect on the qualifying features.

#### Policy LP15

Proposals for other renewable energy developments, including individual wave and tidal energy and individual wind turbines, should be considered favourably providing they do not detract from landscape and seascape quality and character, biodiversity or the historic environment or adversely affect the local community. Individual wind turbines should be associated with existing settlements or buildings and subject to a landscape character impact assessment.

#### Policy LP16

Landowners should be encouraged to mitigate the impact of biofuel and biomass crops in a diversified farming landscape by taking associated measures to minimise adverse effects on landscape and seascape quality and character, biodiversity, the historic environment or local communities.

### **Utilities and undergrounding**

**4.6.60** Improvements in information and communications technology (ICT) have increased pressure for infrastructure such as mobile phone masts, particularly around settlements and along key road and rail routes. The coastal location is also important for coastguard and RAF operations. The vision of the Northumberland ICT strategy is to provide countywide access to broadband facilities using a variety of means .

**4.6.61** Whilst it is recognised that improvements in ICT connections can improve the Plan area's competitiveness (see 4.5.21) it is also clear that telecommunications infrastructure both within and adjacent to the Plan area can have significant individual and cumulative negative impacts on the open, natural landscape and seascape.

**4.6.62** Where an ICT connection development within the Plan area is deemed essential, all opportunities for mast-sharing or site-sharing should be explored before any new mast is erected. When required, a new mast should employ the best in latest technology to provide a structure with minimal visual and environmental impact, be associated with existing development and be assessed for individual and cumulative landscape impacts.

**4.6.63** The National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have signed an accord with the mobile phone network operators (3, O2, Orange, T-Mobiles and Vodafone) with the purpose of protecting the special qualities of our finest landscapes while making the best possible provision for telecommunication services.

**4.6.64** Under sea cables are an issue for the EMS. There is some evidence that the magnetic radiation from cables is bad for crabs and may be true for other animals especially those using magnetism to navigate. It has been proven that magnetism is used by salmon to get back to natal spawning sites. Birds also use magnetism. They need to be appropriately assessed in terms of potential damage to qualifying features and will be integrated with in the marine planning policy. Under the Marine Bill the MMO will be responsible with applications and rationalisation.

<sup>10</sup>LDR<sup>2</sup> (2003) Connecting IT Project: Strategic Review and programme for ICT Connectivity in Northumberland Northumberland Strategic Partnership

### Policy LP17

Permission for new telecommunications masts should only be granted where the applicant can demonstrate that there is not a more suitable site and there is a genuine technical reason why existing masts cannot be shared with other operators.

### Policy LP18

The AONB and EMS should promote undergrounding of overhead network utilities with operators where this would reduce adverse effects on the landscape and seascape.

## Transport and access

**4.6.65** To support the principle of sustainable development and the aims and policies in this Plan it is important that any new development or change of use of an existing property is assessed for access to a choice of transport options and does not exacerbate areas of local congestion. Local planning authorities will be encouraged to include such a requirement in local development frameworks.

### Policy LP19

Assess all new developments for access to a sustainable choice of transport, proximity to users and services and any impacts on localised congestion.

## Service provision

**4.6.66** The current situation with regards to service provision is discussed in the “living and working” section of this Plan (section 4.5). Land use planning can support the provision and retention of local services through a number of means. In new residential developments consideration should be given to providing recreational space and facilities for young people. Applications for conversion or changes of use should be assessed to ensure that visitor services are not displacing community services in that locality.

### Policy LP20

Support the provision and retention of local services by:

- encouraging residential developers to provide recreational space and facilities for young people;
- scrutinising changes of use to ensure visitor facilities are not displacing community facilities;
- where other management policies are satisfied, giving positive policy support for conversions to provide community services; and
- resisting change of use where it would lead to the loss of a type of service from a settlement.

## Green infrastructure

**4.6.67** The concept of green infrastructure has been defined to be all the landscape elements, open space, and developments and structures that support biodiversity, tourism, recreation, and human health and well-being.

### Policy LP21

Maximise the contribution made by the AONB and EMS to the sustainable management of green infrastructure.

### Climate change leading to “coastal squeeze” and increased storminess

**4.6.68** Whilst the preference in the Plan area is that of a free functioning coastline (see 4.1.28 – 4.1.31) it is recognised that defences are vital in certain areas for the protection of some settlements and assets such as harbours. Coastal protection of the Plan area coastline is guided by the Scottish Borders to the River Tyne Shoreline Management Plan 2<sup>11</sup>. Where defences are upgraded or new defences developed, they should be designed to minimise their visual impact on the AONB and EMS and also minimise impacts on natural coastal processes and habitats. It is Environment Agency policy that where new defences are proposed that will induce “coastal squeeze” upon intertidal EMS features, the operating authority will be required to put in place adequate compensation for those losses. It will also be necessary to provide compensation for losses due to sea level rise from existing defences.

**4.6.69** Climate change is recognised as a major factor in managing the coast within the Plan area. The AONB and EMS will continue to be active participants in the regional Coastal Authorities Group, convened by the Environment Agency, to ensure that all planning and management for coastal defences give due regard to the purposes of the AONB and EMS.

#### Policy LP22

Minimise visual and environmental impacts of new and maintenance coastal defence work.

#### Policy LP23

Promote managed re-alignment of the coastline and defence works where there would be a positive effect on restoration of functioning coastal and marine ecosystem processes.

### Cross cutting key issues

#### Light and noise pollution

**4.6.70** There has been a gradual increase in outside lighting associated with buildings and highways in the AONB and CPRE record a general increase in light pollution. This is addressed through development of the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment and Highways Design Guidance.

Cross reference: Land use planning policies: LP6, LP13

Environmental Quality policy: EQ12

#### Fly tipping

**4.6.71** Fly tipping, including building waste, is a particular problem on beaches.

Cross reference: Environmental Quality policies: EQ8

#### Planning of Conservation Areas

**4.6.72** Conservation Area appraisals, awareness-raising and management schemes are needed for the designations to work effectively. Where such schemes are not providing the protection needed, consideration should be given to the application of an Article 4 Directive to remove permitted development rights.

Cross reference: Historic Environment policies: H4, H5

<sup>11</sup>Scottish Borders to River Tyne Shoreline Management Plan 2 - Northumbrian Coastal Authorities Group (2008)



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## Glossary

This glossary is split into two parts; the first part covers abbreviations (which are also used in the Action Plan) and the second explains technical terms.

### Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment	ELS	Entry Level Stewardship
ACCTA	Alnwick Coast and Countryside Tourism Association	EMS	European Marine Site
ADC	Alnwick District Council	EMS-MG	European Marine Site Management Group
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	ENCAMS	Environmental Campaigns (Tidy Britain Group)
AP	Action Plans	EYE	Explore Your Environment
ATMaPs	Northumberland Area Tourism Management Plans	ERDP	England Rural Development Programme
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan	ERIC	Environmental Records Information Centre
BBC	Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council	FC	Forestry Commission
BDTA	Berwickshire Dive Tourism Association	FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
BGS	British Geological Survey	GIS	Geographic Information System
BHS	British Horse Society	GONE	Government Office North East
BL	Business Link	HAP	Habitat Action Plan
BSAC	British Sub Aqua Club	HC	Heritage Coast
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology	HER	Historic Environment Record
BWD	Bathing Water Directive	HLS	Higher Level Stewardship
CAN	Community Action Northumberland	HWGs	Healthy Walking Groups, Alnwick and Berwick
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy	IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Agency
CARA	Castlegate Area Residents Association	JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
CSF	Catchment Sensitive Farming	LAs	Local Authorities (i.e. Alnwick District Council, Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough Council and Northumberland County Council)
CST	Coquet Shore Based Trust	LAF	Northumberland National Park and Countryside Local Access Forum
CDTs	Community Development Trusts	LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan steering group
CLA	Country Land and Business Association	LSC	Learning and Skills Council
CMBC	Castle Morpeth Borough Council	LSPs	Local Strategic Partnerships (Alnwick District and Berwick-upon-Tweed Borough)
CN	Commissions North	MAFF	Marine, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England	MCGA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	MFA	Marine Fisheries Agency
cSAC	candidate Special Protection Area	MTIs	Market Town Initiatives
CSS	Countryside Stewardship Scheme	NBG	Northumberland Bat Group
DCMS	Department for Culture Media and Sport	NCAG	Northumberland Coastal Authorities Group
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	NCAL	Northumberland Coast and Lowlands New Leader Local Action Group
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions	NCC	Northumberland County Council
EA	Environment Agency	NE	Natural England
EH	English Heritage	NECO	North East Coastal Observatory
		NECT	North East Civic Trust
		NERA	North East Regional Assembly
		NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
		NESEG	North East Standing Environment Group

NEBAP	North east Biodiversity Action Plan	RYA	Royal Yachting Association
NFU	National Farmers Union	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
NNR	National Nature Reserve	RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
NNS	Northumberland and Newcastle Society	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
NSFG	Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee	SAP	Species Action Plan
NSP	Northumberland Strategic Partnership	SC	Secret Kingdom
NSSDT	North Sunderland and Seahouses Community Development Trust	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
NT	National Trust	SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
NTS	National Trust for Scotland	SFPA	Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency
NVZ	Nitrate Vulnerable Zone	SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Interest
NWL	Northumbrian Water Ltd	SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
NWT	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	SMR	Sites and Monuments Records
ONE	One North East	SMRU	Sea Mammal Research Unit
PSA	Public Service Agreements	SPA	Special Protection Area
PCs	Parish Councils	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Importance
QCA	Quality Coast Awards	SSMEI	Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Institute
RDS	Rural Development Service (DEFRA)	Sustrans	Sustainable Transport
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance	TF	Tweed Forum
PPS	Planning Policy Statement	TICs	Tourist Information Centres
RNLI	Royal National Lifeboat Institution	TINN	Transport in North Northumberland
RHE	Rural Housing Enabler	VMR	Voluntary Marine Reserve
RPG	Regional Planning Guidance	WFD	Water Framework Directive
RTP	North Northumberland Rural Transport Partnership	WPC	Warkworth Parish Council

## Technical terms

Affordable Housing	Housing provided for those whose incomes do not allow them to compete in the open market for house purchase, or for whom private sector economic rents are too high.
Agri-environment schemes (Entry and Higher Level Stewardship)	Environmental Stewardship is a new agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land.
Amber list	Species of birds with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe.
Amenity beach	Beaches identified for their amenity value and actively managed by local authorities, including beach cleaning regimes.
Area of Great Landscape Beauty	A planning designation for Scottish Borders Council where development is restricted due to the landscape importance.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Area designated by the Countryside Commission (now Countryside Agency) and by the Secretary of State for the Environment in order to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.
Article 4 Directive	The withdrawal of permitted development rights in conservation areas under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
Bathing beach	Beaches monitored for water quality compliance with the Bathing Waters Directive 76/160/EEC.
Blue Flag Award	The Blue Flag is an international award that acknowledges sustainable management at beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, and safety and other services

Biodiversity	The range of plant and animal species and habitats present in the area.
Biodiversity Action Plan	Action Plans concerned with protecting biodiversity from the international to national and local levels.
Birds of conservation concern	Species of birds which because of declining populations are listed in either red or amber lists. These lists are published in Population Status of Birds in UK: Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 – 2007.
Coal measures	Beds of coal laid down during the Carboniferous period.
Coastal Access	A long distance walking trail around the coast of England for the purposes of open air recreation.
Coastal squeeze	Coastal squeeze is the shrinking of coastal habitats caught between rising sea-level and fixed coastal defences.
Common Agricultural Policy	European Union-wide policy that supports agriculture through price support, market management and measures to improve the agricultural industry.
Common Fisheries Policy	The European Union has a Common Fisheries Policy in order to manage fisheries for the benefit of both fishing communities and consumers. The policy is currently being reformed.
Competent Authorities	Any minister, government department, public or statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding public office.
Conservation Area	An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.
Curtilage features of historic buildings	Buildings or structures associated with a listed building constructed before 1947.
Dene	A small valley running to the sea, sometimes wooded
Diffuse source pollution	Pollution that seeps through land to groundwater, rivers and seas, such as chemicals applied to agricultural land.
Dolerite rock	A fine to medium-grained basic igneous rock.
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit". (Article 2 of the Convention)
Ecosystems Approach	The Ecosystem Approach recognizes the need for planning based on natural ecosystem boundaries rather than on political or bureaucratic borders and aims to achieve integration of the three goals of sustainability: sustainable use of natural resources, impartial sharing of the benefits derived from their use and conservation of natural resources.
Favourable condition	A positive measure of condition of the qualifying features of the EMS.
Fixed Gear Reserve	An area where no mobile fishing gear can be used.
European Marine Site	An intertidal and marine area that is designated for its European significance under the Habitats and Birds regulations.
Free functioning coastline	A coastline where coastal processes are unaffected by coastal defences, engineering works and other man-made structures
Glacial till	A mixture of rock fragments and clay laid down by glacial action.
Grazing Animal Project (GAP)	GAP was founded in 1997 to allow grazing of grasslands using rare breeds. GAP's work is currently co-ordinated by two contracts funded by English Nature.
Heritage Coast	Stretches of undeveloped coastline defined by the Countryside Commission (now Natural England) in order to conserve the natural beauty of the coastline.
Historic Parks and Gardens	Parks and gardens listed in the Register of Historic Gardens first produced by English Heritage in 1984.
Implementation	Putting policies and proposals into effect.
Integrated coastal zone management	This is a process where the coast is managed through awareness, dialogue, co-operation, co-ordination and integration between all activities in the coastal and marine environment.
Interpretation	Information provided to communicate the meaning of a site or object, such as the people and events associated with it, or the importance of an area for certain species etc.

Listed Buildings	Buildings of special architectural or historic interest listed by the Secretary of State for the Environment under the Planning Act 1990.
Local Plan	A written statement and proposals map that form the Planning Authority's detailed policies for the development and use of land in its area. This is being replaced by the Local Development Frameworks.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	LDFs will replace Local Plans and will be a portfolio of local development documents. These documents collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the local planning authority's area.
Local Transport Plan	Plan produced by the Highway Authority setting out transport policies and proposals.
Management Plan	The Management Plan sets out the policies, aims and objectives for managing the AONB. It includes details of how local authorities will act to carry out their functions in the AONB.
Marine planning	System of planning activities and development within the marine and coastal waters of Market Towns Initiative. The Countryside Agency and other organisations offer a wide range of funding for the support of market town revitalisation. The funding sources may provide financial support for creating and maintaining market town partnerships, as well as for delivering specific projects.
New Leader Programme	European Union initiative to assist rural communities in the quality of life and economic prosperity of their area.
North East Fisheries Regeneration Initiative	This was set up aiming to help fishing communities develop plans for their areas and make their case to Regional Development Agencies, and other sources of funding, and more effectively access assistance from existing programmes.
Palaeo-environments	Past environments
Parish Plans	The Government promotes Town, Village and Parish Plans as a tool for local people to indicate how they would like their own community to develop. The Countryside Agency supports the development of Parish Plans through the Vital Villages programme.
Passerines	Perching birds
Phase 1 Habitat Survey	A habitat survey methodology applied to the survey of semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitats in which every parcel of land is classified and recorded.
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	The Act creates a new two-tier system of development plans (Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks). It also provides for a number of reforms to make the handling of planning applications by both central government and local authorities quicker and more efficient. There Act also ends the Crown's immunity from the planning system.
Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)	Published notes setting out Government policy on a variety of planning matters. PPG are being replaced by Planning Policy Statements (PPS).
Planning Policy Statement (PPS)	PPS set out the Government's national policies on different aspects of land use planning in England.
Point source pollution	Pollution discharged directly from a specific site such as a municipal sewage treatment plant or an industrial outfall pipe.
Public Service Agreements (PSA)	PSAs contain targets created by the Government under the 2004 Spending Review to measure delivery of key priority areas.
Qualifying features	These are the six features for which the EMS has been designated of European importance (rocky reefs, sea caves, grey seals, Lindisfarne SPA, muddy and sandy shores, large shallow inlets and bays).
'Quiet enjoyment' of the countryside	This statement was defined during a House of Lords debate in 1995 as "enjoyment in ways which are not likely to disturb the tranquility, or otherwise detract from the special qualities, of the areas in question".
Ramsar Site	A wetland designated as internationally important under the Ramsar convention.
Red Data Book	This book lists the species of conservation concern in Northumberland and feeds information into the Biodiversity Action Plan and suggests priorities for research.
Red List	Contains species of birds that are globally threatened
Regional Assembly	The North East Regional Assembly's role is as a voice for the region and to represent its communities and interests. It consists of 72 members from a variety of organisations and

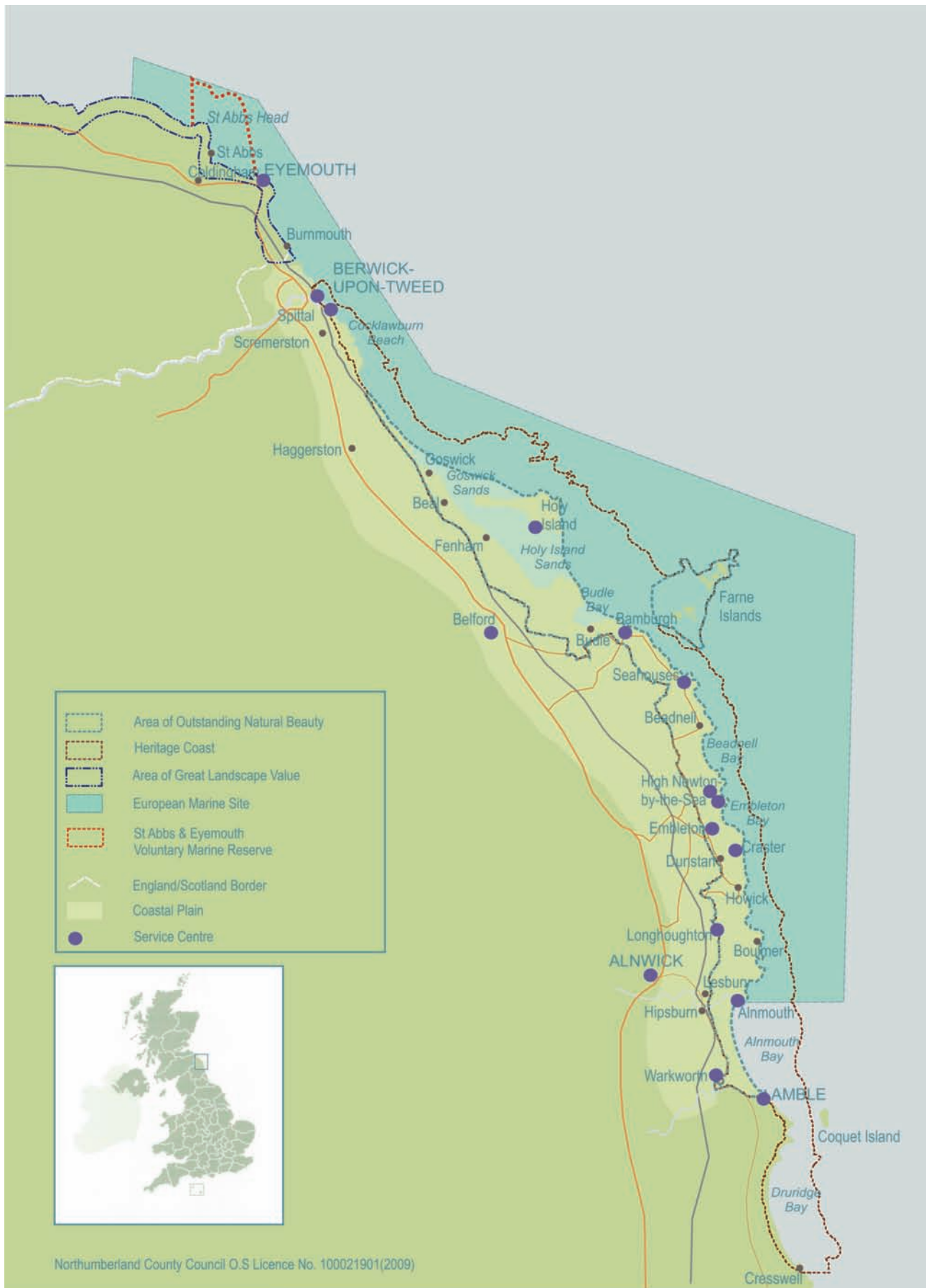
	interests throughout the region.
Regional Planning Guidance (RPG)	RPG sets the framework for local authority development plans and local transport plans and other strategies within the region. It sets out policies for the future pattern of economic development in the region, the scale and location of new housing, improvements to transport and environmental protection. RPG is being replaced by Regional Spatial Strategies.
Relevant Authorities Seaside Awards	The Seaside Award, run by ENCAMS, recognises well-managed beaches which are clean and relatively safe. There are two award categories: resort and rural.
Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)	The RDPE contributes to the delivery of the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food by helping farmers and foresters to respond better to consumer requirements and become more competitive, diverse, flexible and environmentally responsible. It also provides help to rural businesses and communities which need to adapt and develop.
Scheduled Ancient Monument	A site deemed to be of national importance and protected by law.
Shoreline Management Plan	A document which sets out strategic level guidance designed to assist sustainable coastal defence decision-making over the next 50 years.
Site condition monitoring	The condition of the six qualifying features is routinely assessed to give an indication of condition within the EMS.
Sites of Nature Conservation Importance	This is a composite term for non-statutory second tier sites (below SSSIs). These include sites such as County Wildlife Sites, County Geological Sites.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Areas designated by English Nature as being of special interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features.
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Areas designated under the EU Habitats Directive to afford protection to flora and fauna.
Special Protection Area (SPAs)	Areas classified under the EU Birds Directive.
Structure Plan	A strategic plan produced by Northumberland County Council to provide a county-wide policy framework in line with national policies and regional guidance. It provides a background to which Local Plans are to conform.
Supplementary Planning Guidance	Guidance to developers additional to that contained in the Local Plan applying to a localised area or individual site. It highlights options and acceptable and unacceptable uses, and sets out guidelines.
Sustainable Development	Development and associated use of resources which meets the needs of present generations without foreclosing environmental and resource options for future generations.
Sustrans	A sustainable transport charity, working on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport in order to reduce motor traffic and its adverse effects.
T and J nets	Northumbria T-nets and Yorkshire T or J nets are fixed nets for Salmon and sea trout used along the coast.
The North East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) to 2021)	RSSs replace Regional Planning Guidance. They set out the strategic policies and proposals, including infrastructure proposals and management policies, governing the future distribution of regionally or sub-regionally significant activities and development within the region. They should not be restricted to matters that can be implemented through the planning system.
Urban Waste Water Directive	The objective of this directive (91/271/EEC) is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban waste water and of waste water from industrial sectors of agro-food industry.
Vernacular Buildings	Buildings constructed in an architectural style and using materials which have been characteristic of the area in which they are located for many years.
Whinstone	A term to describe a dark fine grained igneous rock deriving from the Whin Sill.
Whin Sill	An igneous intrusion into the Carboniferous sediments and forms an impressive topographic feature.



# Appendices



**MAP 1 Location of the Northumberland Coast AONB & Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast European Marine Site**



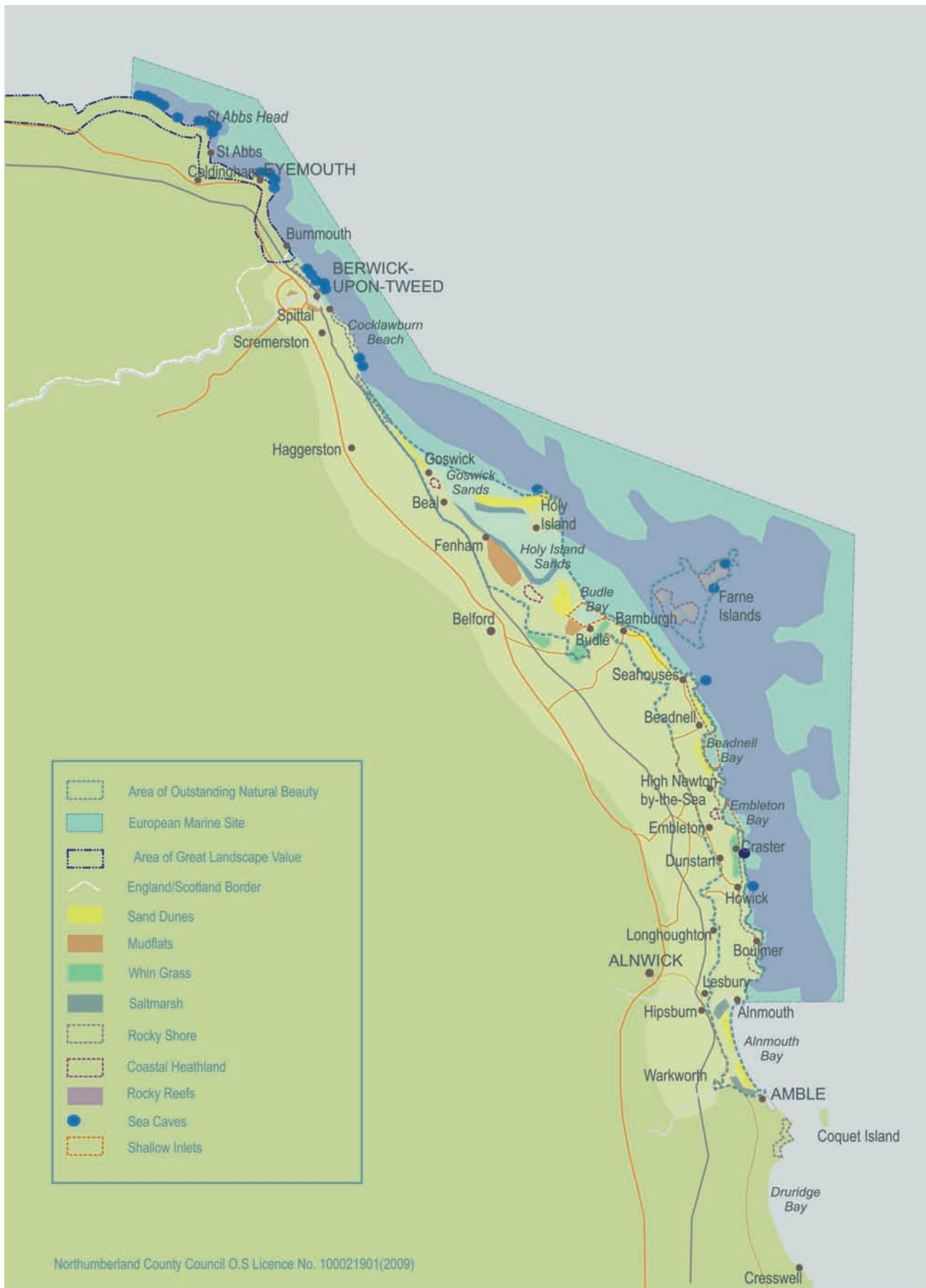
## MAP 2 Landscape Character Areas



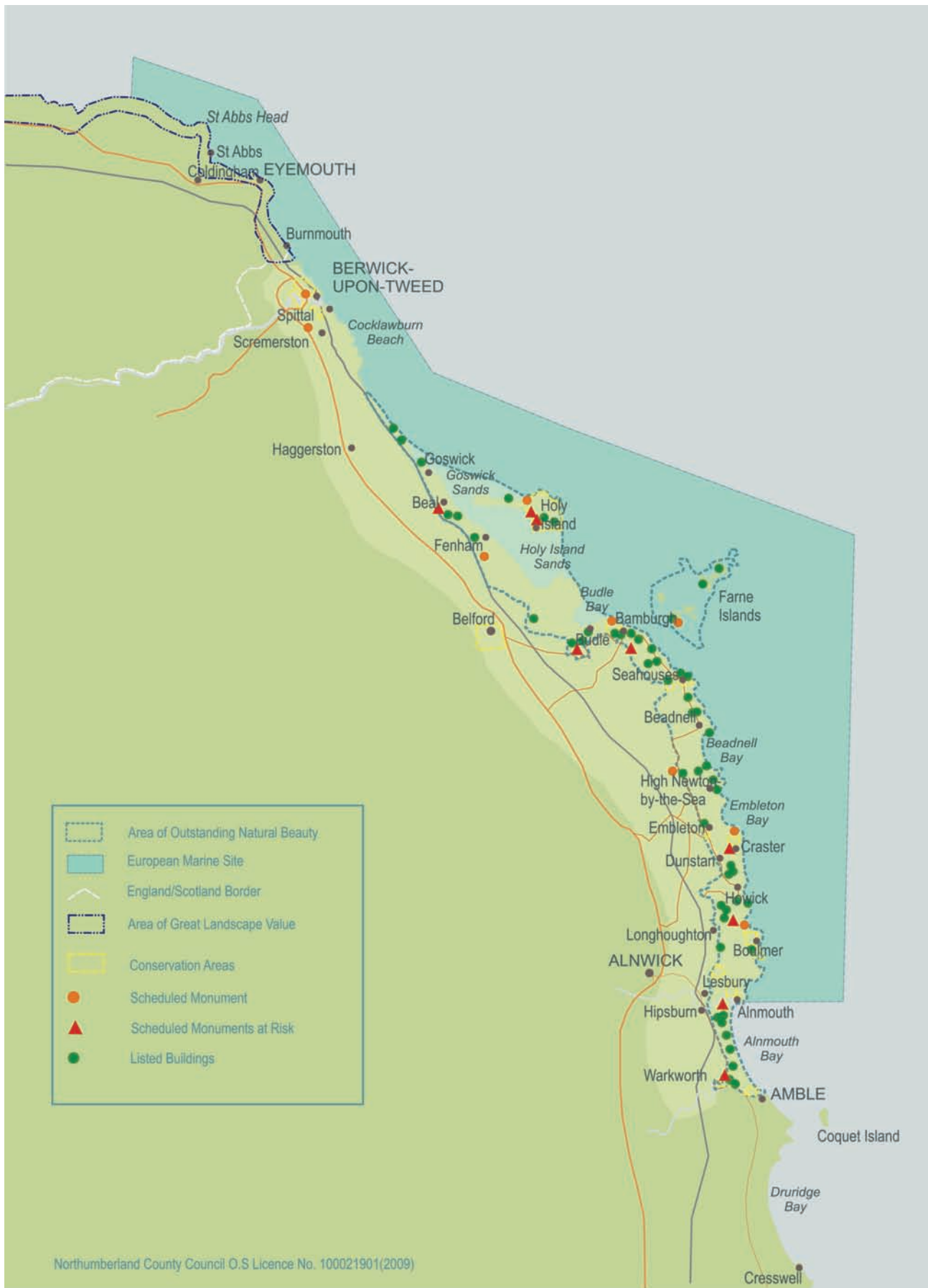
### MAP 3 Natural Environment Designations



MAP 4 Coastal Habitats



## MAP 5 Historic Environment



## MAP 6 Recreational Routes and Bathing Beaches



MAP 7 Land Under DEFRA Agri-environment Agreement





# Part 2

## Implementation

Implementation, monitoring and review





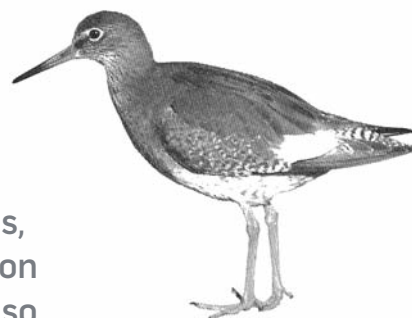
## PART 2: Implementation

### 1. Implementation, monitoring and review

#### 1.1 Implementation

##### The Action Plan

1.1.1 The Action Plan will guide implementation and will form the basis of an annual work programme. This programme will identify the necessary level of resources, the various organisations responsible for implementation and the role of the AONB and EMS staff teams. It will also set annual targets.



##### Responsibility for implementation – working in partnership

1.1.2 Although production of the Management Plan is the responsibility of the local authorities, discharged on their behalf by the AONB Partnership, and the EMS Steering Group, responsibility for implementation lies with all formal and wider partners. Landowners have a particular role to play as stewards of the landscape. The role of the AONB and EMS staff teams is to encourage and advise others and, where specified, lead on certain



actions. Topic working groups, established during consultation on the Plan, will continue to operate to provide advice and help co-ordinate implementation on specific themes. It is also important to ensure community support for, and involvement in, management of the AONB and EMS. The AONB Partnership and EMS Management Group are umbrellas under which all people and organisations involved in any aspect of their management and development can come together for a common purpose. To this end, each designation holds an annual forum with an open invitation to all those with an interest in, or responsibility for, the area. These annual fora will help to raise awareness about the AONB, EMS and the Plan; improve communication and partnership

working, and provide opportunities for all to get involved in AONB and EMS management. The fora will also be used to report on progress (see section 1.2).

##### Resources for implementation

1.1.3 Many of the Plan's policies and actions will be achieved by influencing the efforts and resources of the many groups and individuals already active in managing the area. The AONB and EMS benefit from funding from UK and Scottish Government agencies for core team support and work on the ground. Many sources of grant aid and advice are already available for countryside management, farm diversification, business development, community planning and action and so on. It is important that these national and local schemes work towards delivery of the Plan, as well as achieving their own objectives. Maintaining an AONB and EMS staff team is necessary to ensure that this co-ordination of effort takes place and that appropriate partnerships are developed. The AONB staff team is currently supported by Natural England, through a three year commitment, and local government funding according to a Memorandum of Agreement.

1.1.4 Whilst it is envisaged that funding for many projects will come from national grant aid schemes, there are likely to be instances when local funding is needed to achieve particular Plan policies and associated actions. A key task of the AONB and EMS staff teams will be to identify individual or linked programmes of projects and lever in funding from the most appropriate source, or sources. This could be from bodies such as local authorities, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, English Heritage, Historic Scotland, the Environment Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Local Heritage Initiatives, DEFRA, Northumberland Strategic Partnership, ONE North East, the Northumberland Coast and Lowlands New Leader Programme, SSMEI, the European Interreg programme, private sponsorship and other sources.

1.1.5 There is also potential to work in partnership with other protected landscapes in the region

<sup>1</sup>Countryside Agency (2001b) AONBs: A Guide for AONB Partnership Members Countryside Agency CA24

(Northumberland National Park, Durham Heritage Coast and North Pennines AONB) to develop joint schemes and achieve shared objectives.

1.1.6 The AONB staff team also have a sign-posting role to assist those wishing to access funds for AONB management to find sources of advice and appropriate funding.

## 1.2 Monitoring

1.2.1 This Plan is not an end in itself. Monitoring is required in order to identify whether or not the Plan is achieving the purposes of the respective designations. This monitoring will take two forms:

1. Monitoring performance: to establish how well the Partnership is progressing in delivering the Plan's policies and actions; and
2. Monitoring condition: to establish whether the condition of the special features of the AONB and qualifying features of the EMS are improving or deteriorating.

### Monitoring performance in Plan implementation

1.2.2 In order to quantify progress in implementation of this Plan, targets will be set in each annual work programme against delivery of individual actions. These targets will form the basis of indicators (see Table 1.2.1).

1.2.3 An AONB annual report will be published in October each year detailing and evaluating progress in implementing the Plan and the previous year's annual work programme, using the performance indicators. Progress in Plan implementation will also be reported at the annual fora for the AONB and EMS, discussed above (1.1.2).

### Monitoring condition of the AONB and EMS

1.2.4 This Plan has identified trends and issues in the AONB and EMS that are affecting the condition of the special and qualifying features, both in terms of quality and conservation of local character and distinctiveness. To determine whether management is achieving the aim of conserving and enhancing the AONB and the EMS, it is necessary to quantify in some way improvements or deterioration in the condition of the special features of the AONB and the qualifying features of the EMS.

1.2.5 There are a number of indicators that could be used to monitor the condition of the AONB and EMS for which data is available. As part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Plan an Environmental Baseline was compiled. The baseline identified topics within the Plan themes and indicators to measure them. It is proposed to measure condition indicators on a five-year cycle, linked to Plan reviews. Data from the nearest available year will be used and this will be reported in both the updated Plan and the annual report.

**Table 1.2.1. Environmental Baseline**

Topic	Measurement				Held by
	Area	% of AONB/EMS	Quantity	Condition	
<b>Natural Environment</b>					
Landscape character types	x	x		CQC	AONB/NE
Tranquillity/dark skies	x				Northumbria Uni/CPR
Salt marsh	x	x		% change in BAP habitats, % SSSI in 'favourable condition'	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Old grazing marsh	x	x			NWT/LBAP/AONB
Saline lagoon	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Rocky reefs and islands	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Maritime cliffs and slope	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Reedbed	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Whin grassland	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Heathland	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Dune grassland	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Hay meadow	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Ancient woodland	x	x		"	FC
Secondary woodland	x	x		"	NWT/LBAP/AONB
Freshwater	x	x		"	NCC
Arable land	x	x			NE

Table 1.2.1. Environmental Baseline continued

Topic	Measurement				Held by
	Area	% of AONB/EMS	Quantity	Condition	
Sea caves	x	x			NE/SNH/EMS
Mudflats	x	x			NE/SNH/EMS
Sandflats	x	x			NE/SNH/EMS
Shallow inlets and bays	x	x			NE/SNH/EMS
Species (including BAP species and WEBS Birds, Seals, Moths, Eel grass)				x	RSPB, NT, BTO BWG, EMS
Wildlife designation	x	x			AONB
Natura 2000 + SSSI	x	x		x	NE
Invasive species	x		x		AONB/ NE/NWT
RIGGS	?	?		?	NE/AONB
Local nature reserves	?		x		ADC
Local wildlife sites (SNCI)	?		?	?	NWT
<b>Historic Environment</b>					
Historic landscape characterisation	x	x			NCC
Scheduled Ancient Monuments			x	% at risk?	NCC HER
Conservation areas (built)			x	?	NCC/EH, Berwick Research Project
Listed buildings			x	% at risk?	EH/NCC
Marine wrecks and heritage at risk			x	% at risk	EH
NE Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment				?	EH
<b>Environmental Quality</b>					
Water abstraction			x	total amount?	EA
River water quality			x	% change in pollution incidents	EA
Sea water quality/bathing water quality				% of all designated bathing beaches meeting "pass" Bathing Water Directive Guideline (Water Framework Directive data not due until 2012)	EA
Pollution incidents			x		EA
Budle Bay				Sensitive Catchment Zone	EA
Beach litter			x		MCS
Waste recovery and recycling			x		LAs
AONB/EMS Carbon footprint				?	AONB
Climate change indicators			x		Met Office
Air quality					ADC/BBC/EA
<b>Enjoying the AONB</b>					
Footpaths (prow)	length				NCC
Bridleways (prow)	length				NCC
Byways (prow)	length				NCC
Permissive paths	length				NCC

Table 1.2.1. Environmental Baseline continued

Topic	Measurement				Held by
	Area	% of AONB/EMS	Quantity	Condition	
Promoted routes	length			% of national cycle network that is motorised traffic free	NCC
Accessibility				% of RoW classified as 'easy to use'	NCC
Open access land	x				NCC
Footpath diversions and closures			x		
Footpath usage (people counters)			People counters		AONB/NT/NWT
Day visits			?		AONB/NT
Overnight visits			?		AONB/NT
Visitor spend			?		AONB, STEAM
Green Tourism Business Scheme			x		AONB
Licensed dive/charter boats			x		National Trust
Traffic data and car park usage			x		NCC/LAs
Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA)1985 licences			x		
<b>Living and Working</b>					
Agricultural land use		x			DEFRA
Land in agri-environment schemes	x	x	x		NE
Land under positive conservation management	x	x			NE?
Highways – roads by types	length			traffic flow?	NCC
Use of inappropriate fishing gear			Sightings and inspection records		Sea Fisheries Committees
Fisheries quota species			Catch per unit fishing effort		Sea Fisheries Committees
Fishing vessels at key harbours			x		Sea Fisheries Committees
Fisheries exclusion zone	x				Sea Fisheries Committees
Renewable energy applications			x		
Wind turbines			No. and height		
<b>Land Use and Marine Planning</b>					
SMP2 coastal erosion				?	EA/Coastal Authorities Gp
Quarries and mineral sites	Number and area				NCC
Parish/community plans			Completed/ in progress		CAN
Population in AONB			x		NCC
Population within 15 miles of boundary			x		NCC

## 1.3 Review

**1.3.1** The Plan is a five-year plan (2009 to 2014). Review of the current plan will begin in 2013 with a view to publishing the next five-year Management Plan in April 2014. Full public consultation will be undertaken throughout the review and development of the next Plan. As with this Plan, the next Plan will also undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment before adoption.



# Action Plan 2009 – 2014



# AONB and EMS Joint Action Plan 2009 – 2014

## Key

Applicable designation policies and actions

**Black is AONB only, Green is both AONB and EMS, Blue is EMS only**

## THEME: CONSERVING AND ENHANCING

Category	Delivery Status of Actions in AONB Management Plan 2004-09
1	Achieved
1a	Achieved - ongoing
2a	Part achieved – in progress
2b	Part achieved – no planned future progress
3a	Not achieved – amend and carry forward to 2009-14 Management Plan
3b	Not achieved – recommend for deletion from 2009-14 Management Plan
4	Not achieved – expected within life of 2004-09 AONB Management Plan
5	New 2009-14 Actions

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
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**Policy CE 1: Take an ecosystem approach to managing the AONB and EMS, ensuring that the sites are enhanced and conserved holistically by taking into account the interconnectedness of all elements.**

CE1.1	Understand the connections between ecosystem elements or in the absence of information use the precautionary approach to managing resources.	All	Ongoing	Encourage and support	5
CE1.2	Promote the ecosystem approach amongst partners.	All	Ongoing	Encourage and support	5

**Policy CE 2: Ensure that climate change is taken into account in all management activities in an effort to mitigate and adapt to the changes it brings.**

CE2.1	All AONB and EMS operations is to be sustainable as possible.	AONB and EMS	Ongoing	Lead	5
CE2.2	Incorporate legislation and mitigation into management activities.	AONB and EMS	Ongoing	Lead	5
CE2.3	Promote climate change mitigation and adaptation amongst partners.	AONB and EMS	Ongoing	Lead	5
CE2.4	Encourage monitoring and data collection on climate change effects.	SNH, NE, N, T Landowners, NWT, EA	Ongoing	Encourage and support	5
CE2.5	Incorporated the AONB and EMS into any climate change strategies.	AONB and EMS	Ongoing	Lead	5
CE2.6	Educate on appropriate climate change mitigation e.g. Habitat creation and dune rollback.	SNH, NE	Ongoing	Lead	5
CE2.7	Assess and bring forward actions identified within the North East Climate Change Biodiversity Study	LA, NE, RSPB, FC, NWT	Ongoing	Support and advise	5

**Policy CE 3: Continue to use an integrated approach to managing the coastal zone by including all stakeholders and working in partnership as much as possible.**

CE3.1	Build on current partnerships to make coastal management more effective and efficient and engage with national partnerships such as Europarcs and the Coastal Partnerships Working Group.	AONB and EMS	Ongoing	Lead	5
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**THEME: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy N1: Use an ecosystem approach to conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</b>					
N1.1	Support and attend the Northumberland, and Regional Biodiversity AP and Geodiversity AP steering group/forum meetings	AONB, EMS, BAP AND GAP Steering groups	Ongoing	Support and advise	5
<b>Policy N2: Promote mixed farming and good practise in farm management within the AONB as a means of maintaining a characteristic mix of habitats, supporting the conservation of lowland farmland birds and enhancing diverse habitat for priority species.</b>					
N2.1	Promote Agri-Environment options for farmland birds, particularly in targeted areas	NE, RSPB, FWAG	Ongoing	Encourage, support	5
N2.2	Review uptake of relevant options in existing ELS & HLS agreements.	NE	Ongoing	Encourage	5
N2.3	Promote the use of appropriate options to ensure their use in future agreements.	NE, RSPB, FWAG	Ongoing	Encourage, support and advise	5
N2.4	Ensure that HLS agreements are properly designed to deliver optimum benefits.	NE, FWAG, RSPB	Ongoing	Encourage, support and advise	5
N2.5	Consider the need/feasibility for individual species action plans.	NE, RSPB	2010	Encourage, support and advise	5
N2.6	Provide advice on wildlife and farming friendly systems.	NE, FWAG, RSPB	Ongoing	Encourage, support and advise	5
N2.7	Monitor the changes in lowland farmland birds on a systematic basis on a sample number of farms.	NE, FWAG, RSPB	Ongoing	Encourage, support and advise	5
N2.8	Promote awareness of all farmland birds, their needs and legislation through suitable events and promotional material	NE, FWAG, RSPB	Ongoing	Encourage, support and advise	5
N2.9	Support the initiatives which promote Farmland bird BAP objectives.	NE, FWAG, RSPB	Ongoing	Support	5
N2.10	Disseminate AONB and BAP guidance throughout the coastal zone.	NE, FWAG, RSPB, NT, NWT	Ongoing	Lead, support	2a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy N3: Increase the area coverage and the condition of existing natural and semi-natural grasslands including whin grassland, coastal heath and lowland wet meadows as per the Northumberland HAP and SAP.</b>					
N3.1	Carry out a survey of existing data on the wet grassland resource	NE, NWT	2010	Support	5
N3.2	Ensure that the significance of lowland meadow and pasture type communities is recognised in the development control process	LA, NWT	Ongoing	Encourage	5
N3.3	Promote awareness of the appropriate management of lowland meadows and pastures.	NBAP, NE, FWAG	Ongoing	Encourage	5
N3.4	Promote the North East's regional grazing project 'flexigraz' to land managers.	NE, FWAG, NT	Ongoing	Encourage	5
N3.5	Carry out condition monitoring of whin grassland sites.	NE	Ongoing	Encourage	5
N3.6	Identify appropriate sites for restoration of whin grassland using the survey data.	NWT, NT, NE,	2010	Support	5
N3.7	Collect whin grassland seed from the most sustainable sites in order to create a source of local provenance.	NWT, NE Landowners	Ongoing	Support	5
N3.8	Target agri-environment schemes at important whin grassland sites, to help maintain good sites in favourable condition and to restore sites in unfavourable condition.	NE, FWAG	Ongoing	Support	5
N3.9	Carry out a study on the desirability and practicality of re-establishing the Durham argus butterfly at selected sites, having regard to accepted guidelines.	NWT, NE	2011	Support	5
N3.10	Identify the locations of the coastal heathland and survey the extent, soil conditions, plant communities and habitat condition to inform improved management schemes.	NWT, NE	2010	Support and advise	5
N3.11	Encourage and advise golf club owners and occupiers and other land managers on appropriate habitat management to maintain and expand the extent of whin grass land and coastal heath.	NE, NT, NWT, FWAG	2010	Support	5
N3.12	Identify possible locations for coastal heathland restoration and creation utilising the survey results from existing sites and create targets for achieving condition and increasing extent for coastal heathland.	NWT, NT, NE, Landowners	2009	Support	5
N3.13	Work with the land manager to increase the structural diversity of the heath at Ross Links and increase extent through appropriate grazing and bracken control.	NE, FWAG	Ongoing	Support	5
N3.14	Raise awareness about the importance and management of Northumberland's whin grassland and coastal heathland and its associated species through publicity material, events and training.	NWT, NE, FWAG	Ongoing	Support	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy N4: Assess, re-establish, and expand the range of existing maritime cliff and slope vegetation, and cliff top vegetation in accordance with Northumberland HAP and SAP.</b>					
N4.1	Identify the key sites of maritime cliff and slope vegetation in Northumberland.	NWT, NE	2010	Support	5
N4.2	Survey the extent, plant communities and habitat condition of the existing resource to inform improved management schemes.	NWT, NE,	2010	Support	5
N4.3	Use the survey results to create targets for achieving condition for maritime cliff and slope vegetation.	NE	2011	Encourage	5
N4.4	Create low input grass buffer zones at the top of maritime cliffs to reduce agricultural impacts and allow the community to move backwards over time.	NE	Ongoing	Support	5
N4.5	Achieve favourable condition for maritime cliff and slope SSSIs, including those with cliff-top vegetation	NE	2013	Support	5
N4.6	Improve the quality of vegetation outside designated sites by introducing cattle grazing and other appropriate management.	NE, NT, FWAG, landowners	Ongoing	Encourage	5
N4.7	Manage the recreational pressures on maritime cliffs to improve the quality of vegetation.	NE, Landowners of vegetation.	Ongoing	Advise	5
N4.8	Monitor the change impacts on maritime cliffs due to coastal erosion.	NE, NWT, Volunteers	Ongoing	Support and advise	5
N4.9	Raise awareness about the importance and management of Northumberland's maritime cliffs and slopes and their associated species through publicity material, events and training.	NE, NWT,	Ongoing	Support and advise	5
<b>Policy N5: Assess, retain, and where appropriate expand all existing native woodland, scrub and hedgerows and improve their nature conservation value in accordance with Northumberland HAP and SAP.</b>					
N5.1	Identify the current extent and condition of protected trees and hedgerows.	Volunteers, landowners	2010	Lead	5
N5.2	Use the survey results to quantify the target to maintain the current extent and create targets for achieving condition.	NE	2011	Lead	5
N5.3	Promote 'best practice' management of tree, hedgerow and scrub woodland resource for landscape and wildlife value.	FWAG, NE, NWT	Ongoing	Support	5
N5.4	Encourage hedgerow restoration and replanting as part of HLS	NE	Ongoing	Support	5
N5.5	Promote the value of hedgerows and trees as landscape features and wildlife corridors.	NWT, FWAG	Ongoing	Encourage	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy N6: Improve the landscape impact of new and existing planting, including shelter belt planting.</b>					
N6.1	Disseminate AONB guidance for new woodland and shelter belt planting to avoid negative landscape impacts.	NE, FC,	2007	Support	1
N6.2	Identify areas of coniferous planting that would benefit from edge planting with appropriate deciduous species, and develop a strategy for implementation.	NE, FC, Landowners	2007	Support	2a
<b>Policy N7: Promote sustainable fishing practises within the EMS</b>					
N7.1	Collect, collate and make available creeling effort data within EMS and review against site condition monitoring.	NSFC, SFCA	Ongoing	Lead	2a
N7.2	Liaise with NSFC/SFCA to determine loss of pots and fishing gear.	NSFC, SFCA	Ongoing	Lead	5
N7.3	Maintain watching brief upon industrial fishing guidelines during periodic reviews in the English section of the site.	NSFC, MFA	Ongoing	Lead	1a
N7.4	Maintain fixed gear reserve in Scottish section of the EMS.	Scottish Government, SNH	Ongoing	Encourage	1a
N7.5	Liaise with NSFC and SFCA to monitor trawling activity and areas to review against site condition monitoring.	NSFC, SFCA	Ongoing	Lead	1a
N7.6	Consider and inform EMS conservation objectives in future byelaw making (promote sustainable fisheries).	NSFC, SFCA	Ongoing	Support	5
N7.7	Promote and educate on insertion of sacrificial panels (provide an evidence base for byelaws) and consider future byelaws.	NSFC, SFCA	Ongoing	Support	5
N7.8	Collate data and report on salmon drift nets and T and J nets.	EA	Ongoing	Lead	5
N7.9	Continue to provide data when appropriate to inform understanding of the EMS and its ecological resources.	NSFC, SFCA	Ongoing	Lead	5
N7.10	Work with the Scottish Inshore Fisheries Group in Berwickshire.	Scottish Government, IFG IFCA	Ongoing	Lead	5
N7.11	Develop and disseminate guidance on aquaculture practise within the EMS.	NE	2010	Lead with NE	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy N8: Maintain the populations and habitats of SPA birds and grey and common seals in favourable condition.</b>					
N8.1	Continue to carry out condition monitoring on grey seal populations and Lindsfarne SPA bird populations.	NT, NE, AONB	Ongoing	Support and advise	1a
N8.2	Protect grey seal and bird habitats and where unavoidably lost seek to create suitable replacement habitats	NE, EA, SEPA, SNH, NT, NTS	Ongoing	Support and advise	5
N8.3	Protect populations of seals and birds by mitigating against detrimental pollution, food availability and disturbance.	NT, NTS, EA, SEPA, AONB	Ongoing	Support and advise	1a
N8.4	Collate all existing information on grey and common seals in the sites.	NT, NTS, SMRU, AONB, EMS, NEBAP	2008	Lead	5
N8.5	Promote the importance and economic value of seals through publicity material, events and training to help to ameliorate the negative attitudes towards them and reduce disturbance to juveniles.	NT, NTS, SMRU, AONB, EMS, NEBAP	Ongoing	Support	5
N8.6	Seek to establish a code of practice for sight seeing boats and pleasure craft with specific reference to seal breeding areas.	NT, NTS, AONB, EMS, NEBAP	2009	Lead	5
N8.7	Create an information leaflet on the procedures for dealing with a stranded, hurt or dead seal. Collate dead seal data.	NT, NTS, EA, SBC, AONB, EMS, NEBAP, NCC	2008	Lead	5
<b>Policy N9: Protect the extent of all existing natural and semi natural marine to terrestrial transitional habitats, advise on competing land uses and identify and promote opportunities to re-establish and expand free functioning coastal habitats.</b>					
	<b>Mudflats and Saltmarsh</b>				
N9.1	Survey the extent, plant communities and habitat condition of the existing saltmarsh and mudflat resource to inform improved management schemes.	NE, EA, NWT,	2011	Support, encourage	5
N9.2	Use the survey results to create targets for achieving condition for saltmarsh and mudflat habitats	EA,	2012	Support	5
N9.3	Work with land managers to ensure no further net loss of extent of saltmarsh and mudflat habitats	NE, EA,	Ongoing	Support	5
N9.4	Provide farm management advice and promote agri-environment schemes to protect and enhance saltmarsh	NE, EA, RSPB, FWAG	Ongoing	Support	5
N9.5	Work with farmers to encourage creation of saltmarsh habitat through the Northumberland 4shores project	NE, EA, FWAG	Ongoing	Support	5
N9.6	Promote and develop demonstration sites for the management and creation of saltmarsh and disseminate results	EA, NE, FWAG, EMS	2010	Support and advise	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
N9.7	Raise awareness about the importance and management of Northumberland's saltmarsh and mudflats and their associated species through publicity material, events and training ongoing	NE, EA,	Ongoing	Support and encourage	5
N9.8	Investigate the extent and impacts of non-native invasive species and disseminate results	EA	Ongoing	Lead	5
N9.9	Identify possible locations for saltmarsh restoration and creation utilising the survey results from existing sites	EA, NE,	2010	Support	5
	<b>Sand Dunes</b>				
N9.10	Survey the plant communities and habitat condition of the existing coastal sand dune resource to inform improved management schemes	NE, NWT,	2011	Encourage	5
N9.11	Utilise the survey results to create targets for achieving condition for sand dune	NE	2012	Encourage	5
N9.12	Prioritise sand dune sites according to those in most need of improved management	NE	2012	Encourage	5
N9.13	Investigate the extent and impacts of non-native invasive species and disseminate results	NE, EA	Ongoing	Lead	5
N9.14	Encourage landowners and managers to establish environmental stewardship agreements for sites in unfavourable condition	NE, NWT, NT	2010	Encourage	5
N9.15	Raise awareness about the importance and management of Northumberland's sand dunes and their associated species through publicity material, events and training ongoing	NE, NWT, NT	Ongoing	Encourage	5
N9.16	Identify appropriate sites to extend the depth of protected dune grassland to enable mobile dunes to retreat inland	NE	2014	Lead	5
N9.17	Investigate management or land purchase agreements to secure sites for realignment/dune redevelopment to plan for sea level rise.	NE, NT,	2014	Support	5
	<b>Rocky shore, reefs and Islands</b>				
N9.18	Raise awareness about the importance and management of rocky shore, reefs and islands and their associated species through promotional material, events and training	EMS, AONB	Ongoing	Lead	5
N9.19	Create a code of conduct for all anchoring boats		2010	Lead	5
N9.20	Carry out periodic site condition monitoring.		Ongoing	Lead	5
N9.21	Create a code of practice for rock pooling activities for use by all nature conservation organisations in Northumberland		2009	Lead	5
N9.22	Carry out assessments of the impacts of the cockling, musseling and winkling industry on the habitat		2011	Lead	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy N10: Promote biodiversity within the Shoreline Management Planning and coastal defence system.</b>					
N10.1	Maintain membership of the North East Coastal Authorities Group to ensure coastal defence practises promotes biodiversity, landscape and seascape or projects relating to AONB and EMS		Ongoing	Lead	1a
<b>Policy N11: Halt the spread of, and where appropriate eradicate, invasive species.</b>					
N11.1	Assess and map the extent of invasive species within the AONB and EMS using SSSI monitoring protocol combined with incidental observations and other available data sources.	NE, NCC, NT, NWT	2009	Lead	3a
N11.2	Draw up, and begin implementation of, an action plan for tackling invasive species taking account of Northumberland BAP targets, agree a list of target invasive species, and target locations for control or eradication, considering the role of some invasives in species and habitat conservation as appropriate.	NE, SNH, SEPA, Landowners, NCC, NWT, NT, Tweed Forum	2010	Support and advise	3a
N11.3	Run a public awareness-raising campaign on the identification of problems caused by, and ways to control the spread of non-native species. Target efforts at sensitive sites that are without existing on-site advice	NE, SNH, NT, NWT	2009	Encourage	3a
N11.4	Develop a campaign targeting the issues and problems of garden waste dumped in sensitive sites.	NE, NT	2010	Lead	5
N11.5	Liaise with NSFC and SFCA on catches of invasive or unusual species.	NSFC/SFCA	Ongoing	Support and advise	1a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
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**Policy N12: Conserve and enhance appropriate habitats for the benefit of vulnerable species that are characteristic of the AONB and EMS or relevant BAP or SAP species.**

N12.1	Identify roosting and feeding areas for migratory birds, waterfowl and seals that are outside SPAs and other designated sites and seek appropriate management of those sites that are vulnerable to drainage and habitat change.	NE, <b>Local Bird Clubs,</b> NWT RSPB	Ongoing	Support	2a
N12.2	Identify opportunities for creation and protection of roosting, feeding and nesting habitats, including building restoration, wetland habitats and woodland. Minimise disturbance to high tide roosts, used by wading birds at high tide when normal feeding sites are not available.	NE, landowners, <b>Local Bird Clubs,</b> NWT, RSPB	Ongoing	Support	2a
N12.3	Investigate the zoning of activities along the Northumberland Coast to minimise disturbance to important feeding areas for coastal birds	NCC	2010	Lead	5
N12.4	Promote the importance and vulnerability of Northumberland's coastal birds through publicity material, events and training	<b>RSPB, NWT, EMS</b>	Ongoing	Lead, encourage	1a
N12.5	Investigate the opportunity for creating new nesting sites for kittiwakes on mainland and estuary areas	<b>Landowners,</b> NWT, LA's, NT	2012	Lead	5
N12.6	Minimise disturbance to site, used by wading birds at high tide when normal feeding sites are not available, known as high tide roosts	<b>Landowners,</b> <b>recreation groups</b>	2009	Lead	5
N12.7	Identify extent of potential disturbance on offshore loafing, feeding or roosting sites and promote awareness and management if required.	<b>Recreational groups,</b> <b>boat owners</b>	2010	Lead	5
N12.8	Raise awareness about the importance and management of Northumberland's red squirrels through publicity material, events and training	<b>NWT SOS</b>	Ongoing	Support	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy N13: Improve understanding and conservation of the geodiversity of the area according to a geodiversity action plan.</b>					
N13.1	Implement recommendations from a geodiversity action plan for the AONB and EMS.	BGS, NE, NCC, NWT AONB	Ongoing	Joint lead	3a
N13.2	Maintain links with Regional and local Geodiversity Groups.		Ongoing	Lead	5
<b>Policy N14: Carry out site condition monitoring and collection of data to examine management effectiveness.</b>					
N14.1	Develop a Monitoring Plan to coordinate all site condition monitoring activities to an agreed timetable	NE, SNH, EA, EH, HS, NT, NTS, NWT	2009	Joint Lead	2a
N14.2	Develop a metadata database of all AONB and EMS related data, convert available data (eg Beadnell boat launch data, seal and bird data from Farn Islands) to GIS, and work with partners to fund and gather data to fill gaps.	NE, SNH, EA, EH, HS, NT, NTS, NWT	Ongoing	Joint Lead	1a
N14.3	Monitor bait-digging activities (including winkling at St Abbs) and carry out any necessary education or prosecution work relating to disturbance and depletion of food.	SNH	Ongoing	Support	1a
N14.4	Maintain AONB membership of the board administering the Wildfowling permit scheme and support with regular performance review and research.	NE	Ongoing	Advise	1a

## THEME: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy H1: Inform conservation of the historic environment through historic landscape and seascape character assessment.</b>					
H1.1	Disseminate the historic landscape character assessment for the AONB.	NE, EH, PCs, <b>NCC</b>	Start 2008 Finish 2009	Joint Lead	1
H1.2	Prepare an historic seascape character assessment for the EMS	<b>EH, NE</b>	Start 2009 Finish 2010	Encourage and Support	5
<b>Policy H2: Extend survey and recording of the historic environment within the Plan area to ensure information is available to support its conservation, particularly currently unidentified, under-recorded or undesignated features.</b>					
H2.1	Continue the identification and recording of non-listed traditional buildings and monuments, including an assessment of range of types as well as condition.	<b>EH, NCC</b>	Ongoing	Support	2a
H2.2	Prepare a schedule of Grade II historic buildings at risk to supplement the existing register for Grade I and II* buildings at risk.	<b>EH, NCC</b>	Ongoing	Encourage	2a
H2.3	Undertake a comprehensive review of Second World War coastal defence works to inform the identification of sites for statutory protection and enhance the Defence of Britain database.	<b>EH, NCC</b>	2011	Support	3a
H2.4	Develop a Marine Sites and Monuments Record.	<b>NCC, EH, SBC</b>	Start 2006 and ongoing	Encourage	3b
H2.5	Ensure any English Heritage and Heritage Scotland survey work has regard to the AONB and EMS designations and is carried out with Appropriate Assessment	<b>EH, HS, NE, SNH</b>	Ongoing	Advise	5
H2.6	Incorporate any new legislative requirements, including the Heritage Protection Bill, into the Plan	LAs, NE, SNH	Ongoing	Lead	5
H2.7	Complete an inventory of condition and location of Lime Kilns.	<b>EH, LA</b>	2010	Lead	5
<b>Policy H3: Maximise the uptake of grant schemes that assist in the conservation of the historic environment.</b>					
H3.1	Protect the historic environment within farmland by the conservation and restoration of historic field boundaries and buildings through take up of HLS and other suitable granting schemes.	Landowners, <b>NE</b>	Ongoing	Advise	2a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
H3.2	Seek to establish a funding programme of priority conservation works on Grade II listed buildings, scheduled monuments and unlisted buildings of local historical interest.	EH, NCC	Start 20010 and ongoing	Joint lead	3a
<b>Policy H4: Encourage the production of conservation plans and landscape plans for historic buildings, parks and gardens, sites and areas within the AONB as a means of identifying the significance of an historic asset and influencing proposals for change.</b>					
H4.1	Secure resources to employ an Historic Environment Officer to work in the Plan area to develop skill base, community involvement and to include a remit for marine archaeology.	NCC, EH,	2009 and ongoing	Joint Lead	5
<b>Policy H5: Strengthen the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of conservation areas by making full use of Conservation Area appraisals, encourage the completion of outstanding Appraisals and ensure development and implementation of Management Plans.</b>					
H5.1	Complete Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Schemes for all Conservation Areas in the AONB.	NCC, EH	2010	Encourage and support	1
H5.2	Follow up Conservation Area Appraisals with an assessment of appropriate voluntary and statutory methods to achieve conservation and a review of opportunities for enhancement works in the public realm of conservation areas, together with costs and prioritisation.	NCC, EH	Start 2010 Finish 2012	Support	2a
<b>Policy H6: Reduce the risk levels to Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings</b>					
H6.1	Encourage Local Authorities and others to include the risk levels in their strategic planning documents	LA	Ongoing	Encourage	5
H6.2	Implement measures to reduce the levels of risk on Scheduled Monuments and listed buildings	LA, EH	Ongoing	Encourage	5
H6.3	Encourage access to, and interpretation and understating of, Scheduled Monuments and listed buildings	EH, Landowners	Ongoing	Encourage	5
H6.4	Encourage the revision of regularly or periodically ploughed land to permanent grassland through the implementation of environmental stewardship schemes and management agreements	NE, EH	Ongoing	Encourage	5
H6.5	Encourage the safeguarding of monuments and listed buildings against coastal erosion or seek appropriate mitigation where this is not possible	LA, EA	Ongoing	Encourage	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
H6.6	Encourage friend groups to help value and safeguard Scheduled Monuments and listed buildings	Volunteers	Ongoing	Lead	5
H6.7	Encourage management agreements/grant aid for major repairs and consolidation works on upstanding remains.	LA, EH	Ongoing	Encourage	5
H6.8	Appoint a Heritage Champion within the Partnership and encourage the Unitary Authority Northern Area committee to appoint a Heritage Champion.	EH, LA	2009	Lead and encourage	5
<b>Policy H7: Develop a mechanism to address the identification and monitoring of historic sites impacted upon by coastal and marine environmental change.</b>					
H7.1	Involve the local community in the development of a network of volunteers to monitor archaeologically sensitive stretches of coastline at risk from erosion.	Amenity groups, EH, NCC, PCs	2010 and ongoing	Joint lead	3a
H7.2	Develop, with volunteers, a scheme of regular monitoring and emergency recording of areas, identified by the North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NERCZA), where erosion may be anticipated to reveal sites of archaeological importance or threaten historic buildings.	EH, NCC	Ongoing	Support	2a
H7.3	Stimulate community interest and involvement in recording and characterisation of their local environment by encouraging the production of village design statements for all settlements within the AONB, taking account of the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment.	NE, CAN, CDTs, Community groups, NCC, NECT, PCs	Ongoing	NE, CAN, CDTs, Community groups, NCC, NECT, PCs	5
H7.4	Undertake a review of the intertidal area at extreme low tides for archaeological interest.	Amenity groups, Volunteers, EH, NCC, PCs	2012	Amenity groups, EH, NCC, PCs	5
<b>Policy H8: Promote the designation of wrecks as a mechanism for their protection.</b>					
H8.1	Utilise existing designation provisions to identify, record and advocate protection of wrecks in the EMS.	EH, NCC	Ongoing	Encourage and support	2a
H8.2	Promote guidelines for divers to assist in the recording of maritime archaeology.	Diving Clubs, Diving Service Providers, EH, NCC, EMS	Ongoing	Support	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy H9: Identify and assist in preserving written, oral and illustrative records to better preserve the cultural heritage of the coast and its communities.</b>					
H9.1	Identify individuals and groups that hold or archive written, oral and illustrative records of the cultural heritage of the coast. Develop an inventory together with information on access.	<b>Amenity Groups,</b> Community groups, PCs	Start 2008 and ongoing	Support	2a
H9.2	Assist in the recording of previously unrecorded oral history and songs.	<b>Amenity groups,</b> Community groups, PCs	Start 2008 and ongoing	Support	2a
H9.3	Encourage data collection by appropriate agents	<b>Amenity groups,</b> Community groups, PCs	Ongoing	Encourage and support	50
<b>Policy H10: Promote management of historic sites, buildings and monuments to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.</b>					
H10.1	Develop a database of sites vulnerable to adverse effects from climate change.	EH, NCC	Start 2009 and ongoing	Support	6
H10.2	Prioritise management of sites, buildings and monuments for work to remedy or adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.	EH, NCC	Ongoing	Support	5
<b>Policy H11: Promote training and mentoring of professionals and volunteers in skills necessary for the description, recording and conservation management of the historic environment.</b>					
H11.1	Promote training to address the shortfalls in traditional construction skills and inventorying skills.	EH, LSC	Start 2009 and ongoing	Support	2a

## THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy EQ1: Protect the quality and quantity of all water courses through education, monitoring, full implementation of relevant legislation and targeting of the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.</b>					
EQ1.1	Monitor the effectiveness of the Catchment Sensitive Farming and Budle Bay Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designation in terms of reducing nutrient loading to waters in the catchment.	EA	Ongoing	Advise	2a
EQ1.2	Meet BAP targets for Biological Water Quality and SSSI condition of water courses, following the Rivers and Streams Habitats Action Plan. Noting EA and NE have different standards for rivers.	EA, NE, NWL, Landowners	2009 and ongoing	Encourage	5
EQ1.3	Complete upgrading of sewage treatment works in the AONB for compliance with Bathing Water and Urban Waste Water Treatment Directives.	EA, NWL	2010	Encourage	2a
EQ1.4	Highlight the importance of water quantity to the character of the AONB landscape in any proposals for water abstraction, in or upstream/up current of, the AONB.	EA, EN	Ongoing	Advise	2a
EQ1.5	Ensure resource protection measures are built into appropriate High and Entry Level Stewardship agreements in the AONB.	EN	Ongoing	Advise	2a
EQ1.6	Maintain EMS membership of the Tweed Area Advisory Group, and promote awareness of the AONB and EMS in the River Basin Management Plan	TF	Ongoing	Advise	1a
<b>Policy EQ2: Encourage the local authority to carefully consider the design, location and numbers of signs at beaches.</b>					
EQ2.1	Adopt RNLI signage guidance for beaches throughout the AONB and incorporate bathing Water Directive signage into this	NCC, RNLI, MCGA	2011	Joint Lead	2a
<b>Policy EQ3: Ensure the environmental and aesthetic sensitivities of the AONB and EMS are taken into account in pollution emergency planning.</b>					
EQ3.1	Implement the NE Standing Environment Group and Civil Contingencies Liaison group/Flood Liaison Group Oil Pollution Contingency Plan and further develop to include sensitivity information on the Plan area coastline.	NESEG, SBC, NCC	Ongoing	Support	1
EQ3.2	Provide advice on any incident or exercise involving the NE Standing Environment Group or Civil Contingencies liaison group and with potential impacts on the coastline.	NESEG, SBC	Ongoing	Lead	2a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy EQ4: Pursue high environmental standards on all bathing and rural beaches and strive to meet higher standards of both water quality and beach cleanliness on bathing beaches which are regularly used for watersports.</b>					
EQ4.1	Enter into negotiations with ENCAMS to enable Beadnell to achieve Blue Flag status without having to enforce a ban on dogs	NCC	2009	Joint Lead	
<b>Policy EQ5: Ensure standards for litter collection from streets, open land with public access are met and that adequate facilities exist for the collection of waste from marine vessels, and where possible enhance standards for the area.</b>					
EQ5.1	Apply DEFRA guidelines for cleansing and litter collection.	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage	1
EQ 5.2	Beach Management group to co-ordinate voluntary beach cleaning activity; raise awareness of the role of natural debris on beaches and the existence of natural algal foam; involve the local community in beach care; raise awareness of plastic beach litter especially plastic bags, angling/fishing litter and butts.	Community groups, EA, EMS-MG, ENCAMS, NCC, MCS, NT, PCs	Ongoing	Joint lead	1
EQ5.3	Introduce sensitive signage in litter hot spots to encourage people to take their litter home and recycle it.	NCC, NT, NE	Ongoing	Support	2a
<b>Policy EQ6: Retain hand beach cleaning regimes on all beaches and continue to involve the community and voluntary groups in beach litter monitoring work.</b>					
EQ6.1	Retain hand cleaning on all beaches in the EMS and AONB.	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage	1
EQ6.2	Continue to support volunteers who have adopted beaches and establish the Marine Conservation Society's adopt-a-beach and Beach Watch scheme on all beaches currently un-adopted.	Community Groups, MCS, NCC	Ongoing	Support and lead	1
<b>Policy EQ7: Continue to highlight the impacts of beach and marine litter and promote the 'reduce, reuse and recycle' and 'pack in pack out' message.</b>					
EQ7.1	Beach management group meet bi-annually to identify a programme, monitor progress and implementation.	BMG	Ongoing	Lead	1
EQ7.2	Produce advisory literature for boat owners and operators	RYA, Harbours, MCS	2010	Lead	4
<b>Policy EQ8: Promote a 24 hour collection time target for fly tipping incidents on public land within the AONB and seek a reduction in fly tipping through targeted education material.</b>					
EQ8.1	Promote 24-hour target for fly tipping collection for all bodies responsible for collecting fly tipped waste from public land	NCC	2004	Encourage	1
EQ8.2	Ensure good dissemination of local authority and Environment Agency fly tipping literature near hot spots in the AONB.	EA, NCC	Ongoing	Encourage	2a
EQ8.3	At fly-tipping hotspots consider undertaking surveillance to discourage offenders	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage	
EQ8.4	Disseminate an advisory leaflet to all landowners in the AONB advising on their responsibilities with regards to fly tipping on private land.	EA, NCC, CLA, NFU	Ongoing	Advise	2b

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy EQ9: Avoid the installation of litter and dog waste bins in the AONB outside settlements except where local authorities already serve large car parks and empty bins regularly.</b>					
EQ 9.1	Adopt the protocol established by ADC with regard to the provision, servicing, location and design of litter bins and dog litter bins across the AONB	NCC, PCs,	2009 and ongoing	Support and advise	1
<b>Policy EQ10: Seek to increase the provision of recycling facilities, where they do not impact on the landscape.</b>					
EQ10.1	Identify potential sites for local recycling facilities, including an assessment of landscape, seascape and environmental management impacts.	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	3a
EQ10.2	Continue to trial segregated litter bins where they can be serviced regularly to avoid contamination and where they do not detract aesthetically from their location.	LAs	Ongoing	Encourage	2b
EQ10.3	Educate recycling aboard vessels and promote port recycling facilities to boat owners and operators	Harbours, RYA, fishers, anglers, EA, SEPA	2009	Joint Lead	5
EQ10.4	Audit port and harbour waste facilities and produce improvement plan	Harbours, RYA, fishers, anglers, EA, SEPA	2011	Lead	5
<b>Policy EQ11: Reduce dog waste in the AONB through a combination of facilities, awareness raising and enforcement; and resist the establishment of dog bans in the AONB other than in specific designated sites where wildlife is highly sensitive to disturbance by dogs.</b>					
EQ11.1	Identify dog waste hot spots in the AONB and investigate management and enforcement options.	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	2a
EQ11.2	Run an awareness-raising campaign of the problems caused by dog waste and the potential for fixed penalties for dog fouling and litter offences.	NCC	2010	Encourage and support	3a
EQ11.3	Produce awareness material informing dog owners about disturbance to roosting and feeding birds	NCC, PCs	2009	Lead	5
<b>Policy EQ12: Advise and support provision of lighting infrastructure using the Design Guide for the Built Environment to reduce inappropriate use of lighting and urbanisation in rural areas.</b>					
EQ12.1	Promote good practise, the Design Guide for the Built Environment and Highways Design Guidance to authorities and developers with a stake in lighting provision.	NCC, CPRE	Ongoing	Encourage	2a
EQ12.2	Ensure future revisions to the county street lighting strategy take account of the sensitivity of the AONB to light pollution and inappropriately designed lighting.	CPRE, NCC	Ongoing	Advise	4

## THEME: ENJOYING THE AONB

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy EN1: Assess impact of recreational activities on the identified special features of the landscape, including sensitive habitats, species, historic features and characteristic views and reduce impact through targeted visitor management programmes.</b>					
EN1.1	Carry out a visitor impact study for habitats and species, historic features and character defining views within the Plan area (including cumulative impacts on birds in SPAs and monitoring coastal car parks)	NE, NCC, NT	2009 and ongoing	Lead	2a
EN1.2	Use the results of the above study to develop a targeted action plan for improvements in visitor management and as the basis for provision of advice on management of new and existing visitor activities.	NE, NCC, NSP, NT, ONE	2009 and ongoing	Lead	2a
EN1.3	Manage access points to reduce erosion, especially in dunes, and restrict illegal access to footpaths, bridleways, beaches and dunes by motorised vehicles.	NE, NCC, Landowners, NT	Ongoing	Support and advise	2a
EN1.4	Retain byelaws and codes of practice at Holy Island NNR to manage recreation impacts on the reserve and report to BMG annually	NE	Ongoing	Advise	1a
EN1.5	Assess and mitigate impacts of coastal access on SPA, and special features of the AONB and qualifying features of the EMS.	NE, SNH	2009 and ongoing	Support	5
EN1.6	Continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Budle Bay codes of conduct and adherence of bylaws and report to BMG annually	NE	Ongoing	Advise	2a
EN1.7	Monitor use of Budle Bay for kite-based activities and report to BMG	NE	Ongoing	Advise	
EN1.8	Establish a fixed point photographic survey of recreational routes at key points and in sensitive habitats to monitor impact	NCC	2009 and ongoing	Lead	5
EN1.9	Continue to gather automatic people and cycle counter data on long-distance walking and cycling routes	NCC	Ongoing	Joint Lead	1a
<b>Policy EN2: Work with time-limited forums, action groups and niche partnerships to resolve tensions between user groups in order to enhance enjoyment for a variety of users.</b>					
EN2.1	Continue to work with Northumberland County Council, community and recreational users' representatives to deliver appropriate management of recreational use of Beadnell Bay and establish a working group to co-ordinate a feasibility study to look at possibilities for future management of the Beadnell facilities	NCC, PC, User groups	Ongoing	Joint lead	1a
EN2.2	Support the Beach Management Group to advise on recreation management in the AONB	NCC, NE, NT, N Tourism NWL, SBC	Ongoing	Joint lead	1a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
EN2.3	Convene a jet-skiing focus group	NCC, user group	2010	Joint lead	5
EN2.4	Negotiate for amendment of local pilots and charts to include details of EMS location and qualifying features and sensitive areas.	RYA, MCA, Admiralty holdings Ltd	2010	Encourage and advise	2a
EN2.5	Continue to attend the North East Beach Safety Council Meetings and report to BMG	BMG	Ongoing	Lead	1a
<b>Policy EN3: Support the implementation of coastal access to ensure that the proposed route has regard to the appropriate management needs of vulnerable species and fragile habitats.</b>					
EN3.1	Review the promoted line of the existing coast path once coastal access proposals are developed to identify synergy and to avoid unnecessary duplication.	NCC, NE	2010	Joint lead	5
EN3.2	Implement suitable monitoring programme to assess impact of coastal access on vulnerable habitats and species	NE	2009	Encourage	5
<b>Policy EN4: Enhance the quality of Public Rights of Way and other access routes through targeted investment and encourage the uptake of access options within agri-environment schemes that improve accessibility and increases connectivity of the access network.</b>					
EN4.1	Establish enhanced performance targets for the condition of the rights of way network that aim to significantly enhance the condition of public paths throughout the AONB and in the immediately adjacent areas.	NCC	2009	Support	2a
EN4.2	Identify and seek to resolve key missing links in the network of paths and open access areas in the AONB.	NCC	2004 and ongoing	Joint lead	2a
<b>Policy EN5: Support the further development of recreational walking, riding and cycling routes and hubs that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.</b>					
EN5.1	Produce guidelines and work in partnership with community organisations, individuals, farm and visitor businesses in the development, care and promotion of local path networks and areas of open access land.	CDTs, NE, NCC, LAF, PCs	2005	Joint lead	2a
EN5.2	Continue to promote the Northumberland Coast Path and implement high standards of maintenance throughout the route	NCC	2007	Joint lead	1
EN5.3	Continue to develop and promote a series of circular walking, riding and cycling routes from settlements and transport nodes.	NE, CDTs, EA, NCC, NT, PCs	2004 and ongoing	Joint lead	1
EN5.4	Continue to support the management and responsible promotion of long distance walking and cycling routes	NE, NCC, Sustrans	Ongoing	Support	1a
EN5.5	Develop further areas of permissive access under agri-environment schemes.	Landowners, NE	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	1a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
EN5.6	Promote the health benefits of walking and other recreational activities on existing easily accessible environmental facilities, such as beaches and rights of way.	NE, HWGs, LAs	2007 and ongoing	Support	1a
EN5.7	Investigate the feasibility of a public transport promotional scheme aimed at walkers and other visitors	NTourism, NCC, Arriva and other operators	2009/10	Joint Lead	5
EN5.8	Promote public transport information to visitors via accommodation providers, attractions, visitor literature and the internet and aim to develop a car-free tourism product.	Arriva and other operators, NTourism, Accommodation providers	Ongoing	Support	1a
EN5.9	Review the demand for cycle storage facilities throughout the AONB.	NCC, Sustrans	Start 2010 finish 2011	Support	4
EN5.10	Provide new cycle storage facilities in priority locations using appropriate siting and design to ensure no detrimental impact on the character of the AONB.	NCC, Sustrans	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	3a
EN5.11	Undertake a feasibility study into cycle carriage on buses into the AONB from major settlements.	Arriva, NCC, other operators	Start 2009 Finish 2010	Encourage	2a
EN5.12	Work with Tourism Partners to deliver key objectives and actions contained within the 'Coastal Framework'	NTourism, One, Tourism Networks and Providers	Ongoing	Lead	5
<b>Policy EN6: Encourage improvement in the landscape and wildlife benefits of existing caravan, chalet and camping sites and golf courses.</b>					
EN6.1	Work with caravan, chalet and camp site owners to develop landscaping schemes and wildlife improvements.	NE, NWT, site managers	Ongoing	Lead	1a
EN6.2	Identify those golf courses without environment plans and develop environment and landscape plans with all golf courses using existing schemes.	NE, NWT, NT, golf course managers	2010	Lead	2a
<b>Policy EN7: Audit and improve the accessibility of the foreshore, visitor facilities, attractions, view points and public rights of way and make the underwater world more tangible for visitors.</b>					
EN7.1	Develop a programme of targeted accessibility improvements on popular rights of way, popular view-points and car parks throughout the AONB.	NCC, NE, NCC, NT	Ongoing	Joint lead	1a
EN7.2	Include information on accessibility of routes and sites in all leaflets and information on accessing and exploring the AONB.	NCC, NE, NT, NWT	Ongoing	Lead and encourage	1a
EN7.3	Develop criteria to enable an assessment of all beach access points and prioritise for improvement.	NCC, NT	2010	Joint lead	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
EN7.4	Identify windsurf 'rigging areas' with users and seek improved management	NCC	2011	Lead	4
EN7.5	Identify Spittal as a venue for surfing and investigate the feasibility of a freshwater shower	SIT	2011	Support	4
EN7.6	Investigate feasibility and funding opportunities for a voluntary lifeguard scheme during summer months at Beadnell	NCC/BMG/RNLI	2010	Support	4
EN7.7	Increase understanding of the underwater seascape and world.	EMS, NE, SNH	2010	Lead	4
<b>Policy EN8: In partnership with Tourism agencies and providers develop and promote a sustainable tourism product ensuring that there is no negative impact on the special features.</b>					
EN8.1	Work with the outdoor activity industry to ensure responsible promotion of areas within the Plan area for outdoor activities that consider the AONB and EMS designations.	N Tourism, ONE, Outdoor activity organisations	Ongoing	Joint lead	2a
EN8.2	Identify areas already under pressure from visitors at certain times of year (see EN1.1 and 1.2) and mark these out for investment in improved management rather than investment in additional promotion.	NCC, NSP, ONE	Ongoing	Lead and encourage	2a
EN8.3	Ensure ongoing AONB and EMS input to new tourism structure in the region to promote the needs of the AONB and EMS and influence regional tourism policy development.	NCC, NSP, ONE	Ongoing	Joint lead	2a
EN8.4	Work with other agencies to promote nature based tourism in Northumberland at events such as the National Bird Fair	N Tourism, NNPA, NPAONB, Providers	Ongoing	Lead	5
EN8.5	Continue working with Partners to develop the Coast and Country, Know Your Protected Landscapes programme for tourism professionals	NNPA, NTourism	Ongoing	Joint Lead	5
EN8.6	Promote and develop opportunities and materials for visitors to enjoy birdwatching and natural history.	NE, NTourism, Landowners, NWT, NT	Ongoing	Lead	5
EN8.7	Draw up an inventory of information distribution points and partners in the AONB and establish a rolling programme for distribution of AONB and EMS information and interpretative material.	NCC, TICs	Ongoing	Lead	4
EN8.8	Keep partner websites up to date with AONB and EMS information.	NE, NCC	Ongoing	Lead	4

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy EN9: Encourage schemes that promote, or provide facilities for visiting craft and water-borne tourists where this can be achieved without impacting on the character, special features or quiet enjoyment of the area.</b>					
EN9.1	Identify opportunities for nature-based tourism to extend outside the summer period and recognise the AONB and EMS designations and draw up an action plan for sustainable development and marketing.	NE, SNH, NCC, NSP, NT, <b>ONE</b> , tourism businesses and associations.	Ongoing	Support and encourage	5
EN9.2	Carry out a feasibility study of the possibility of providing tourist moorings at Holy Island, Newton and Boulmer.	Northumberland Estates, HIDI, NT, RYA	2011	Support and advise	4
<b>Policy EN10: Encourage carefully targeted marketing and development of the coastal area as a tourism destination that respects the special characteristics and sensitivities of areas</b>					
EN10.1	Develop and deliver an interpretation strategy for the AONB and EMS in partnership with all other organisations that provide interpretation of aspects of the landscape, seascape and natural and cultural heritage in the area. Include guidance on accessing and interpreting sensitive historic and natural sites.	NE, EH, NCC, NT, NWT, RSPB	Start 2004 Finish 2006 Delivery ongoing	Lead	3a
EN10.2	Improve the AONB and EMS websites (eg to include interactive front page news) and to facilitate a single website for both.	NE, NCC	Start 2004 Ongoing	Lead	2a
EN10.3	Support the development of a Northumberland Coast Centre as a location for information and interpretation on the AONB and EMS	NCC, NE, NT, NCC	Ongoing	Support	3b
EN10.4	Develop and coordinate an annual programme of events, guided walks and rides.	NE, NCC, NT, PCs, User groups	Ongoing	Lead	1a
EN10.5	Run an education outreach programme for all ages, including training and recruitment of local volunteers, and promotion of the AONB and EMS in formal and informal learning.	EH, NE, NCC, NT	Start 2007 then ongoing	Lead	2a
<b>Policy EN11: Continue to provide education, training and volunteering opportunities and enhance and diversify volunteering opportunities through a co-ordinated approach.</b>					
EN11.1	Undertake consultation with young people to identify gaps in provision and aspirations for the provision of water-based activities.	NCC	Start 2010 finish 2011	Joint Lead	2a
EN11.2	Contribute to the Our Coast Our sea forum and website.	NT, NWT, LAs, EH, NE	Ongoing	Lead	5
EN11.3	Continue to support Young Rangers on the Coast	NSSDT	Ongoing	Joint Lead	1a
EN11.4	Develop "Wild Play" programme	NSSDT, NT,	2009	Lead	5

## THEME: LIVING AND WORKING

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LW1: Ensure active consultation with communities and local businesses on AONB and EMS initiative and encourage involvement in activities that relate to the purpose of AONB and EMS designations and assist in Management Plan delivery.</b>					
LW1.1	Develop a community consultation strategy for the development of AONB and EMS projects and initiatives and engagement in the 2014-19 Management Plan review.	CDTs, Community groups, NCC, PCs	2014	Lead	3a
LW1.2	Run two annual coastal surgeries in different locations in the Plan area to raise awareness of the AONB and EMS purposes, and provide an informal, local setting for people to raise issues of concern relating to AONB and coastal management.	All AONB Partnership members	Ongoing	Lead	2a
LW1.3	Encourage the development of Parish Plans for each parish in the AONB and ensure the purpose of the AONB designation is understood and integrated.	NE, NCC, PCs	Ongoing	Encourage	2b
LW1.4	Signpost to funding provides and support communities to undertake projects that contribute to the conservation, enhancement, understanding and sustainable enjoyment of the AONB.	New Leader, NCC, CAN, CDTs	2004 – 2007 ongoing	Encourage and support	1a
LW1.5	Investigate the feasibility of establishing village stewards and a network of environmental volunteers and volunteer wardens.	PCs, CDTs	2009	Lead	2a
<b>Policy LW2: Promote good practice in countryside and marine environment management within economic, regeneration and community strategies and initiatives.</b>					
LW2.1	Provide AONB and EMS advice and input to consultations on all economic and regeneration plans that impact on the AONB, including estate plans; and advise on the implementation of existing plans to promote the conservation and enhancement of the distinctiveness of the AONB.	All AONB Partnership members	Ongoing	Lead	1a
LW2.2	Develop a close working relationship between Market Towns Initiatives and the AONB Partnership to ensure reciprocal understanding and integration of aims and activities.	MTIs	2004 – ongoing	Joint lead	1a
<b>Policy LW3: Support the development of business opportunities, support services and infrastructure that are in keeping with the purpose of AONB and EMS designations and that increase the ability of people to live and work locally.</b>					
LW3.1	Disseminate results of One North East/Countryside Agency study into the economic value of protected landscapes throughout the region and use to encourage and promote sustainable business activity in the plan area and support for the AONB and EMS designations.	NE, ONE	2009	Support	1a
LW3.2	Ensure the implementation of the NSPs ICT strategy increases opportunities for rural business development without compromising the landscape character of the AONB.	NSP, NCC	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
LW3.3	Support the development and marketing of sustainably produced local products and promote increased local processing and local selling to add value to existing products.	BL, NCC, LSPs, Made in N'land, N'land Larder, NSP, ONE, NE	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	2a
LW3.4	Raise awareness of and promote the use of existing underused business facilities over development of new accommodation.	BL, NCC, NSP, ONE, NE	Ongoing	Advise	5
<b>Policy LW4: Support and promote sustainable farm and fishing diversification activity within the Plan area.</b>					
LW4.1	Provide advice to all fishers diversifying into visitor-related business on sustainable activities and interpreting the AONB and EMS for visitors.	NSFC, NSP	Ongoing	Joint lead	5
LW4.2	Increase the uptake of project-based schemes in the England Rural Development Programme that support sustainable activity in the AONB.	NCC, ONE, NSP, NE	Ongoing	Advise	2a
LW4.3	Accompany advice on grant schemes designed to support the re-use of redundant buildings with AONB design guide and existing SPG on conversions.	NE, NCC	Ongoing	Support	5
LW4.4	Investigate the potential landscape, nature and historic conservation impact of energy crops in the AONB in order to identify sustainable opportunities for development within the remit of the Northumberland Renewable Energy Strategy.	NSP, GONE, ONE, NE	2009	Encourage and support	4
<b>Policy LW5: Seek to improve the environmental performance and awareness of new and existing businesses and visitor facilities.</b>					
LW5.1	Identify and promote an existing environmental accreditation scheme applicable for businesses and visitor facilities in the AONB, (including advice on waste minimisation and reduction in water use).	BL, NE, LSPs, NSP, ONE	2007 and ongoing	Lead and encourage	2a
LW5.2	Continue to promote the Green tourism Business Scheme to businesses	ONE, Tourism businesses, NTourism	Ongoing	Encourage	
<b>Policy LW6: Encourage the promotion and development of volunteering, training and education opportunities for the population of the AONB, in particular those that can contribute to better management and enhancement of the AONB and EMS.</b>					
LW6.1	Investigate the existing environmental skills base in the AONB.	NE, LSPs, NSP, NT	2009	Support	3a
LW6.2	Work with existing volunteer groups and support organisations to develop training in environmental and land-based skills to increase the capacity of current and potential volunteers.	CPRE, NE, LSC, LSPs, NT	Ongoing	Advise	2a
LW6.3	Support regional initiatives to increase capacity and reduce skills gap in conservation architects and traditional building skills.	EH, NCC, LSC, NSP, ONE, NE, Universities	Ongoing	Support and encourage	3a
LW6.4	Develop a programme for owners and employees of service related businesses and facilities, and for individual volunteers, to train as informal AONB guides.	BL, LSC, LSPs, Universities	Ongoing	Joint lead	2a
LW6.5	Establish links with other training and skills development initiatives in the region to highlight the breadth of local training needs in the AONB	All AONB Partnership members		Lead	2a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LW7: Support the provision of and access to a range of community services and facilities for all ages and seek innovative means of provision.</b>					
LW7.1	Pass on information in gaps in services provision to policy and management bodies.	CDTs, LSPs, NCC, NE	Ongoing	Support	3a
LW7.2	Promote grant schemes that support the development of local services and facilities.	NE, NCC, NSP	Ongoing	Encourage	2a
LW7.3	Encourage multiple provision of different services from one location and mobile services where appropriate.	NE, NCC, LSPs, NSP	Ongoing	Encourage	2a
<b>Policy LW8: Support increased and more integrated public transport services and community transport initiatives that aim to improve the viability of local communities, allow access to employment opportunities and service centres within and outside the Plan area, and reduce the adverse effects of transport.</b>					
LW8.1	Promote existing public transport routes into and within the AONB using available grants.	NCC, other operators, RTP	Ongoing	Encourage	1a
LW8.2	Display bus timetable information at interchanges and on all main bus stops in the AONB in line with countywide targets in the bus information strategy, whilst ensuring bus stop furniture does not become a visual intrusion.	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage	1a
LW8.3	Provide assistance to parish councils and community groups to develop community transport projects and access TINN schemes and community grant schemes.	NCC, TINN	Ongoing	Support and encourage	2a
LW8.4	Continue to survey needs of parishes throughout the AONB (including identification of areas with recruitment difficulties) and identify opportunities for adapting existing services or trialling new services.	NCC, NSP, RTP	Ongoing	Support and encourage	2a
LW8.5	Support proposed re-opening of Belford Rail Station and promote its use.	NCC, NSP, RTP	Ongoing	Support and encourage	
LW8.6	Promote existing tourist and main stream services in AONB and tourist literature.	NCC, NSP, NT, ONE	Ongoing	Joint lead	1a
LW8.7	Promote public transport services to and within the AONB through reviews of contracted services in Northumberland.	NCC, RTP	2009	Support and encourage	
<b>Policy LW9: Seek to ensure all members of local communities have the opportunity to participate in AONB, EMS and community activities, through the use of a variety of mechanisms.</b>					
LW9.1	Develop and apply criteria to assess all AONB Partnership initiatives for community inclusivity.	All AONB Partnership members	2004 then ongoing	Lead	3a
<b>Policy LW10: Support initiatives to generate health benefits for local communities and visitors that do not have significant adverse effects on the AONB and EMS.</b>					
LW10.1	Work with central government, local authorities and NHS to promote the AONB and EMS as green space providing the setting for implementation of health agenda initiatives consistent with conservation and enhancement of the special and qualifying features of the AONB and EMS.	NE, NCC, SBC	2009 – ongoing	Support	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LW11: Promote availability of grants for community and business development initiatives that are consistent with the AONB and EMS designations, signposting all potential applicants to support organisations.</b>					
LW11.1	Develop and maintain a live inventory of community and business support grants applicable in the AONB whose application can be consistent with conservation and enhancement of the special and qualifying features of the AONB and EMS, alongside a live inventory of support organisations.	NE, CNN, LSPs	2005 – ongoing	Joint lead	2a
LW11.2	Direct groups and individuals to appropriate grants and support organisations and where necessary provide direct assistance in accessing funds.	CNN, NCC, LSPs	Ongoing	Joint lead	1a

**THEME: LAND USE AND MARINE PLANNING**

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LP1: Major development in the Plan area should only be allowed where it can be demonstrated to have satisfied the requirements of the Habitats Regulations or to be for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and could not be located elsewhere, in line with national planning guidance on AONBs and EMSs. Impact on the AONB and EMS of major development proposals close to their boundaries should also be considered when assessing the design, scale and location of major development.</b>					
LP1.1	Maintain current protection for the AONB and EMS from minerals extraction in the Mineral Local Plan for Northumberland.	NCC	Ongoing	Advise	1a
LP1.2	Provide an AONB and EMS response to all major development proposals within and adjacent to the Plan area.	NCC, NE, EA, NCC, SBC, SNH, SEPA	Ongoing	Lead	1a
LP1.3	Develop consistent AONB-, and EMS-specific policy in all new land use planning documents	GONE, NCC, RA	Ongoing	Advise	1a
<b>Policy LP2: All proposed developments in the AONB and EMS should be assessed in terms of "alone or in combination" impacts on the special features and landscape of the AONB, qualifying features of the EMS, and the setting of the AONB and EMS or the character of short and long views into and out of the AONB and EMS.</b>					
LP2.1	Develop a briefing sheet summarising the purpose, significance in planning terms, and special features of the AONB and qualifying features of the EMS, and of marine spatial planning to provide to all planning applicants in the Plan area, gateways and boundary areas. Consider developing as a joint supplementary planning document (SPD).	LAs	Start 2009 Finish 2010 SPD 2010	Joint lead	5
LP2.2	Use the Vision, Aims and assessment of the special features of the AONB and the qualifying features of the EMS (Part 1, Section 2 of this Management Plan) as a checklist against which to assess all development in the Plan area.	LAs	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	1a
LP2.3	Raise awareness of the AONB and EMS designations, their purposes and the management plan with utilities and other organisations exercising permitted development rights or marine spatial planning authorisations.	LAs	Ongoing	Joint lead	1a
LP2.4	Identify stretches of power cables and telephone lines that contribute to a cumulative negative impact on the AONB landscape and enter into dialogue with utility providers to encourage underground routing of visually intrusive power cables and telephone lines.	CDTs, NCC, PCs, Utility companies	2008 and ongoing	Lead	1a
LP2.5	Maintain FEPA and CPA consultation process in Coastal development and Port related activities.	LAs	Ongoing	Support and advise	1a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LP3: Continue dialogue with Natural England to establish a mechanism for reviewing the AONB boundary.</b>					
LP3.1	Enter a formal request to Natural England to establish a mechanism for reviewing AONB boundaries.	NCC	Ongoing	Joint lead	2a
LP3.2	Include any SPA extensions into the plan as they occur.	SNH	Ongoing	Joint lead	
<b>Policy LP4: Responses to planning applications will be made by the AONB Partnership on land that is considered suitable for inclusion in the AONB (including the North Northumberland Heritage Coast) in order to seek to conserve and enhance its natural beauty.</b>					
LP4.1	Use the assessment of the special features of the AONB (chapter 2 of this management plan) as a checklist against which to assess all development on land to be considered for additions to the AONB.	NCC	Ongoing	Joint lead and support	1
<b>Policy LP5: Improve quality of design and landscaping of new buildings, alterations and maintenance work and in materials and skills employed through advocacy of the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment. Resist proposals that would have an unacceptable impact upon landscape quality, biodiversity, geodiversity, settlement character, a feature of historic importance or their setting.</b>					
LP5.1	Promote the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment which considers the various types of settlement character and traditional buildings in the settlements.	NE, EH, NECT, NCC, NNS	Ongoing SPD 2010	Joint lead and support	1
LP5.2	Hold a training seminar to raise awareness of appropriate traditional construction materials, methods and design both in new developments and in work on historic buildings.	NCC, EH, NNC	2010	Joint lead	2a
LP5.3	Promote biennial Design Awards Scheme for built and other developments within the AONB in order to promote good practice.	NCC, EH, NECT, NNS	2009 onwards	Joint lead	1a
LP5.4	Disseminate species guidance, contained within the AONB Design Guide for the Built Environment, for landscaping schemes according to locations, conditions and landforms.	NE, FC, NCC, NWT	Ongoing	Lead	1a
LP5.5	Identify and map existing uncharacteristic prominent or unsightly buildings, developments and structures that would benefit from landscaping works and begin a programme of action.	NCC, Land owners	2009 then ongoing	Joint lead	4
<b>Policy LP6: Ensure that building conversions for all new uses respect the character and integrity of the existing structures and their setting and do not detract from the rural character and local distinctiveness of the area.</b>					
LP6.1	Consider developing supplementary planning document (SPD) on conversions based on previous local authority supplementary planning guidance.	NCC	2010	Advise	1a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LP7: Assess all conversion applications for potential impacts on bat roosts and hole nesting birds, and ensure appropriate spaces and access are retained in accordance with the NERC Act.</b>					
LP7.1	Apply Natural England's guidance on bat surveys and mitigations works, and Concern for Swifts guidance on hole nesting birds, to all conversion of old buildings in the AONB.	NCC, NE, NBG, NWT, NE	Ongoing	Encourage	2a
LP7.2	Advocate and assist the Local Planning Authority to give due regard to the biodiversity duty (NERC Act 2006) and the AONB Geodiversity Action Plan in the exercise of all development management duties.	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage and Support	
<b>Policy LP8: Support efforts to secure provision of affordable housing in the AONB, where there is a demonstrated need and where the provision of services to such housing will not adversely impact upon the AONB and EMS.</b>					
LP8.1	Complete housing needs surveys for all parishes in the AONB.	NCC, RHE	By 2010	Encourage	4
<b>Policy LP9: Support the development of visitor facilities where they are in keeping with the quiet enjoyment of the countryside, can be developed without a detrimental impact on the character and distinctiveness of the AONB landscape and EMS seascape, are associated with identified settlements and of a scale appropriate to their location within the AONB. Visitor facilities outside service centres should only be considered where they are associated with existing structures and rural diversification activity, are small scale in relation to existing development, and support positive management of the AONB and EMS.</b>					
LP9.1	Produce a map identifying areas of the Plan area considered highly sensitive to the development of the various forms of visitor related facilities and accommodation.	CPRE, NE, EH, NCC., SBC, SNT	Start 2009 Finish 2011	Lead	4
LP9.2	Carry out a review of existing visitor facilities including an assessment of gaps and over supply in the current infrastructure, in order to inform development decisions and visitor initiatives.	NCC, SBC, <b>NSP</b> , ONE, User groups	Start 2009 Finish 2010	Joint lead	4
<b>Policy LP10: Consider the development of short-stay visitor accommodation with a preference for the reuse of existing buildings and where the proposals accord with policies elsewhere in this Plan.</b>					
LP10.1	Encourage regional tourism policy makers to assess the demand for one-night stay accommodation and to provide infrastructure policy support accordingly.	NCC, NSP, ONE, accommodation providers	2004 and ongoing	Lead	2a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LP11: Development and diversification of harbours in the Plan area should be supported where it benefits the local community, accords with quiet enjoyment of the AONB and EMS, does not produce adverse effects on the natural environment and enhances the historic character of the harbour area</b>					
LP11.1	Provide AONB and EMS input to the development and implementation of harbour development plans, and feasibility studies.	All AONB Partnership members, EMS SG, Harbour commissioners, Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee	Ongoing	Lead	4
<b>Policy LP12: Improve the visual impact of highways maintenance and management through utilisation of Highways Design Guidance adopted as Northumberland County Council policy and, where appropriate, implement the Northumberland BAP Transport Corridors Habitat Action Plan.</b>					
LP12.1	Encourage adoption by the NCC of the Highways Design Guidance as Council Policy and promote its utilisation in the maintenance and management of all roads within the AONB.	NCC	2009 and ongoing	Joint lead	2a
LP12.2	Identify areas where further parking facilities, parking management or landscape impact mitigation of existing car parks is needed and develop an action plan for improvements.	NE, CDTs, NCC, NT, PCs, NE	2009 and ongoing	Lead	4
LP12.3	Identify areas with multiple and inappropriate signage and undertake a programme of rationalisation, giving priority to outsized national cycle route highways signs.	NCC, CPRE, EH, NE, NCC, NNS, NT, Sustrans	Ongoing	Support	1a
LP12.4	Develop unobtrusive verge management schemes to control parking along the verges between Seahouses and Bamburgh, on the main road into Craster, at Annstead, Cocklawburn, Cullernose Point and in the dunes at Low Stead.	NCC, NT	2012	Joint lead	2a
LP12.5	Survey known roadside and rail side verges for nature conservation value & identify other valuable verges and species-rich roadside hedges and put in place suitable management Practises	NCC, NE	2010 and ongoing	Support and advise	5
LP12.6	Produce conservation management plans for all linear features of known wildlife importance	NCC, Network Rail	2014	Support and advise	5
LP12.7	Make Local Authorities and Highways Authorities aware of valuable roadside verges, develop and implement sympathetic roadside verge management practices where practical	LAs	Ongoing	Encourage	5
LP12.8	Monitor the success of management plans through repeat surveying of identified sites	NCC, volunteers	2014	Encourage and advise	5

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
LP12.9	Ensure that relevant habitat policy is included in local planning documents, to protect, enhance or create new landscape features of wildlife importance along transport corridors and to ensure that ecological surveys are undertaken prior to the determination of new transport schemes	LAs	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	5
LP12.10	Install wildlife warning signs and wildlife underpasses and bridges along appropriate roads	NCC	2011	Advise	5
LP12.11	Produce best practice guidelines for rail side land management and statutory services to minimise disturbance to wildlife	NE Rail Network	2012	Encourage and advise	5
LP12.12	Include oil/silt traps in the design of new road & rail schemes adjacent to sensitive wetland sites & watercourses	NCC, Network Rail	Ongoing	Encourage	5
LP12.13	Promote the use of SUDS on any new road schemes	NCC	Ongoing	Encourage	5
LP12.14	Encourage reporting of road/rail-kills (badgers, red squirrel, barn owls etc.) to relevant recording bodies	NCC and road users	Ongoing	Encourage	5
LP12.15	Raise awareness of the importance of linear transport corridors for biodiversity to the wider community and those responsible for their upkeep and maintenance	NE, NCC, Network Rail?	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	5
<b>Policy LP13: Commercial wind farms should only be permitted within the AONB in exceptional circumstances and should be avoided in areas adjacent to the AONB where the development would compromise the landscape character of the AONB.</b>					
LP13.1	Ensure retention of existing renewable energy policies that protect the AONB from wind farm development within the area, and in adjacent areas.	NCC, GONE, NSP, ONE	Ongoing	Encourage	1
<b>Policy LP14: Commercial wind farms should only be permitted within the EMS where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will not have a significant adverse effect on the qualifying features.</b>					
LP14.1	Develop advice for carrying out seascape character assessments for proposed commercial wind farms within the EMS.	NE, GONE, NCC, NSP	2009 - 2010	Advise	3a
<b>Policy LP15: Proposals for other renewable energy developments, including wave and tidal energy and individual wind turbines, should be considered favourably providing they do not detract from landscape and seascape quality and character, biodiversity or the historic environment or adversely affect the local community. Individual wind turbines should be associated with existing settlements or buildings and subject to a landscape character impact assessment.</b>					
LP15.1	Develop advice for carrying out landscape character assessments for individual wind turbines.	NE, GONE, NCC, NSP	Start 2006 Finish 2007	Support	3a

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LP16: To encourage landowners to mitigate the impact of biofuel and biomass crops in a diversified farming landscape by taking associated measures to minimise adverse effects on landscape and seascape quality and character, biodiversity, the historic environment or local communities.</b>					
LP16.1	Support cultivation of biofuel crops and biomass where they contribute to maintenance of landscape character and do not adversely affect the special features or biodiversity of the AONB.	CLA, ONE	Ongoing	Joint lead	2b
<b>Policy LP17: Permission for new telecommunications masts should only be granted where the applicant can demonstrate that there is not a more suitable site and there is a genuine technical reason why existing masts cannot be shared with other operators.</b>					
LP17.1	Raise awareness of the national accord between the NAAONB and mobile phone operators with all prospective applicants.	NCC	Ongoing	Joint lead	2a
<b>Policy LP18: The AONB and EMS to promote undergrounding of overhead network utilities with operators where this reduces adverse effects on landscape and seascape.</b>					
LP18.1	Promote undergrounding with operators and liaise with them on any national and regional initiatives and funding opportunities.	Network utilities operators	Ongoing	Encourage and advise	1a.
<b>Policy LP19: Assess all new developments for access to a sustainable choice of transport, proximity to users and services and any impacts on localised congestion.</b>					
LP19.1	Incorporate policy in future revision of local plans/local development frameworks to support the location of development with access to a choice of transport.	NCC, GONE	Ongoing	Advise	5
<b>Policy LP20: Support the provision and retention of local services by:</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ encouraging residential developers to provide recreational space and facilities for young people;</li> <li>▪ scrutinising changes of use to ensure visitor facilities are not displacing community facilities;</li> <li>▪ where other management policies are satisfied, giving positive policy support for conversions to provide community services; and</li> <li>▪ resisting change of use where it would lead to the loss of a type of service from a settlement.</li> </ul>					
LP20.1	Adopt appropriate local development framework policies to support the provision and retention of local services.	NCC	Ongoing	Advise	4

Action Reference	Action	Lead and key partners	Target date	Role of AONB and EMS	Delivery Status
<b>Policy LP21: Maximise the contribution made by the AONB and EMS to the sustainable management of green infrastructure.</b>					
LP21.1	Maintain AONB and EMS staff representation on the Green infrastructure working group to promote the purposes of the AONB and EMS.	NE, NSP	Ongoing	Advise and support	2a
<b>Policy LP22: Minimise visual and environmental impacts of new and maintenance coastal defence work.</b>					
LP22.1	Seek early advice from AONB Partnership and EMS Steering Group on the design of any new coastal defences or maintenance of existing defences.	LAs, NECAG	Ongoing	Advise	3a
LP22.2	Maintain AONB and EMS staff representation on the SMP2 steering group to ensure that the SMP2 takes account of the AONB and EMS.	NECAG	2008 and ongoing	Encourage, advise	1a
<b>Policy LP23: Promote managed re-alignment of the coastline and defence works where this a positive effect on restoration of functioning coastal and marine ecosystem processes.</b>					
LP23.1	Assist NECAG and other authorities to contribute to achievement of Plan provisions, for special features of the AONB and qualifying features of the EMS, through SMP2 and other opportunities as appropriate.	LAs, CPRE	2009	Encourage	2a





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