

OFFICER DECISION ACTING UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Haltwhistle Neighbourhood Plan Designation

Date of application	4th April 2023
Date of decision	17th April 2023
Name of proposed area	Haltwhistle Neighbourhood Area

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Applying for the designation of a neighbourhood area is the first formal step a Parish or Town Council are required to take if they wish to exercise their neighbourhood planning powers. A 'neighbourhood area' is a defined geographical area in which a Parish Council wish to undertake neighbourhood planning.
- 1.2 This report relates to the designation of a neighbourhood area for Haltwhistle that comprises the boundary of the Civil Parish.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Localism Act of 2011 allows local communities (particularly Parish and Town Councils) to prepare 'Neighbourhood Plans' which, if supported by the wider community in a referendum, become part of the development plan and so have a strong influence on planning decisions in the area. Neighbourhood planning powers are only available to qualifying bodies. Parish and Town Councils automatically apply as qualifying bodies.
- 2.2 Haltwhistle Town Council is the relevant qualifying body for the purposes of Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and therefore qualifies to undertake neighbourhood planning. The Neighbourhood Area designation enables the Town Council to undertake neighbourhood planning and in particular to prepare a neighbourhood development plan for the Civil Parish of Haltwhistle. A relatively large area of the parish falls inside the National Park boundary, however the majority of the area falls within Northumberland County Council. NCC designated the Neighbourhood Area on 15th March 2023.
- 2.4 Northumberland County Council is the lead Authority and will provide the majority of the support to the steering group at future stages of the plan preparation process. However, NNPA will be kept updated with the progress by NCC and will need to be involved in the formal decision making steps.

3.0 Designating the Neighbourhood Area - Consideration

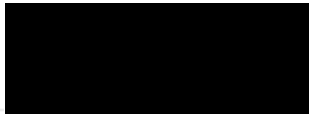
- 3.1 Designation of a Neighbourhood Area is the first formal stage in the preparation of any Neighbourhood Development Plan (although consultation and engagement work can start prior to this designation).

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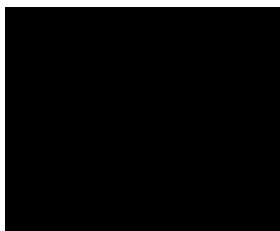
- 3.2 The Regulations explain that it is for the Parish Council (as the relevant body under the Regulations) to submit to the Local Planning Authority (Northumberland National Park Authority) an application to designate the area that the Neighbourhood Plan will cover.
- 3.3 This Town Council has now submitted a request to the National Park Authority to formally designate a Neighbourhood Area to coincide with the boundaries of the Civil Parish. The Town Council included a map with their request and confirmed they were the relevant body under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to make such a request.
- 3.4 It is considered that for the reasons the Town Council have set out, the boundary of the Parish is an appropriate area to be designated for neighbourhood planning purposes.
- 3.5 There is no requirement for the National Park Authority to publicise this designation. However, it is good practice for the details of the designation to be included on the Authority's webpages.

4.0 DECISION

The Haltwhistle Neighbourhood Area is hereby designated for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, in accordance with section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and pursuant to the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.



Susannah Buylla MRTPI
Head of Planning & Policy
17th April 2023

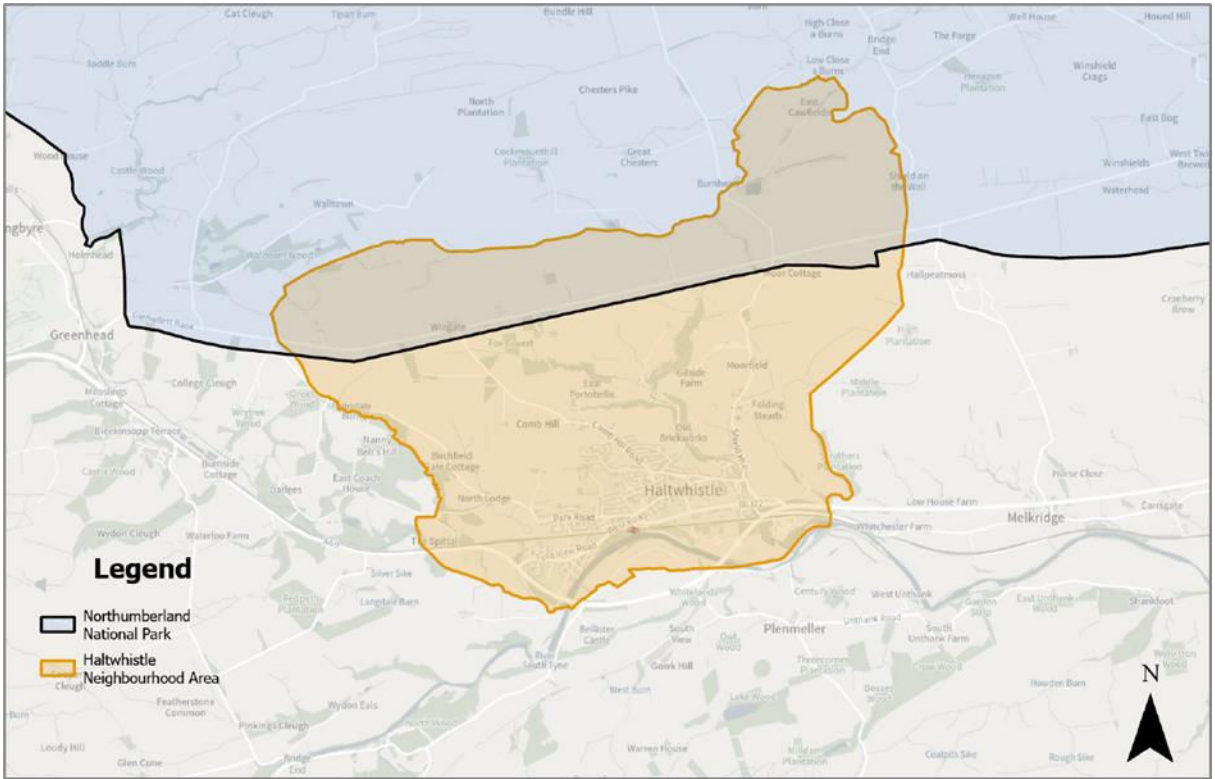


Tony Gates,

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Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

Date



Map of Haltwhistle Parish outlined in orange. Areas to the north of the blackline is within the National Park.