



Northumberland National Park

Northumberland National Park Management Plan

Annual Action Plan 2010/11

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Introduction

The Northumberland National Park Management Plan – Inspiring Landscapes, Thriving Communities sets out a long term vision, outcomes and objectives to guide the future of Northumberland National Park to 2014. The achievement of the objectives set out in the Management Plan will require the commitment and efforts not only of the National Park Authority, but of a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

This Annual Action Plan provides the detailed actions for the National Park Authority and its partners to deliver the objectives of the Management Plan during the first year to 31 March 2011. It has been prepared by the Northumberland National Park Management Plan Partnership, comprising: Natural England, One North East, English Heritage, Forestry Commission, Defence Estates, Northumberland Tourism Limited, Northumberland National Park and County Joint Local Access Forum, Northumberland County Council and the Environment Agency. In addition a number of other partners have contributed to the development of this Action Plan.

Alongside the Action Plan a monitoring framework has been developed to record the condition of the National Park to enable an assessment of progress of delivering the vision and outcomes. It is the intention of the Management Plan Partnership to openly and regularly report on progress in delivery of the Management Plan and the National Park Authority website will be updated quarterly to include information on the achievement of actions and other key monitoring information www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk/npmanagementplan.htm.

Comments on this Annual Action Plan and Monitoring Framework are welcomed. Comments and enquiries can be directed to Jo-Anne Garrick, Forward Planning and Performance Manager on 01431 611577 or by email to Jo-Anne.Garrick@nnpa.org.uk

| Key | | |
|--|--|--|
| DE Defence Estates | CPRE Campaign to Protect Rural England | EA Environment Agency |
| EH English Heritage | FC Forestry Commission | HLS Higher Level Stewardship Scheme |
| HWH Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd | JLAF Joint Local Access Forum | NCC Northumberland County Council |
| NE Natural England | NNPA Northumberland National Park Authority | NTL Northumberland Tourism Limited |
| NW Northwoods | NWT Northumberland Wildlife Trust | ONE One North East |
| TNNE Tourism Network North East | | |

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| Outcome | Outcome Lead | NNPA Lead | Objective | Action | End Date | Action Lead | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------|--|---|----------|-------------|--|-----------|------|
| 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 and will have enjoyed their visit | NTL Giles Ingram | Duncan Wise | 1.1.1 To maintain and improve levels of visitor satisfaction | Improve the quality of the tourism product by encouraging 10 new tourism businesses and additional attractions to participate in the national quality inspection scheme | Mar 2011 | NTL | | | |
| | | | | Improve the quality of the tourism workforce by providing tourism business training and support to 40 businesses | Mar 2011 | NTL | | | |
| | | | | Use the results of the National Park Tourism Audit to produce Tourism and Audience Development Action Plans to highlight priorities for provision of accommodation, attractions, visitor facilities and engagement to be taken forward through targeted investment programmes | Mar 2011 | NNPA | | | |
| | | | 1.1.2 To achieve a high standard and broad range in facilities, information and service within the National Park | | | | Survey 15% of the Public Rights of Way network to inform the preparation of an annual public rights of way Action Plan and deliver schedules of work to improve access on 10% of the network | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | | | | Prepare and implement an annual programme of works on National Trails. A key action will be to improve around 400 metres of the Border Ridge section of the Pennine Way | Mar 2011 | NE |
| | | | | | | | Secure Heritage Grant funding for the development phase of 'The Sill' project (by Jun 2010). Upon successful bid for funding initiate development phase (September 2010) | Sept 2010 | NNPA |
| | | | | | | | Complete 'Sounding the Sill' interpretation project | June 2010 | NNPA |
| 1.2 The National Park will be accessible to a wider and more diverse audience including people | NNPA Duncan Wise | | 1.2.1 To increase visits to Northumberland National Park by those living within the region by 10% from the 2009 baseline by March 2014 | Promote the National Park and wider Hadrian's Wall area as one of the 7 major attractions for new visitors to the region through the Visit North East England website and marketing campaign | Mar 2011 | TNNE | | | |
| | | | | Work with 3 outdoor activity providers to develop and engage audiences | Mar 2011 | NNPA | | | |

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|---|--------------|-----------|---|--|----------|--|--|----------|------|
| who live in, work in and visit the National Park | | | 1.2.2 To increase visits from currently under-represented groups by 10% by 2014 | Upgrade 2 routes and 1 site to become accessible to all | Mar 2011 | NNPA | | | |
| | | | | Through the MOSAIC project improve awareness and understanding of the National Park amongst the regions Black and Minority Ethnic communities by working with Community Champions to draft and deliver Year 2 MOSAIC Park Action Plan. Host a minimum of 2 visits involving 6 'Community Champions' from BME communities | Mar 2011 | NNPA | | | |
| | | | | Deliver 10 'Walks to Wellbeing ' involving a minimum of 150 people in the National Park | Mar 2011 | NNPA | | | |
| | | | 1.2.3 To improve information and infrastructure with more sites in the National Park accessible to all | | | | Encourage all tourist facilities to prepare an Access Statement setting out their existing provision for visitors with a disability | Mar 2011 | ONE |
| | | | | | | | Review on-site interpretation and signage and produce rolling maintenance programme across the National Park | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | | | | Deliver 1 project to increase virtual access to the National Park | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | | | | Development of a programme of HLS 'Access only' agreements to increase: connectivity between routes, permissive access and educational access in the National Park | Mar 2011 | NE |
| | | | | | | | Deliver the maintenance and upgrading of 4 key multi user routes | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | 1.3 A more diverse range of learning opportunities will be available to help people understand, value and contribute to conserving, | NNPA Duncan Wise | | 1.3.1 To use the resource of the National Park to provide relevant and increased access to learning and educational opportunities for young people (primary,secondary, higher and further education) | Work with schools to deliver 10 Learning Outside the Classroom experiences in the National Park to engage a minimum of 300 young people aged 5-19 years of age | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| Work with 2 local schools to achieve Sustainable Schools status | Mar 2011 | NNPA | | | | | | | |

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| enhancing and enjoying the National Park's distinctive natural and cultural qualities | | | 1.3.2 To use the resource of the National Park to provide relevant and increased access to vocational skills and training opportunities | 10 rural skills trainees recruited, 8 attaining intermediate dry stone walling qualifications and 8 farm apprentices recruited, attaining Work Place Diplomas | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | 1.3.3 To enhance the use of the National Park as a resource to provide relevant and increased opportunities for adults and young people to become involved in participatory learning activities and volunteering | Deliver 6 talks and 5 walks to provide opportunities for people to take part in learning activities within the National Park | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | 1.3.4 To ensure understanding of the special qualities amongst existing visitors | Year 2 of Coast & Country (3yr programme) to deliver 4 training seminars for local tourism businesses and 1 summer field trip | Jun 2010 | NNPA |
| 2.1 A distinctive place that will maintain a sense of inspiration and tranquillity | NNPA Jo-Anne Garrick | | 2.1.1 To protect and enhance tranquillity levels as the highest in England | Reassess tranquillity mapping to monitor any change in areas classified as tranquil and prepare a Tranquillity Supplementary Planning Document | Sept 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | 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 | Preparation of a Landscape Strategy and Landscape Supplementary Planning Document | Dec 2010 | NNPA |
| | | | | Revision of the Building Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document | Jun 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | 2.1.4 To ensure that visitor and recreational use complements the character | The outcomes and objectives of the Management Plan are fully embedded into the new Local Development Framework for Northumberland County Council | Mar 2011 | NCC |
| | | | | Illegal use reduced and surface condition improved on 1 key route | Mar 2011 | NNPA |

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| | | | and capacity of the locations in which it takes place | | | |
| | | | 2.1.5 Ongoing integration of the Otterburn Ranges to conserve and enhance natural and cultural qualities and tranquillity | The outcomes and objectives of the Management Plan are fully embedded in the Integrated Rural Management Plan for the Otterburn Ranges | Jun 2011 | DE |
| 2.2 The natural qualities and diverse habitats that characterise the changing landscapes will be safeguarded and enhanced | NE Adrian Vass | Elaine Rigg | 2.2.1 To encourage and support land management practices to deliver measurable improvements in the natural environment | Increase the farmed area of the National Park in Higher Level Stewardship to 30% | Mar 2011 | NE |
| | | | | Complete condition assessments for those SSSIs that have not been surveyed in the last 6 years | Mar 2011 | NE |
| | | | | Develop a programme of priority species and habitat monitoring | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Deliver 20 Biodiversity Action Plan actions to enhance priority species and habitats. Implement a programme of action to highlight the International Year of Biodiversity. | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Section 39 Woodlands – survey 30 sites, complete 10 Management Statements, and complete maintenance work on 10 sites | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Use the results of the Ancient Woodland Ecological Condition Survey to target woodland improvement at 5 priority sites | Mar 2011 | FC |
| | | | 2.2.2 To enhance locally and regionally important geology and habitats to ensure resilience and to ensure that habitats are linked | Deliver 1 existing (Cheviot Futures) and initiate 1 new, strategic landscape scale biodiversity projects | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Develop a moorland historic environment characterisation project as part of a multi-disciplinary research project to study how climate change has affected landscapes, habitats and settlement in the past to inform future adaptation | Mar 2011 | NNPA |

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| 2.3 The rich historic environment and archaeological heritage will be understood, valued and cared for | EH Alan Hunter | Elaine Rigg | 2.3.1 To protect the historic environment and archaeological sites within the National Park | Prepare a Historic Environment Strategy and Action Plan | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Prepare a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for the Kirknewton Conservation Area | Dec 2010 | NNPA |
| | | | | Develop a Heritage at Risk Project and appoint project officer to: promote awareness of Heritage at Risk issues in the National Park; establish a National Park Heritage at Risk register and monitor progress; carry out the training of the Volunteer Rangers to train local community groups and others to deliver the SMAR Project; seek funding to implement repair and conservation projects that reduce risks and remove assets from the register | Mar 2011 | EH |
| | | | | Ensure all sites within the Authority's care have up to date condition assessment | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Develop a new protected landscape project to conserve and enhance the nationally important landscape at Lordenshaws | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Undertake a farmstead characterisation project to record the historic farmsteads of the National Park and target traditional farm buildings for restoration and maintenance. | Mar 2011 | EH/ NE |
| | | | | Develop the Ingram Farm Heritage Management Agreement to deliver: agreed management prescriptions for routine maintenance tasks, access improvements, and opportunities to promote understanding; | 2014 | EH |
| | | | | Develop and implement a Management Plan for the Old Palace at Yeavinger as part of a landscape wide interpretation plan for the historic environment of the area and to support the work of the Gefrin Trust | Aug 2010 | NE |

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| | | | 2.3.2 To develop further understanding of the cultural heritage of the National Park | Improve baseline research of the historic environment and archaeological heritage based on the National Park and Hadrian's Wall Research Frameworks | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| 2.4 There is a strong and recognisable sense of identity which is born of the deep rooted cultural heritage yet balances this with a vibrant approach to the future | NTL Giles Ingram NCC Nigel Walsh | Andrew Miller | 2.4.1 To perpetuate the vibrant living traditions of the National Park and its gateway communities as part of the distinctive character of the area | Support 2 traditional music festivals, 2 local businesses in developing or promoting creative and artistic products, 2 community led interpretation activities, 5 agricultural shows, 1 large scale cultural event | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Ensure the Northumberland Events and Festivals Strategy and the Regional Events Strategy identifies festivals and events that celebrate the vibrant living traditions and distinctive character of the National Park | Mar 2011 | NTL |
| 3.1 New and better approaches to sustainable land and water management have been tested, adopted and embedded | NE Adrian Vass | Elaine Rigg | 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 distinctive qualities | Deliver 8 new and add value to 15 existing Higher Level Stewardship Schemes across the National Park area | Mar 2011 | NE |
| | | | | Deliver 6 Woodland Creation Grant Schemes across the National Park area | Mar 2011 | FC |
| | | | | Deliver 150 farms into Upland Entry Level Scheme | Mar 2011 | NE |
| | | | | All Forestry Commission woods and forests in the National Park to be managed using Forest Design Plans | Mar 2011 | FC |
| | | | | Develop a local accord and action plan between NNPA and Forestry Commission to identify priorities for joint working | Jun 2010 | NNPA/ FC |
| | | | 3.1.2 To ensure that all the National Park's rivers are of the highest quality and minimise the flood risk and | Develop the Coquet and Kirknewton and Pawston Bowmount Water Higher Level Stewardship Schemes to increase resilience to flooding and reduce diffuse pollution | Mar 2011 | NE |

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| | | | impacts to communities and businesses | Target 8 HLS along the River Rede and North Tyne | Mar 2011 | NE |
| | | | | Complete the Cheviot Sheep Dip project and deliver the first phase of the Coquet and Aln Sheep Dip project | Mar 2011 | EA |
| 3.2 The National Park has made an important contribution to increasing understanding about, and demonstrating the practice of, sustainable development and responses to climate change | NNPA Robert Mayhew | | 3.2.1 To promote and implement sustainable land management practices which contribute to effective carbon sequestration and storage | Secure funding for phase 2 interpretation of Cheviot Futures in the Breamish Valley, including developing Ingram Visitor Centre as an exemplar of sustainability | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | 3.2.2 To encourage the production of renewable energy from sources compatible with the National Park's distinctive qualities | 4 micro renewable projects investigated and progressed | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Implementation of NULogs wood fuel project to provide support to small operators in the wood fuel sector. Develop a local brand and online map of suppliers | Mar 2011 | NW |
| | | | | Undertake a survey of all households to establish baseline data on fuel poverty and the energy efficiency of homes across the National Park | Jun 2010 | NNPA |
| | | | 3.2.3 To work towards a carbon neutral National Park | Protect existing and establish opportunities for carbon sequestration – increase the area of native woodland planting within the National Park by 50ha, and 100% of peat bogs maintained in existing or improving condition | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| 3.3 There is sustained and economically viable business growth in sectors which sensitively make use of the natural, historical | NTL Giles Ingram NNPA Duncan Wise | | 3.3.1 To strengthen and diversify the local, regional and national markets for businesses that relate either directly or indirectly to achieving the National Park purposes | Develop a 'nature based' tourism cluster for the National Park and Kielder Forest and Water Park | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Promote traditional local products, such as 'Made in Northumberland', 'Hadrian's Wall Local' and 'Northumberland Larder' | Mar 2011 | NTL |
| | | | | Support and advise 60 businesses, provide 40 business grants, 75 community grants and 20 other grants | Mar 2011 | NNPA |

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| and cultural qualities | | | 3.3.2 To grow the tourism market in and around the National Park by developing and marketing the experience thereby encouraging visitors to stay longer and spend more on local goods and services | Development of 2 cycle hubs (Haltwhistle and Wooler) | Mar 2011 | NCC |
| | | | | Develop and cross-promote a clear National Park brand through its tourism offer, 10 businesses to embed National Park brand | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Secure resources to deliver year 1 of the Tourism Development and action plan | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Work with 5 businesses to realise the potential of Nature Based Tourism in the NNP | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| 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 | NNPA Catriona Mulligan | | 4.1.1 To increase understanding of the distinctive natural and cultural qualities of the National Park so that communities feel they have strong connections to the 'landscapes' and recognisable sense of identity | Provide support for the Coquetdale Community Archaeology Research Agenda, the Tarncliffe Archive Group's Bastle Project, and develop community-based archaeology in the Hadrian's Wall area | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Use National Park Centres as a community and local business resource to showcase local goods and house local services | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Develop the role of the National Park Forum as a key means of securing community engagement in NNPA governance and to inform future policy | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Review of Statement of Community Involvement – to provide a format for community engagement in the preparation of all NNPA policy documents | Sept 2010 | NNPA |
| 4.2 Effective infrastructure (services, facilities, networks etc.) will support socially | NCC Stuart Lawson | Jo-Anne Garrick | 4.2.1 To ensure a balanced range of housing that meets local needs, enabling people to live and work in and around the National Park | Align the 'Action Area' approach with the emerging NCC community forums | Mar 2011 | NNPA/ NCC |
| | | | | Monitor the effectiveness of Core Strategy policies through the annual State of the Park Report | Jun 2010 | NNPA |

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| and culturally active communities with a high quality of life and improved health and wellbeing | | | 4.2.2 To ensure the retention of rural services which keep communities thriving and provide better access to a wider range of services and infrastructure through innovative, integrated and sustainable solutions | Supporting the development of partnership working at a local level by the establishment of community forums. (see 4.1.2) To ensure issues are fed in to area and county structures to influence public service delivery. | Mar 2011 | NCC |
| | | | 4.2.3 To enable an integrated transport network which meets the needs of those who live, work and visit the National Park and offers an attractive alternative to the car | Deliver Hadrian's Wall Bus Service for 2010 | March 2011 | HWH |
| | | | 4.2.4 To increase the use of renewable energy by communities in the National Park by 20% by 2014 while continuing work on increasing energy efficiency | Pilot 1 community and 1 business projects which exemplify low carbon lifestyles | March 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Set up a trial electric charging point at 1 site in the National Park | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| 4.3 People will have opportunities to work in, live in and contribute to resilient communities in and around the National Park | NCC Paul Gee | Jo-Anne Garrick | 4.3.1 There are more young adults and people of working age living in the National Park | Update Housing Needs Survey to provide an up to date understanding of need | Jun 2010 | NNPA |
| | | | 4.3.2 There are more opportunities and a wider range for employment and training in the National Park and its gateway settlements | Development of a training programme comprising a mixture of bursary/apprenticeship placements, work experience, training programmes and guidance and information | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| 5.1 The National Park is widely | NNPA Tony Gates | | 5.1.1 To optimise the potential opportunities for | Ensure the National Park is recognised and has an effective position within regional planning by playing | Mar 2011 | NNPA |

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| recognised for its environmental, social and economic contribution, particularly to North East England | | | the National Park to contribute to the social and economic regeneration of Northumberland and wider North East Region | an active role on the North East Leaders Board | | |
| | | | 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 | Ensure the National Park is recognised and has an effective position within sub regional policy development by playing an active role on the Northumberland Strategic Partnership | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| 5.2 The National Park has made a distinctive contribution to a broader network of protected areas | NNPA Elaine Rigg | | 5.2.1 To ensure the National Park has a recognised role in leading on key areas of protected area management which relate to its natural and cultural assets | Working with key regional partners, communicate key strategic messages of the wider value and benefits of National Parks and the Northumberland National Park. Particularly highlight the contribution of the Northumberland National Park to the economic value of the North East region and its Green Infrastructure | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Deliver 1 landscape scale projects to protect landscape and cultural heritage and ensure landscape connectivity | Mar 2011 | NNPA/ NWT |
| 5.3 The value of the National Park as a place that is worth looking after is clearly demonstrated by the policies and actions of all who have an influence on the National Park | NNPA Tony Gates | | 5.3.1 To ensure national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes clearly demonstrate a commitment to delivering National Park purposes | Development of best practice in monitoring and enhancement of tranquillity levels in protected areas | Sept 2011 | NNPA/ CPRE |
| | | | | Ensure the value of the National Park is embedded in: the emerging Regional Strategy, Regional Forestry Strategy, Regional Biodiversity Strategy, Regional Landscape Framework, NCC Local Development Framework, and NCC Sustainable Community Strategy | Mar 2011 | NNPA |
| | | | | Input to the development of the new National Park Circular | Jun 2010 | NNPA |