Northumberland National Park

This publication includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright and database right 2016. Ordnance Survey 100022521.

# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword &amp; Message from the Management Plan Partnership</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Vision for Northumberland National Park</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Aims</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factors Influencing Change in the National Park</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Objectives to 2021</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation and Monitoring of the Plan</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glossary of Terms</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix I: Management Plan Partner Organisations</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Management Plan is presented in four main sections:**

- **Section one** sets the scene and presents our Vision for Northumberland National Park. It also introduces the thinking that lies behind the Management Plan.

- **Section two** describes the legislative, environmental and other factors that shape or influence our aims, outcomes and objectives.

- **Section three** sets out what we are going to do and why. It describes what our aims are, what outcomes we expect to see and our objectives. Turn to this section to see what we will do between now and 2021.

- **Section four** lists the organisations that are fundamental in bringing this all together and explains how the Management Plan will be implemented.

*Produced by the Management Plan Partnership, comprising: Northumberland National Park Authority; Northumberland County Council; The Environment Agency; Natural England; Historic England; English Heritage; Northumberland Tourism Ltd.; The Country Land and Business Association; The Defence Infrastructure Organisation; Northumberland County Joint Local Access Forum; Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust; The National Farmers Union; The Forestry Commission; The Northumberland National Park Foundation; and, The North East Farming and Rural Advisory Network.*
Foreword & Message from the Management Plan Partnership
As home to vibrant and welcoming communities, a rich cultural heritage, stunning and inspiring landscapes and countless opportunities for rest and recreation, Northumberland National Park truly is a place for which superlatives were made.

This Management Plan sets out our ambitions for how the National Park will be looked after over the next five years. It will guide and focus the work that we will do to secure a prosperous future for the National Park and the people that live, work and visit this special place. The Plan reflects the views and aspirations of local communities, farmers, land managers, business owners, volunteers and visitors that make Northumberland National Park the unique asset that it is.

We will remain ambitious in what we set out to achieve as a Partnership. In doing so we will be mindful of the challenges that lie ahead for the National Park over the coming five years and focus on what we can realistically do. This Plan should be seen as a statement of our intent as opposed to a wish-list of ideas.

The success of this Management Plan depends on everyone who cares about the National Park helping to secure and enhance its future. We need to ensure that it is a place to be proud of for generations to come. On behalf of the Management Plan Partnership I would like to thank all those individuals and organisations that have contributed to the development of this Plan.

We look forward to working with you.

Glen Sanderson, Chairman
Northumberland National Park Authority
Our Vision for Northumberland National Park

‘Northumberland National Park will be a truly welcoming and distinctive place, easily accessible to all. Its inspiring and changing landscapes, characterised by open spaces, tranquillity, diverse habitats, geology and rich cultural heritage, will be widely recognised and valued. The living, working landscape will contribute positively to the well-being of the thriving and vibrant communities in and around the Park.’
Strategic Aims and Outcomes

Northumberland National Park will strive to be:

**Aim 1: A Welcoming Park**
To put people and their connections with the landscape at the heart of the National Park.

1.1 People who come to the National Park will feel they have had an exceptional experience in relating to the landscape and in finding peace, tranquility and adventure whilst enjoying their visit.

1.2 The National Park will be accessible to a wider and more diverse audience including people who live in, work in and visit the National Park.

1.3 A more diverse range of learning opportunities will be available to help people understand, value and contribute to conserving, enhancing and enjoying the National Park’s distinctive natural and cultural qualities.

**Aim 2: A Distinctive Place**
To manage, conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and cultural qualities of the National Park.

2.1 A distinctive place that will maintain a sense of inspiration and tranquillity.

2.2 The natural qualities and diverse habitats that characterise the changing landscapes will be safeguarded and enhanced.

2.3 The rich historic environment and archaeological heritage will be understood, valued and cared for.

2.4 The strong sense of identity and deep rooted cultural heritage is balanced with a vibrant approach to the future.

**Aim 3: A Living, Working Landscape for Now and the Future**
To adapt to change by applying new approaches, together with traditional techniques.

3.1 New and better approaches to sustainable land and water management have been tested, adopted and embedded.

3.2 The National Park makes an important contribution to achieving sustainable development and responding to climate change.

3.3 There is sustained and economically viable business growth in sectors which sensitively make use of the National Park’s special qualities.

**Aim 4: Thriving Communities**
To ensure the thriving and vibrant communities have a strong sense of place and an economy grounded in the natural and cultural qualities of the National Park.

4.1 The communities in and around the National Park will have a strong connection to, and appreciation of, the National Park and be fully engaged in shaping its future.

4.2 Effective infrastructure supports socially and culturally active communities with a high quality of life and improved health and wellbeing.

4.3 People have opportunities to work and live in resilient communities in and around the National Park.

**Aim 5: A Valued Asset**
To ensure the National Park is valued as a local, regional and national asset, with influence beyond its boundaries that is worth looking after now and for generations to come.

5.1 The National Park is widely recognised for its environmental, social and economic contribution, particularly to North East England.

5.2 The National Park makes a distinctive contribution to a broader network of protected areas.

5.3 The value of the National Park is clearly demonstrated by the policies and actions of all who have an influence on the National Park.
Northumberland National Park’s Special Qualities:

Distinctive Landscape Character

The interaction of people with nature in Northumberland National Park has produced a landscape of remarkable beauty and distinctive character that is enjoyed by the nation. Millions of people visit the National Park. The majority of the land in the National Park is in private ownership, with a proportion owned and managed by public bodies or charities. Northumberland National Park’s distinctive landscape character has been created by its topography, geology and the complex interaction of many different factors. Managed landscapes, widely dispersed settlements and farmsteads, dry-stone walls, stunning scenery, mountain landscapes, rich cultural heritage— all combine to make Northumberland National Park the special place it is.

A Landscape Rich in Biodiversity and Geology

The underlying geology of Northumberland National Park, natural processes and human activity have combined to create a hugely varied landscape. These processes have created the unique conditions for a rich and diverse ecology to thrive; many nationally and internationally important habitats and species flourish within Northumberland National Park. 31% of the National Park comprises priority habitats and about a third of these are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

A Rich Cultural Heritage

From Yeavering Bell in the Cheviots to the Hadrian’s Wall World Heritage Site and the Roman fortifications in the South, an exceptional range of archaeology provides the evidence of human activity in Northumberland National Park for several millennia. Local history, social activities and cultural traditions have left us a rich legacy. This cultural legacy has created a community spirit that is instilled with self-sufficiency, self-belief and determination. A strong tradition of livestock farming and upland rearing is deeply interwoven into local life and livestock sales and agricultural shows continue to play an important part in the lives of local people.

True Sense of Tranquility

Tranquility is a key component of experiencing Northumberland National Park. It is an emotional, spiritual quality, difficult to define by standard methods; nevertheless it is, overwhelmingly, what people have said they value. The 2011 Resident Survey revealed that 83% of residents think that ‘peace and tranquillity’ make the National Park a special place. Northumberland National Park is the most tranquil place in England and we regard tranquillity as one of its most special qualities. The dark skies over the National Park contribute greatly to this sense of peace, and have themselves been protected since the designation of the International Dark Sky Park (Gold Tier) in 2013.

National Park Statutory Purposes and Duty

The statutory purposes of English National Parks are set out in Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995. These are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park;
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public;

National Park Authorities also have a duty; in taking forward the two purposes, to:

- Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

Guiding Principles

Sustainable Development: Sustainable development is about promoting ways of living and working that allow people to enjoy life, businesses to prosper and communities to thrive, whilst protecting and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of our protected areas and affording opportunities for an understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities by the public. Northumberland National Park will pursue a model of sustainable development and aim to serve as a model of sustainable development within the North East Region.

Equality, Diversity, Health and Wellbeing: The Management Plan Partnership will work with excluded groups, individuals and partner organisations to help reduce social exclusion among communities within the National Park. The Partnership will also work with groups, individuals and partner organisations to help broaden access for communities across Northumberland, the North East of England, and beyond, who may be excluded from the understanding or enjoyment of the National Park (including those located in urban areas of our region), thereby contributing to public health and well-being.

Partnership Working: Sustainable management of the National Park involves comprehensive understanding of a wide range of natural and cultural factors as well as the inter-relationships between them. At a time of diminishing resources, partnership working is ever more essential for the effective and sustainable long-term management of the National Park. The Management Plan Partnership will ensure that its constituent organisations maintain an effective working relationship to deliver the National Park’s statutory purposes and duty.

Transparency and Openness: The National Park Authority (as the coordinator of the Management Plan Partnership) is committed to open and accountable decision-making and to making information freely available. The review of this Management Plan has taken place in an open forum of discussion and dialogue. Progress in the Plan’s delivery will be made public at regular intervals and the active participation of local communities and the wider public will continue to be encouraged.

Our Vision for Northumberland National Park

Links to other Plans, Strategies and Legislation
The National Park Management Plan is a strategic document that aims to set out a clear ‘direction of travel’ on a number of issues within the National Park. In doing so it:

• Reflects relevant national and international policies, such as the European Landscape Convention, taking into account local circumstances.
• Takes account of the existing policies and strategies at both a national and local level.
• Gives effect to, and is bound by, National Park purposes. All the objectives should be read to mean that they will be delivered in a way that meets National Park purposes and the associated duty.
• Establishes a framework for the detailed policies, plans and strategies of Northumberland National Park Authority and many other organisations.
• Does not over-ride any other specific legislative requirements or consent processes.

Natural Environment Vision 2014-35
The National Park Authority’s Natural Environment Vision (2014) was developed following detailed consultation and engagement and outlines our vision for the natural environment of Northumberland National Park up to 2035. It describes how the landscape, habitat and natural environment should change in response to appropriate human interaction and sustainable environmental and land management, both within and outside the National Park.

Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment
This Management Plan has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal which tested the implications of the emerging objectives during its preparation. A Habitats Regulations Likely Significant Effects (LSE) Assessment was also completed.

Ecosystems Services and Natural Capital
Ecosystem services describe the multiple beneficial ‘services’ derived by society from ecosystems. These services are many and substantial, underpinning basic human health and survival needs as well as supporting economic activities, the fulfilment of potential and enjoyment of life.

The Government’s ‘Biodiversity 2020’
A Strategy for England’s Wildlife and Ecosystem Services identifies a series of ‘desired outcomes’ by 2020 including that “by 2020, at least 17% of land and inland water, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, [will be] conserved through effective, integrated and joined up approaches to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services including through management of our existing systems of protected areas and the establishment of nature improvement areas.”

Natural capital refers to both the living (e.g. fish stocks, forests) and non-living (e.g. minerals, energy resources) aspects of nature which produce value to people, both directly and indirectly. It is this capital that underpins all other capital in our economy and society. It is often confused with ecosystem services. Natural capital refers to the actual stock (living and non-living parts) that provides value whereas ecosystem services refer to the flow of benefits that this stock provides. Essentially, natural capital is about nature’s assets, whilst ecosystem services relate to the goods and services derived from those assets.

The delivery of this outcome will be taken forward by landscape-scale partnerships working within the National Park and beyond the Park boundary.
Factors Influencing Change in the National Park

Socio-economic trends

Northumberland National Park has a population of fewer than 2,000 (2011 Census) and is the least populated of all English National Parks. It follows then that Northumberland is also the most sparsely populated of the National Parks, with an average population density of just 0.02 persons per hectare. More than half (51%) of the resident population is aged between 45 and 74 years, relatively high compared to the English National Park average (45%) and certainly high compared to the national average (34%).

Northumberland National Park has a small ‘working age’ population of fewer than 1,600 people. Paradoxically, the local rate of economic activity (76%) is higher than the English National Park and national averages (70%) and rates of economic inactivity are correspondingly lower than average. While the number of retired people is higher than the national average, it is lower than the National Park average. Worryingly, the number of young people is in decline.\(^5\)

There were approximately 140 businesses operating from 155 establishments in Northumberland National Park in 2012 according to the latest Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR) data.\(^6\) This has fallen by around 9% since 2009. The data shows that all local businesses and establishments have fewer than 50 employees and the majority have fewer than ten employees. These local businesses provided employment for 420 people in 2012. Local employment fell by approximately 14% between 2009 and 2012, which has resulted in the average size of local businesses falling to three people in 2012.

Northumberland has the highest concentration of agricultural businesses of all English National Parks. Two-thirds of local businesses are in the ‘agriculture, forestry and fishing’ sector, which is considerably higher than the English National Parks and national averages. Levels of agricultural employment with the agriculture, forestry, fishing and construction’ sectors account for 55% of all local jobs. Northumberland National Park’s business community is dominated by land management and tourism businesses.

Natural Environment

Biodiversity 2020\(^7\) is a new national strategy for England’s wildlife and natural resources and sets the ambitious target of halting the overall loss of England’s biodiversity by 2020. The most important priorities relevant to Northumberland National Park include improving the condition of protected habitats, increasing the extent of habitats, engaging more people in biodiversity issues and developing an ecosystem services approach to land management.\(^8\)

The Water Framework Directive became EU legislation in 2000 and requires member states to achieve ‘good status’ for rivers, lakes, coastal waters and ground water; in terms of both water quality and ecological value. A Natural Environment White Paper (2011) brought about Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs). Northumberland National Park is part of the Northern Upland Chain LNP\(^9\) (established in 2012). The Northumberland County Council strategic plan recognises the area as

---

\(^{[6]}\) ONS (2013) UK Business Activity, Size and Location, 2012 and additional analysis of IDBR data.
\(^{[7]}\) Developing the ideas in the Government’s Natural Environment White Paper (2011), which focuses on a landscape scale approach to conservation over the next 50 years.
\(^{[8]}\) Giving greater value to the many ‘services’ or benefits which are provided by the natural environment and on which much economic activity and quality of life depends. Examples include flood alleviation, drinking water, crop pollination, human health and well-being and many others.
Factors Influencing Change in the National Park

a Nature Improvement Area. Since 2009 there has been significant partner effort into delivering land and water management initiatives such as the establishment of the Tyne and Northumberland Rivers Catchment Partnerships (2014) and continued working with the Till Tweed Forum. A Tyne River Catchment Plan was produced in 2012 which outlines key priorities for the area.

A Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement for England\(^{10}\) was published in 2013. The Statement confirms that the public forest estate will remain in public ownership, managed by a new organisation developed from the existing Forest Enterprise and also emphasises the importance of a renewed woodland culture, the desire to increase the levels of woodland management and increase the resilience of woodland. Its remit will be to conserve the nation’s forests while enhancing their social and economic value.

The statement has three main priorities around protecting the nation’s trees, woodlands and forests, improving their resilience and expanding them to increase further their value. It is also the Government’s aspiration to increase the amount of woodland cover nationally. This amounts to doubling the rate of woodland creation in England to 5,000ha per year and increasing the amount of woodland in active management to 66% (by 2018) in England. This Management Plan will seek to ensure that woodland creation and management within the National Park is in keeping with its special qualities and is based on the principle of ‘The Right Trees in the Right Place’.

The Forestry Commission and others also recognise the increasing threat from tree pests and diseases, with protecting woodlands (tree health) recognised as a priority. Examples of recent threats in the UK include Chalara dieback of ash, Dothistroma needle blight affecting pines, Phytophthora alni on alder and Phytophthora ramorum on larch and a number of other tree species\(^{11}\).

**Historic Environment**

Heritage 2020 is a new framework that aims to demonstrate how partnership working can add value and lead to the delivery of outcomes which will enhance the understanding, protection, and enjoyment of the historic environment in England. This will be done through five themes: discovery, identification and understanding; constructive conservation and sustainable management; public engagement; capacity building; and advocacy. There is also significant economic value attached to the enjoyment of the historic environment and can be a significant factor in attracting investment into the North East Region\(^{12}\). Working with the North East Historic Environment Forum, the Management Plan will seek to support the delivery of key ‘Heritage 2020’ objectives.

---

\(^{[9]}\) www.nuchp.org.uk

\(^{[10]}\) Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (HM Government January 2013)

\(^{[11]}\) For more detailed information on tree pests and diseases see: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases

\(^{[12]}\) The North East of England’s Case for Culture’, Culture North East (July 2015)
Working with Local Communities

The National Park Authority and its partners are committed to working with local communities. As a result of changes introduced by the government, local communities now have more of an active role to play, particularly through the formulation of Neighbourhood Development Plans and in the management of community assets. The Management Plan will aim to support local communities in these roles.

Sustainable Rural Development

There is an increasing focus on sustainable development within rural areas. The government’s recently published ‘Productivity Plan’ is focussed on sustainable growth to ‘ensure that rural areas can also contribute to, and benefit from, productivity growth’. The government has also published a new ‘10 Point Plan’ for rural productivity (aligned to the Productivity Plan) that aims to ‘harness the enormous economic potential England’s rural areas have to offer, both for the prosperity of those living in rural areas and for the benefit of the UK economy’. The Management Plan will aim to support initiatives that promote sustainable rural growth and the National Park Authority and its partners are committed to working with local businesses to help facilitate this.

Government Policy Priorities

Climate Change: Since 2009 there has been a shift in UK government policy with regards to climate change including a withdrawal of subsidies for onshore wind energy and solar farms and an intended relaxation of the planning control regime with regards to hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Fracking is now being allowed in SSSI habitats located outside of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Skills and Training: Defra re-stated its policy priorities in 2015 acknowledging that it, like all other Government Departments, now has a responsibility to create an environment favouring jobs and growth. The government’s 10-Point Plan for rural areas identifies a highly skilled rural workforce as an objective, with priorities around improving access to high quality education and training and providing an increased number of apprenticeships in rural areas.

The government’s 8-Point Plan for England’s National Parks sets out its ambition for National Parks to be at the heart of how we think about the environment and manage it for future generations. It also identifies the delivery of new apprenticeships in National Parks as a key driver of the rural economy.

Through the Management Plan we will aim to offer new opportunities for enhanced training and skills development within the National Park, working with partners and education providers such as Northumberland College.

Defence

Otterburn Training Area (OTA) is one of the UK’s strategic military training areas providing military training facilities for most in-service weapon systems, including aircraft. The area is used primarily by UK forces, but occasionally hosts foreign NATO forces. OTA extends to 23,500 hectares, forming almost 23% of the National Park designated area. As a government owned estate, activities at Otterburn are carefully planned to ensure that the special qualities of the National Park are recognised.


www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk
Factors Influencing Change in the National Park

Land use at OTA is planned via an Integrated Rural Management Plan. Outcomes from this Plan directly contribute to National Park Management Plan objectives; as such the MoD is a key delivery partner and stakeholder of the Management Plan Partnership. Within the timescale of the National Park Management Plan, the future of Defence in the UK will be directed via the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review and the National Security Strategy.

Transport

National predictions suggest there may be a marked increase in road use nationally from 2015 onwards, with a possible 19% rise across the country as a whole by 2025. Approximately 94% of households within Northumberland National Park have access to one or more cars, the highest proportion of any of the English National Park. There are no daily, nor year round, bus services or any rail services in the National Park. The Management Plan will aim to support initiatives that promote sustainable rural transport.

Devolution, cross border working and regional governance

Devolution: The North East Combined Authority (NECA) has agreed a significant programme of devolution of power, funding and responsibilities to the North East to meet the needs of the area’s diverse communities and deliver the North East’s strategic economic plan for more and better jobs. Northumberland County Council is one of the members of NECA. The Devolution Agreement supports the work of the North East Rural Growth Network and the National Park Authority in promoting sustainable rural growth.

The Strategic Economic Plan for the North East highlights the rural economy as being a key area for sustainable growth and recognises the opportunity to ‘enhance the area’s wider economic success building on its diversity, sector strengths and its physical, natural and business assets’ and states that projects such as The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre are ‘vital if our objective to achieve a world class offer is to be fulfilled’. This Management Plan will support sustainable growth in the rural economy and the development of the Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre as a nationally significant project which supports rural growth.

Landscape Strategy for Scotland: The Scottish Government published a National Landscape Strategy in 2011 which is currently undergoing a review. Differing approaches to aspects of land management and access may have implications for cross-border initiatives.

Borderlands Initiative: Local Authorities along the English/Scottish border have begun working together to explore the opportunities of cross-border cooperation. This represents an opportunity to build on existing environmental and economic initiatives between the National Park and similar areas in the Scottish Borders and Cumbria.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are partnerships between businesses and local authorities that channel government economic funding and help set priorities for growth, and are the driving force in economic development for the local area through a Strategic Economic Plan. The North East LEP includes a Rural Growth Network which has specific funding and expertise available for local businesses to help generate sustainable rural economic growth. The Management Plan will support access to the Rural Growth Network across the National Park.

Challenges and Opportunities

The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre

A major purpose of The Sill is to open up the landscapes of Northumberland National Park and surrounding Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to even more people regardless of age, background or ability/disability. The Sill will create a gateway from which extensive learning and research activities will be provided and become a leading educational facility for landscape, conservation, countryside management, leisure, and tourism skills. A comprehensive new activity programme will inspire people to enjoy and value Northumberland National Park’s natural and cultural features. The activity programme will also encourage more visits from under-represented groups and residents of urban areas who will learn about the National Park’s distinctive places and open spaces. The Sill will deliver substantial economic benefits to the area ensuring an impact within Northumberland National Park and beyond and is due to open to the public in June 2017. This Management Plan will aim to ensure that projects and initiatives facilitated through the Sill are linked with those of partner organisations where appropriate.

Woodland and Forestry

The government identifies the reduction of unnecessary regulation and red tape as a key aim to drive economic growth in the forestry sector\[18\]. The sustainable growth and development of the forestry sector in the North of England is actively being pursued by a partnership between the industry and public bodies\[19\]. It will be an important task for the Management Plan Partnership to ensure that this is done in accordance with the Management Plan and in a way that does not compromise the National Park in its fulfilment of its statutory purposes and duty or the duties of any of the public bodies involved.

Recreation, Access and Tourism

Northumberland is ideally positioned to capitalise on the significant economic value attributed to the development and promotion of walking, cycling and equine tourism. For example, cycle tourism is estimated to be valued at £239 million a year to Scotland\[20\]. The Northumberland Cycle Tourism Strategy identifies priorities for investment in route development, signage and way-marking, cycling infrastructure and information requirements. Established routes, such as the Hadrian’s Wall Cycleway and the recently opened Sandstone Way, will be supported in meeting quality standards and generating new visitors, thereby spreading the associated economic benefits to other businesses within the National Park and beyond. There is a need to ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to enable access to areas within the National Park by a diverse range of visitors and that routes (including bridleways) are well maintained to meet quality standards. There is also a need to ensure that the health and well-being benefits of outdoor activities and open landscapes are realised by visitors and local communities alike.

---

\[18\] Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (HM Government January 2013)
\[19\] Roots to Prosperity, An action plan for the growth and development of the Forestry Sector in Northern England, (Confor 2014)
\[20\] The Value of Cycle Tourism – Opportunities for the Scottish Economy (Transform Scotland June 2013)
The gaining of International Dark Sky Park Status (2013)

This requires a commitment to reduce light pollution, but also represents a great opportunity to develop sustainable year round visitor attractions and activities to ensure a wide range of experiences for visitors. This Management Plan will seek to build on the opportunities of the Dark Sky Park.

Public sector funding

The reduction in public sector over that last few years means that Management Plan Partners have had to carefully prioritise their activities, and this has placed increasing importance on external funding to deliver projects in the National Park. There will be a further reduction in public spending over the next Management Plan period (2016-21) and that this may in turn have an impact on the ability of the Partners to achieve the Plan’s objectives. New ways of working and delivering activities and outcomes through alternative funding sources will be required.

The Provision of Rural Services

The lack of broadband coverage has been identified as one of the main issues for local businesses, and is also one of the priorities for the NELEP and the government. The government target is to deliver superfast broadband to at least 95% of premises in the UK by 2017\(^1\). The lack of mobile phone coverage is also an issue within the National Park. Specific progress will be required to ensure adequate broadband and mobile phone coverage is provided within the National Park to meet the needs of our local communities and businesses. Recent studies have also identified that 100% of properties within the National Park are off mains gas and 10% are not connected to the mains electricity supply. There will be continued partnership working with Northumberland County Council and Northern Powergrid in order to seek cost effective solutions to electricity grid connection for National Park residents.

Uncertainty over future funding could undermine the provision of public transport, health, education, telecommunications and other services in remote rural areas. Meeting the identified housing needs for local communities and maintaining the sustainability of rural settlements within the National Park will remain a challenge. The provision of public transport services within the National Park also remains a key challenge.

Continued partnership working with Northumberland County Council, Parish Councils, communities, service providers, educational institutions, housing providers, telecommunications providers, rural public transport operators and the NHS is essential in order to ensure the provision of services for National Park residents. The role of the Management Plan in providing a basis for advocacy on behalf of the National Park’s communities will remain important.

---

\(^{1}\) Towards a one nation economy: A 10-point plan for boosting productivity in rural areas’, UK Government, August 2015.
Our Objectives to 2021
Our Objectives to 2021
Outcome 1.1:
People who come to the National Park will feel they have had an exceptional experience in relating to the landscape and in finding peace, tranquillity and adventure, whilst enjoying their visit.

Objective 1.1.1 - To maintain and improve levels of visitor satisfaction.

Means of achievement:
- Celebrate what is distinctive about the National Park to create a strong sense of identity and a distinctive sense of arrival into the National Park.
- Promote enjoyment of tranquillity as an exceptional experience.
- Use a better understanding of the nature of the visitor experience to assist businesses to design products and services accordingly.

Outcome 1.2:
The National Park will be accessible to a wider and more diverse audience including people who live in, work in and visit the National Park.

Objective 1.2.1 - To increase visits to Northumberland National Park by those living within the region by 10% by March 2021 (from the 2016 baseline).

Means to achieve:
- Use targeted and innovative methods, effective design and the best communication channels to promote the National Park.
- Develop easy to access short-walks (aimed at the regional market) that make use of well-promoted car parks and village centres.
- Use the Sill as a means to identify and differentiate new activities and opportunities including walking, cycling and riding routes and other ventures that widen the appeal of the National Park to new and existing visitors.
- Ensure that new opportunities facilitated through the Sill are linked with those of partner organisations where appropriate.
- Develop packages and itineraries that highlight our key landscape, culture and heritage experiences throughout the National Park.
- Support the development and promotion of a Dark-Sky-friendly accreditation scheme for tourism businesses.
- Ensure infrastructure, facilities and information meets the needs and expectations of visitors to the National Park.
- Ensure effective presentation and interpretation of archaeological and historic sites to visitors.
Objective 1.2.2 - To increase visits from currently under-represented groups by 10% by 2021 (from the 2016 baseline).

Means to achieve:

- Identify and - where practicable - remove barriers that prevent or limit people with disabilities and long-term illnesses from experiencing the National Park.
- Identify and overcome barriers to information and participation amongst under-represented groups.
- Develop and strengthen relationships and programmes with partners, organisations, groups and businesses that currently engage with under-represented groups both within and beyond the National Park boundary.

Objective 1.2.3 - To improve information and infrastructure with more sites in the National Park accessible to all.

Means to achieve:

- Implement a programme with partners to enhance the number and variety of facilities in the National Park that can be readily accessed by everyone.
- Use the Sill to provide dedicated outreach programmes to support those with particular access needs.
- Make innovative use of technology to support virtual access to the National Park and access to online services for visitors.
- Support public transport provision by assessing need and developing new provision for areas of the National Park that are underserved.
- Support an effective access information system for Otterburn Ranges.
- Work with landowners, communities, visitors and partners to enhance public access, including the removal of obstructions to public rights of way and developing linking routes (particularly to woodlands and forests).

Outcome 1.3:

A more diverse range of learning opportunities will be available to help people understand, value and contribute to conserving, enhancing and enjoying the National Park's distinctive natural and cultural qualities.

Objective 1.3.1 - To use the resources of the National Park to provide increased access to learning and educational opportunities for young people (primary, secondary, higher and further education).

Means to achieve:

- Use the Sill to provide increased access to learning and educational opportunities for children and young people from across the National Park and beyond so they benefit from a closer connection with nature and outdoor activities from an early age, including out-of-classroom educational and outreach activities.
- Provide National Park resources to regional schools.
- Use the Sill to deliver high quality cultural and heritage learning experiences for children and young people throughout the National Park.
- Create partnerships with local universities and colleges to use the National Park as a learning environment across subject areas.
Objective 1.3.2 - To use the resources of the National Park to provide increased access to vocational skills and training opportunities.

Means to achieve:

• Provide opportunities for learning and applying natural and cultural heritage and countryside skills.
• Use the Sill as a hub to further develop rural training initiatives and the National Park’s role as an ‘open air college’.

Objective 1.3.3 - To enhance the use of the National Park as a resource to provide increased opportunities for adults and young people to become involved in participatory learning activities and volunteering.

Means to achieve:

• Support and develop the Volunteer Service, including Youth Initiatives in volunteering and career pathways.
• Support community-led and volunteering initiatives which actively conserve and manage the natural and cultural heritage of the National Park.
• Promote understanding of the National Park’s historic and archaeological heritage by supporting local communities to volunteer and become involved in community archaeological projects.

Objective 1.3.4 - To ensure understanding of the special qualities of the National Park amongst existing visitors.

Means to achieve:

• Work with partners to use the Sill as a means by which visitors can better understand the special qualities of the National Park and landscapes in general.
• Use social media as a means of providing information to support access to the National Park.
• Develop a programme of events that cover a comprehensive range of subjects based on the special qualities of the National Park.
• Ensure interesting research and local studies are promoted through websites, newspapers and local radio.

Young Volunteer working in the Cheviots

Local School visit to the Breamish Valley

Mosaic Project event at Hareshaw Linn
Aim 2:
A Distinctive Place – To manage, conserve and enhance the distinctive natural and cultural qualities of the National Park.

Outcome 2.1:
A distinctive place that will maintain a sense of inspiration and tranquillity.

Objective 2.1.1 - To protect and enhance tranquillity levels as the highest in England.

Means to achieve:

• Ensure new developments are in line with the agreed Planning Policies set out in the Northumberland National Park Local Plan.

• Using the Campaign to Protect Rural England’s agreed methodology to monitor the levels of tranquillity.

• Ensure that outside lighting in the National Park is compliant with the International Dark Sky Park Lighting Master Plan and work towards a target of 100% compliance by 2023.

Objective 2.1.2 - To conserve and enhance the National Park’s distinctive characteristics and sense of place.

Means to achieve:

• Ensure that policies and programmes reflect the combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity that comprise the National Character Area profiles encompassing the National Park.

Objective 2.1.3 - To ensure that all new development within or on the fringe of the National Park will conserve or enhance the natural and cultural qualities of the National Park.

Means to achieve:

• Ensure that local planning policies, national planning policy/guidance and development management decisions effectively address the natural and cultural qualities of the National Park.

• Consult neighbouring Local Planning Authorities on major development proposals within the National Park that have potential flood risk implications.

• Ensure effective design guidance is available and promoted and that good design is celebrated.

• Assess developments on the fringe of the National Park in accordance with agreed criteria to protect and enhance the distinctive place and sense of tranquillity.

• Work with landowners, communities, visitors, partners and service/utilities providers to explore opportunities to reduce and mitigate the effect of overhead infrastructure (particularly electricity lines) on landscape character and views across the National Park.

Objective 2.1.4 - To ensure that visitor and recreational use is sympathetic to the character and capacity of the locations in which it takes place.

Means to achieve:

• Work with user groups, statutory bodies, partners and land managers to implement recreation plans for any areas of the National Park that suffer from inappropriate use.

• Work with user groups and event organisers to develop guidance for the management of large scale challenge events across the National Park.

• Positively promote and enhance low-impact recreational access to tranquil areas through the promotion of sustainable transport.

• Support appropriate new visitor and recreational infrastructure which is sympathetic to its setting within the National Park.

Objective 2.1.5 – To support the Otterburn Ranges in conserving and enhancing natural and cultural qualities and tranquillity.

Means to achieve:

• Continue to review, develop and implement the agreed Integrated Rural Management Plan for the Otterburn Ranges.

[22] A national character area (NCA) is a natural sub-division of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity.
Objective 2.2.1 - To encourage and support land management practices to bring about measurable improvements in the natural environment and deliver the Natural Environment Vision 2014-2035.

Means to achieve:

- Facilitate the maximum uptake of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme whilst ensuring that options are appropriately used and a landscape-scale approach is taken.
- Establish an effective evidence base for the priority habitats and species that act as a barometer for the health of the uplands, and target specific projects to enhance them.
- Maintain current levels of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in unfavourable recovering condition (95%) and increase the number of sites in favourable condition and work towards the Biodiversity 2020 target for the latter (50%).
- Ensure forestry practice is undertaken to the highest standards and respects and protects the special qualities of the National Park in accordance with National Character Area Profiles and the principle of ‘The Right Tree in the Right Place’.
- Pilot initiatives on climate change adaptation and natural flood management.
- Use the Sill to provide a greater level of understanding of the geological and ecological qualities of the National Park.
- Enhance resilience by ensuring that habitats are linked and restored inside (and buffering) the National Park, including in the Border Uplands and Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership areas.
- Ensure that all moorland holdings have up to date moorland management plans including burning plans and wildfire risk management plans.
- Protect existing stands of trees by watching for the early signs of disease and take prompt and appropriate action when necessary.
- Improve the resilience of tree populations by ensuring diversity within new planting schemes and promoting natural regeneration where appropriate.

Outcome 2.2: The natural qualities and diverse habitats that characterise the changing landscapes will be safeguarded and enhanced.

Otterburn Ranges

[23] Such as the UK Forestry Standard.

Objective 2.3.1 - To protect and enhance the historic environment and archaeological sites within the National Park.

Means to achieve:

- Prepare an Historic Environment Vision for the National Park.
- Through the Sill, develop and implement a heritage skills programme to support communities and businesses to conserve the historic environment.
- Continue to review, develop and implement the agreed Integrated Rural Management Plan for the Otterburn Ranges (including the Cultural Heritage Management Plan).
- Complete a review of the National Park’s historic buildings, including new listing and scheduling where appropriate and use this data to enhance the Historic Environment Record.
- Continue to tackle historic buildings, archaeological sites, monuments and landscapes that are at risk.

Objective 2.3.2 - To develop further understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park.

Means to achieve:

- Improve the research and understanding of the National Park’s historic environment by supporting local archaeology and history groups, Universities, contractors and individuals to draw upon published research.
- Support and promote community-based archaeology and heritage activities.
- Work with research institutions, universities and experts to record, promote and develop new forms of expressing the traditional cultural heritage of Northumberland including dialect, literature, art and music.

Objective 2.4.1 - To perpetuate the vibrant traditions of the National Park and its gateway communities as part of the distinctive character of the area.

Means to achieve:

- Support activities which protect and celebrate cultural traditions through community and visitor events and activities.
- Support activities which develop links with the wider region and provide opportunities to promote the cultural traditions of Northumberland, including its music and dialect.
- Use the Sill to increase the quality and number of events that promote cultural traditions whilst ensuring that they are linked to those of partner organisations where appropriate.
- Promote existing and new media and technological advances to record, interpret and promote the cultural and traditions of the National Park.
- Support communities to become involved in cultural and artistic projects.
Outcome 3.1:
New and better approaches to sustainable land and water management have been tested, adopted and embedded.

Objective 3.1.1 - To encourage and support the uptake of better and more sustainable land management practices which conserve and enhance the National Park’s qualities.

Means to achieve:

• Target high levels of engagement by farmers in the land management and woodland elements of Countryside Stewardship.

• Maintain the percentage of farmland in the National Park in the Higher Tier of Countryside Stewardship (at or above 90%) to better manage the natural and historic environment of the National Park.

• Support the development of commercially-viable sustainable farming, fishing, forestry and grouse moor management practices which conserve and/or enhance the National Park.

• Work with farmers to promote and support High Nature Value Farming.

• Work with European partners, UK specialists and local land managers to further develop landscape-scale risk management of wildfire and develop more effective means of mitigating risks.

• Support the re-design of forestry plantations to achieve a better contribution to the landscape and other environmental benefits, such as water quality improvements.

• Encourage local genetic diversity and resilience in woodland management by promoting the planting of local seed stock alongside stock derived from more southerly seed zones and record and map the population of veteran and ancient trees across the National Park.

• Support landscape-scale management to deliver natural and cultural heritage conservation.

Objective 3.1.2 - To ensure that all the National Park’s rivers are of the highest quality and minimise the flood risk and impacts to communities and businesses.

Means to achieve:

• Use the Countryside Stewardship scheme and UK Forestry Standard to mitigate against diffuse pollution in priority catchments, and apply lessons learnt in other parts of the National Park.

• Manage flood waters through interventions designed to retain flood waters in the upper catchments, and restore and enhance water-dependent habitats such as blanket bogs.

• Develop systems to alert businesses, farmers and communities to the dangers of flood waters and increase their levels of resilience.
Objective 3.2.1 - To promote and implement sustainable land management practices which contribute to ecosystem services using the natural capital provided by the National Park.

Means to achieve:

- Implement pilot initiatives in land management, recreation and public engagement in relation to sustainable development and climate change.
- Undertake research and better understand and measure the impact of climate change on the natural and cultural qualities of the National Park and its economy.
- Ensure that work on climate change contributes to sub-regional, regional and national programmes.
- Raise awareness of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme amongst land managers and help to target the scheme to enhance ecosystem services.

Objective 3.2.2 - To encourage the production of renewable energy from sources compatible with the National Park’s distinctive qualities.

Means to achieve:

- Use the planning system to deliver high levels of energy efficiency and appropriate forms of renewable energy in the National Park.
- Work with landowners, partners, communities and service providers to help reduce levels of fuel poverty in the National Park.
- Work with landowners, communities and partners to promote the planting and use of locally-sourced wood fuel for properties in and around the National Park.

Outcome 3.2: The National Park makes an important contribution to achieving sustainable development and responding to climate change.
Objective 3.3.1 – To strengthen and diversify the markets for businesses that relate to achieving National Park purposes.
Means to achieve:
• Identify and promote products and produce that are traditional to the National Park and surrounding areas.
• Develop local supply chains to retain added value in the local economy.
• Improve and increase access to business support and training.
• Ensure the business community is well served with rural enterprise hubs in appropriate locations.

Objective 3.3.2 - To grow the tourism market in and around the National Park.
Means to achieve:
• Undertake research to better understand why visitors come to the National Park and use the results to inform actions to encourage longer stays, greater spend and more visits. Use the research to assist businesses to design products and services accordingly.
• Develop and cross-promote a clear National Park and Sill brand.
• Through the Sill generate additional tourism visits as well as educational visits.

Objective 3.3.3 - To retain, attract and develop new and traditional skills to meet the demand of enterprises and business growth in key sectors.
Means to achieve:
• Ensure training and development opportunities exist for young entrants into the labour market to join the dominant land based business sectors as well as the growing occupational sectors (tourism, further and higher education and cultural/creative enterprises).
• Focus skills development on existing and predicted skills gaps in the labour market.
Aim 4:
Thriving Communities - To ensure the thriving and vibrant communities have a strong sense of place and an economy grounded in the natural and cultural qualities of the National Park.

Outcome 4.1:
The communities in and around the National Park will have a strong connection to, and appreciation of, the National Park and be fully engaged in shaping its future.

Objective 4.1.1 - To increase understanding of the distinctive natural and cultural qualities of the National Park so that communities have strong connections and a recognisable sense of identity.

Means to achieve:
• Work with partners to use the Sill to engage communities in understanding and interpreting the special qualities of Northumberland National Park including its links with Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
• Use the Sill to showcase local goods and services from across the National Park and beyond.

Objective 4.1.2 - To ensure greater levels of community engagement in local decision making so that people can contribute to the future well-being of the National Park.

Means to achieve:
• Provide effective advocacy for the National Park and its communities.
• Work with partners to use the Sill to enable and empower communities to showcase and develop their knowledge and skills.

Objective 4.2:
Effective infrastructure supports active communities with a high quality of life and improved health and well-being.

Objective 4.2.1 - To ensure a balanced range of housing that meets local needs.

Means to achieve:
• Work with communities, partners, house-builders and registered providers to explore innovative housing solutions (including affordable housing) to meet identified local needs.
• Review planning policies to ensure that identified local housing and employment needs can be met without compromising the special qualities of the National Park.

Objective 4.2.2 – To ensure the retention of rural services

Means to achieve:
• Support the development of shared public and community services and infrastructure within the National Park.
• Work with communities, partners and service providers to explore innovative ways to maintain and improve essential rural services and community infrastructure that meets identified needs.
• Ensure that local planning policies, national planning policy/guidance and development management decisions maintain the sustainability of rural settlements through the retention and provision of rural services and infrastructure.
Objective 4.2.3 - To enable an integrated transport network which offers an attractive alternative to the car.

Means to achieve:

- Influence public transport providers to ensure the communities and visitors have access to appropriate levels of public transport.
- Work with local community groups and others to develop shared car models for use across the National Park.
- Pilot new initiatives to provide public transport within and to the National Park.

Objective 4.2.4 – To increase the use of renewable energy by communities in the National Park by 20% by 2021 and continue work on increasing energy efficiency.

Means to achieve:

- Support the increased use of locally-harvested wood fuel as a renewable source of energy.
- Proactively work with communities, elected representatives, partners and service providers to identify cost effective electricity connections for off-grid properties.

Objective 4.2.5 – To increase levels of public health and well-being

Means to achieve:

- Work with partners to support local Walking for Health initiatives and ‘stepping stone projects’ that allow for gradual increases in the levels of exertion and challenge.
- Facilitate capital investment in infrastructure for walking and cycling routes and networks.
- Work with partners to ensure that the potential wider benefits from ecosystems services and natural capital are realised in relation to health and wellbeing.

Outcome 4.3:
People have opportunities to work and live in resilient communities in and around the National Park.

Objective 4.3.1 - There are more young adults and people of working age living in the National Park.

Means to achieve:

- Support the creation of affordable housing that meets the identified needs of young adults and working-age households in the National Park.
- Work with Rural Growth Network partners to provide improved pathways to employment and vocational learning for young people.

Objective 4.3.2 - There are more opportunities for employment and training in the National Park and its gateway settlements.

Means to achieve:

- Implement and encourage programmes or developments which deliver training and employment opportunities in the National Park and its gateway settlements.
- Ensure all the gateway settlements have access to a rural enterprise hub.

Objective 4.3.3 - Reduce the impact from commuting out of the National Park or its gateway communities and encourage more home working.

Means to achieve:

- Advocate for infrastructure and services which support effective home working, such as improving broadband connectivity and mobile coverage.
Objective 5.1.1 - To optimise opportunities for the National Park to contribute to the social and economic regeneration of Northumberland and wider North East Region.

Means to achieve:

- Assess the current economic value of Northumberland National Park to the Region and target investment to maximise its potential.
- Celebrate the value of the National Park in providing environmental, economic and social benefits by highlighting its contribution to local, regional and national targets.
- Develop the Sill as a nationally significant Landscape Discovery Centre and ensure that the economic and social benefits from the Sill and other partner initiatives are measured and promoted.

Objective 5.1.2 - The natural, cultural, social and economic infrastructure of the National Park is sustained through its use as a local and regional asset.

Means to achieve:

- Facilitate investment in programmes that maintain and improve the quality of the National Park’s infrastructure.

Objective 5.2.1 - To ensure the National Park has a role in leading on protected area management which relate to its natural and cultural assets.

Means to achieve:

- Work across borders to deliver landscape-scale or regional projects that protect wildlife and cultural heritage and ensure landscape connectivity.
- Develop and implement best practice to military use in protected areas.
- Develop and implement best practice in the monitoring and enhancement of tranquillity levels in protected areas.
- Share learning with and learn from other protected areas.
- Continue to support the work of the Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership (LNP) and the Border Uplands Partnership as a recognised Nature Improvement Area (NIA).
- Use International Dark Sky Park status to promote best practice in the reduction of light pollution across the National Park and neighbouring areas.

Outcome 5.3
The value of the National Park is clearly demonstrated by the policies and actions of all who have an influence on the National Park.

Objective 5.3.1 - To ensure national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes demonstrate a commitment to delivering National Park purposes.

Means to achieve:

- Ensure representation on behalf of the National Park is made in national, regional and local plan and programme development.
- Encourage other public bodies to support National Park Purposes through their policies and actions.
Implementation and Monitoring of the Plan
Implementation and Monitoring of the Plan
Implementation -
The Management Plan Partnership

The National Park Management Plan sets out the long term vision, aims, outcomes, and objectives for the next twenty years. The achievement of the objectives set out in the Plan will require the commitment and efforts not only of the National Park Authority, but of a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

The Plan does not attempt to identify all the partners involved in the delivery of each area of the Plan. It is, however, intended that the Plan will continue to be led and implemented by the Management Plan Partnership through Annual Action Plans which will detail the role of the National Park Authority and all its partners in delivering the stated objectives.

The Plan will be used to promote the needs of the National Park within the policy and delivery documents of key public sector partners and to also prioritise the work and resources of the National Park Authority. However, for the Plan to be effective its implementation will require that partners also align elements of their resources, programmes and policies to reflect the agreed vision, aims, outcomes and objectives.

Implementation by ‘affiliated partner’ organisations

There is much ongoing work carried out by the public, private, community and voluntary sectors that is already contributing to the strategic aims and outcomes of the Management Plan. The Plan provides a framework for co-ordinating much of this activity and the National Park Authority is keen to engage all partners in the delivery of the Plan.

Achievement of the Management Plan’s objectives requires the commitment and efforts of a wide range of other organisations and individuals as well as the core group of Management Plan Partners[24]. Local communities, landowners, the people who live and work in the National Park, volunteers and visitors all have a role to play, as do parish councils. More specifically, the organisations listed below are instrumental in achieving one or more of the objectives set out in this Management Plan.

Affiliated partner organisations will be engaged with partners on particular issues specifically related to their organisational activities. This list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive and will be kept under review by the strategic group of core Management Plan Partnership organisations.

[24] The membership of the core Management Plan Partnership group may be subject to future change as agreed by the Partnership.
Northumberland National Park Authority will lead the process of monitoring and reporting progress on the Plan as a whole, and continue to use the agreed set of performance measures to monitor the condition of the National Park and to measure progress in achieving the vision, aims, outcomes and objectives of the Management Plan.

Consequently the Authority will continue to:

- Publish an annual progress report.
- Publish a periodic ‘State of the National Park’ report.

While the National Park Authority is the statutory body required to develop the Management Plan, the Plan is for the National Park not just the Authority. The established Management Plan Partnership will continue to produce Annual Action Plans to implement and assess progress on the achievement of the objectives for the future of the National Park.

The core group of Partners will take the role of leading on specific themes relevant to their activities and the projects that they deliver thereby planning, coordinating and reporting on relevant targets as necessary through the Partnership and the Action Plans. They will also take the lead on the reporting of projects where other organisations or affiliated partners are delivering the project or associated actions on their behalf.

It is a requirement to review the Management Plan every five years. The Partnership will continue to use the annual monitoring process to keep the Plan current thereby allowing it to adapt its priorities and/or approach if faced with significant changes in the evidence upon which it has been based or in the context in which it has been prepared.
## Glossary of Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agri-environment schemes</strong></td>
<td>Various government programmes which provide funding for farmers and landowners to encourage land management which has environmental benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Affordable Housing</strong></td>
<td>Housing that is available for people with a local connection who cannot afford to rent or buy houses on the open market. It includes rented housing, shared ownership and other subsidised schemes usually developed by housing associations or local councils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ancient Woodland</strong></td>
<td>A general term used for woodlands which have had a continuous history since at least 1600, and probably much earlier. They are of very high nature conservation and cultural heritage value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bio-security</strong></td>
<td>A set of preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases in crops and livestock, quarantined pests, invasive alien species, trees, woodlands, forests and living modified organisms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crown Land</strong></td>
<td>Crown land is land in which there is a Crown interest or a Duchy interest. Operational Crown land is land owned or managed by Crown bodies which is used or held for operational purposes (including the Ministry of Defence).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Ecosystem Services** | Ecosystem services describe the multiple beneficial ‘services’ derived by society from ecosystems. These services are many and substantial, underpinning basic human health and survival needs as well as supporting economic activities, the fulfilment of potential and enjoyment of life. There are four main types:  
  - Provisioning services – such as timber production, food production.  
  - Regulating services – such as climate control, disease control.  
  - Supporting services – such as crop pollination, nutrient cycling.  
  - Cultural services – such as recreation. |
| **Ecosystems Approach** | This is the management of whole ecosystems and their benefits using the framework of ecosystem services in order to determine multiple, simultaneous benefits whilst ensuring that the realisation of one benefit is not achieved through the inadvertent degradation of other benefits or the net harm to other beneficiaries (including future generations). |
| **Green Infrastructure** | A planned or managed network of open spaces, including areas such as parks and gardens, countryside areas and amenity open space, designed to improve the quality of life and provide for the needs of nearby communities. |
| **Listed building** | A building recognised to be of national historic importance, designated and protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. |
| **Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)** | NIAs are a network of large scale initiatives to improve ecological connectivity and improve biodiversity. As of 2015 the NIAs cover 47,000 acres of England in total. Since 2012, the NIAs have also added a further 13,500 acres, as well as a total of 335 miles of new footpaths for public access. |
| Natural Capital | Natural capital refers to both the living (e.g. fish stocks, forests) and non-living (e.g. minerals, energy resources) aspects of nature which produce value to people, both directly and indirectly. It is this capital that underpins all other capital in our economy and society. It refers to the actual stock (living and non-living parts) that provides value. |
| National Character Areas (NCAs) | A national character area (NCA) is a natural sub-division of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 NCAs and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries. NCAs share similar landscape characteristics which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment. |
| NCA Profiles | These are guidance documents which can help communities make decisions about the places that they live in and care for. |
| Neighbourhood Plans | Plans produced by a local parish or town council to guide the amount and location of new development in their area. Once agreed, following a local inquiry and referendum, Neighbourhood Plans form part of the planning policies used by the local planning authority. |
| Permitted Development Rights | The right to carry out relatively minor development without the need for planning permission, as allowed under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, and later amendments. In some designated areas, including national parks and conservation areas, these rights are more restricted. |
| Scheduled Ancient Monument | A designated archaeological site, building or structure of national importance that is protected from destruction or change under the provisions of the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. |
| Local Wildlife Sites | Non-statutory sites of local importance for nature conservation, identified by local authorities and given some level of protection by local planning policies. |
| Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) | Nationally important sites for nature conservation designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended). |
| Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. Article 3 of the Habitats Directive requires the establishment of a European network of conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in the Directive. In Northumberland National Park there are 6 SACs, some of them made up of several constituent areas. |
| Village Design Statements | Village Design Statements (VDS) are documents prepared by local communities to help conserve the distinctive character of their village. They include guidelines to influence the design of any new development in their area, adding local detail to existing planning guidance. |
Curlew, emblem of Northumberland National Park
Appendix 1: Management Plan Partner Organisations

Core Strategic Partnership Group

Northumberland National Park Authority; Northumberland County Council; The Environment Agency; Natural England; English Heritage; Historic England; Northumberland Tourism Ltd.; The Country Land and Business Association; The Defence Infrastructure Organisation; Northumberland County Joint Local Access Forum; Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust; The National Farmers Union; The Forestry Commission; The Northumberland National Park Foundation; and; The North East Farming and Rural Advisory Network.

Affiliated Partners:

- Arch: The Northumberland Development Company
- Arts Council England
- British Telecom and other telecommunications service providers
- Confor
- Cumbria County Council
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Hadrian’s Wall Partnership Board
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Landowners (estates)
- National Trust
- National Grid
- National Health Service
- North East Chamber of Commerce
- North East Combined Authority
- North East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Network Rail
- Northern Powergrid
- Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership
- Northumbria Police
- Northumbrian Water Ltd
- Northumberland College
- Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service
- Northumberland LEADER Action Group
- Northumberland Local Resilience Forum
- Northumberland Rivers Trust
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust
- Pennine Way Association
- Public Health England
- Tweed Forum
- Glendale Gateway Community Development Trust
- Tyne Rivers Trust
- The Homes and Communities Agency
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- The Youth Hostels Association (England and Wales)

[25] This list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive.