



Northumberland National Park Management Plan 2022

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Foreword to the Northumberland National Park Management Plan 2022 to 2027

National Parks are our finest landscapes. Like all rural areas, National Parks are facing challenges, ranging from the threats of climate change, declining biodiversity and a lack of infrastructure, to changes in farming and land management. The vision of this Management Plan is for Northumberland National Park to be a place where people and nature can thrive.

We have set out a Plan which has people and communities at its heart and demonstrates how, as a team of partners and stakeholders, we will all work together to help Northumberland National Park remain a living working landscape, with resilient and thriving communities, that supports and enables an accessible and welcoming park for all.

The Plan reflects the views and aspirations of local communities, farmers, land managers, business owners, volunteers and visitors, and wider stakeholders that make Northumberland National Park the unique and cherished place it is, whilst addressing some of the biggest challenges which face society.

As always, we remain ambitious in what we set out to achieve. 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, realistically, we can do. This Plan should be seen as a statement of our intent as opposed to a wish-list of ideas. However, we fully intend to deliver key outcomes such as increasing native broadleaf woodland, restoring key habitats such as peatland and rivers, supporting rural communities and ensuring that people from all parts of society can benefit from the National Park.

The success of this Management Plan depends on everyone who cares about the National Park. As partners in agreeing this Management Plan we want to ensure that it is a place to be proud of for generations to come, and we ask you to join us in realising this.

Where it is possible to do so, we have set out to illustrate the ambition of the Management Plan in a series of maps. Whilst not all the Management Plan aims can be shown in this way, we hope this helps build a picture of some of what we intend to deliver together.

Thanks to all those individuals and organisations who have contributed to the development of this Management Plan in any small way. Now the work begins, and we look forward to working with you.

Jean Davidson, Chair, Northumberland National Park Authority

Tony Gates, Chief Executive, National Park Officer

Northumberland National Park Management Plan

Our Vision

Northumberland National Park will be a place where people and nature can thrive. As a living working landscape the National Park will lead the way on climate action, with resilient communities, enabling an accessible and welcoming park for all.

1. Introduction

Every National Park must have a management plan. It is the single most important document as it sets out our long-term vision.

The Management Plan blends national and local priorities and explains how our objectives will be delivered. It will influence not only the work of Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA), but also the many organisations, businesses and communities that have an interest in the Park.

It is a plan for the National Park as a whole and not just for the Authority. However, it is the responsibility of Northumberland National Park Authority to formally adopt the Plan and revise it at least every 5 years.

The Management Plan creates a long-term strategy for the National Park and sets the direction of travel towards 2040-5.

It aims to define the pace and scale of action required to achieve our vision.

Since the National Park Authority owns just 0.23% of the overall land area it is important for it to work in partnership with farmers, landowners and other stakeholders.

This plan has been developed over an extensive period of discussion, consultation, and collaboration. This includes a six week consultation process giving the opportunity to over 6,000 individuals and organisations to share their views. Details of the consultation process can be found in Appendix A.

The development of the Management Plan was overseen by a Management Plan Partnership Group, whilst the work on individual themes was led by a wide-range of local, regional and national partners, details of which can be found in Appendix B.

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;

The authority also has a duty to foster the economic and social well-being of communities within its boundaries.

2. Context, Challenges and Ambitions

Like all rural areas, National Parks are currently facing unprecedented challenges, ranging from fundamental shifts in farm support payments and land use, declining biodiversity and lack of infrastructure, to severe storms as climate change affects weather patterns, all of which have tested the resilience of our rural areas.

Challenges for farming and land management

Direct support payments to farmers will be phased out by 2027 and replaced with a new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme based on the principle of offering “public money for public goods” – such as better air and water quality, improved soil health, thriving wildlife, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as for food and timber. This will have a significant impact on land management in the National Park.

Challenges for the rural economy

We also recognise the many other challenges facing rural communities, such as an ageing population, loss of services, transport and connectivity (including power, mobile coverage and broadband), a lack of jobs and difficult access to further education and training. There is a danger that our communities will be left further behind compared to urban areas. At present 10% of our residents have no access to mains power, and many more have slow or unreliable mobile and broadband networks.

A National Park for all

As we emerge from the pandemic, increasing numbers of visitors are coming to explore our beautiful landscapes and heritage, with all the health and wellbeing benefits that spending time in nature can provide. However, this is not without its challenges and highlights further the scale of investment needed in transport, digital and physical infrastructure to provide visitors with a warm welcome and the right facilities and services to enjoy their time within and beyond the Park boundaries. This plan sets out to make the National Park more accessible and welcoming to visitors, and to ensure that future generations will appreciate and cherish it for a long time to come.

At the same time, we need to protect and enhance the tranquillity, dark skies and natural beauty that visitors tell us are among their main reasons for visiting the Park.

A call for climate action

To meet the challenge of climate change, it is our ambition to work towards reaching net zero by 2030. Our long-term aim is for the National Park to become a carbon sink, absorbing more carbon than it emits, and thereby become an asset for the wider region and nation.

We will do this by giving nature the space to recover, by protecting and restoring peatlands, halting the decline in biodiversity, allowing water-courses to support nature corridors and alleviating floods, whilst actively playing our part to create more wooded areas. We will lead by example.

Connectivity

The lack of public transport, an inadequate power supply and largely energy-inefficient buildings represent a huge challenge that will require local communities, farmers, landowners, businesses as well as local and national Government to play a part in resolving.

Thriving communities

If our communities are to not only survive but thrive, solutions must be found to improve and strengthen our infrastructure. The provision of high-speed digital connectivity, the introduction of carbon neutral ways to travel, heat, and power our homes, and finding a balance in how we use land to grow food or timber whilst also making space for nature will all create the right environment for businesses to set up and grow. We must also find ways to provide employment for our young people, conserve and celebrate our heritage, and showcase our landscape and culture to visitors.

3. Northumberland National Park's Special Qualities

All National Parks are special for different and often unique reasons. The following are the special qualities which help define Northumberland National Park:

- **A sense of tranquillity**
- **A rich cultural heritage**
- **A distinctive landscape character**
- **A place rich in biodiversity and geology**

A sense of tranquillity

In this tranquil corner of England, you will find a true sense of peace and quiet, space and freedom. Often in Northumberland National Park, it is possible to spend time in the landscape and see no other signs of human life. With a population of just under 2,000 people, Northumberland National Park is one of the most tranquil places in England. It is England's last real wilderness, with far-reaching views stretching out across the rugged landscape. Its pristine dark skies mean it is also England's first

and largest International Dark Sky Park (Gold tier). For those who live and work in the National Park and those who choose to visit, the peace and tranquillity is of utmost importance. It is a place which nurtures and stimulates, bringing a feeling of calm and a connection to landscape and nature which leaves both body and mind restored and invigorated.

A rich cultural heritage

The past is everywhere in Northumberland National Park and includes evidence of human activity over 5,000 years, from Iron Age hill forts, Neolithic rock art and the homes of Bronze Age farmers. It includes the central section of Hadrian's Wall, a World Heritage Site, and the landscape of kings at Ad Gefrin, an Anglo-Saxon royal residence. It is a landscape forged by thousands of years of farming and of conflict, a borderland, a frontier between kingdoms. Past and present have shaped the identity of people and of place, creating and maintaining a rich cultural heritage, an expression of human spirit rooted in the landscape, inspiring generations of creativity and Northumbrian folklore, traditional music and spoken language. It is this relationship that gives the place a character and soul allowing us to connect with and discover our past.

A distinctive landscape character

The dynamic landscape of Northumberland National Park is the result of both natural forces and human activity. Together this has produced a landscape treasured for its natural beauty, distinctive character and unique sense of place and why it is recognised and protected for the benefit of the nation now, and in the future. Northumberland National Park has many notable features, which include the high rounded hills of the former volcanic Cheviot region and the watercourses which run through it, the Border ridge, the iconic Simonside hills (which can be seen from the urban conurbation of Tyneside), the North Tyne and the distinctive sloping geology of the Great Whin Sill in the Hadrian's Wall area. The National Park features a natural landscape that shows the imprint of human activity over thousands of years, including hillforts, Roman camps and bastle houses set amongst small settlements, farmsteads and dry-stone walls that border onto wide open moorland.

The impacts of the climate emergency and mitigation measures being deployed threaten to speed up this pace of change; while activities that follow on from the century-long drive for timber production has seen hillsides and river valleys carpeted in conifers that now cover 20% of the National Park.

A place rich in biodiversity and geology

The underlying geology of Northumberland National Park, alongside natural processes and human activity have combined to create the hugely varied landscape we experience today. These processes have created unique conditions for rich and diverse ecosystems to thrive; many nationally and internationally important habitats and species, such as curlew and red squirrel, to flourish within Northumberland National Park. 31% of the National Park is considered to be priority habitat and around 12% is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

4. Strategic Themes

The following themes have been agreed as core to the future of Northumberland National Park.

- **Nature Recovery**
- **Climate Action**
- **Culture and Heritage**
- **A Welcoming Park**
- **Thriving Communities**

A number of key considerations will support focus on these core themes:

Importance of Community

We know that engaging our communities will be critical to the success of our plan. Farmers, businesses, residents, and volunteers will all have a part to play to achieve our collective aims. So, too, will communities and individuals from elsewhere in the region.

High quality data

High quality data is needed to inform action and measure future achievement. In many instances we have found that available national data does not match the Park boundary, resulting in estimates that can often only be improved by a significant amount of time consuming local research. Further work will be needed to establish a baseline for many of the plan's objectives. We are committed to establishing accurate baseline data.

Natural and cultural capital

We have made an initial assessment of the National Park's natural assets. However, more work will be needed to provide an accurate and up to date picture. The Government response to the Landscapes Review and proposals to establish local nature recovery strategies may improve our baseline information for delivering towards national level targets. We will also incorporate the work being done to assess the value of the National Park's cultural assets through a cultural capital approach.

Special qualities must not be compromised

It is essential to set out a clear vision which protects and enhances its unique qualities of the National Park. Whilst developing our plan for the future of the Park we have heard very clearly from our partners, residents and visitors that this must not harm or compromise its unique qualities.

5. Delivering and monitoring the Plan

Acknowledging how all themes are interconnected

It is clear that we cannot achieve our aim to mitigate climate change without looking at our actions in other areas. The theme, A Welcoming Park, for example, needs to consider how people can visit in a sustainable way. Work on nature recovery such as peatland restoration will be essential to achieve our climate ambitions. Similarly, heritage and climate adaptation are not mutually exclusive. All the themes are therefore interrelated, and actions will likewise need to take an integrated approach.

Partnerships

The achievement of the objectives set out in this plan will require the commitment and efforts of a wide range of partners and stakeholders. We have seen from our work in drafting the plan that partnerships are strong in delivering high quality projects, and that there are many opportunities to share good practice. Appendix B sets out those partners who have been involved in the development of this plan and who will support its delivery.

The plan does not attempt to identify all the partners involved in the delivery of the plan. As well as partner organisations, local communities, parish councils, landowners, people who live and work in the National Park, volunteers and visitors all have a role to play in the success of achieving the key aims outlined in this plan.

Funding delivery

This plan recognises that to achieve our ambitions additional funding sources (including private funding) will need to be identified. With our partners, we will be exploring opportunities for funding all aspects of the plan.

Monitoring

Northumberland National Park Authority will lead the process of monitoring and reporting on the progress of the Management Plan. This will be achieved through an annual meeting with lead partners and progress will be published through the Annual State of the Park report.

Strategic Themes: Aims and Objectives

Theme One: Nature Recovery

Aim: To restore, conserve and enhance nature and its resilience at a landscape scale through a proactive nature-first led approach to sustainable land management and partnership working.

Objectives:

1.1 Conserve existing and restore degraded peatland and heathland to mitigate the climate crisis and aid ecological recovery.

- Working with partners, including the Great North Bog and Northumberland Peat Partnership, identify priority areas for restoration of peat and establish a pipeline of investment for peatland recovery projects.
- 5,000 hectares of peatland habitat under restoration by 2030.
- Enhance the ecological and hydrological connectivity of existing peatlands.

1.2 Promote the expansion of broadleaved and native woodland and enhanced woodland management to achieve a more diverse, nature-rich wooded landscape.

- Work with landowners and others to increase broadleaved and native woodland by 6,000 hectares by 2060 (162ha per year). This includes establishment of woodlands and wood pasture by planting and natural regeneration.
- Work towards a long-term aim of restructuring all forestry in the National Park to enhance its resilience to climate change, disease and other threats.
- Over the life of this Management Plan work with partners to remove or restructure 2,000 hectares of commercial coniferous forest by 2030 to achieve nature, climate and landscape enhancements.
- Work with landowners, land managers, local communities, and the Great Northumberland Forest initiative to increase woodland creation and enhance woodland management to achieve a more diverse wooded landscape in the National Park.

1.3 Conserve and enhance existing ancient woodland and notable trees to stop the loss of irreplaceable habitat and carbon stores.

- Working with partners to protect and enhance ancient woodlands, existing farm and hedgerow trees within the National Park, particularly veteran trees, which make a distinctive contribution to the landscape.
- Develop mechanisms to bring ancient and non-ancient native woodland into a favourable condition.
- Promote initiatives to establish the notable and hedgerow trees of the future.
- Understand and recognise the impact of climate change and disease on trees.

1.4 Expand and improve the conditions of wetlands.

- Guided by the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), identify and support measures to protect and enhance aquatic habitats and species across the National Park.
- Identify and carry out improvements on specific flowing waterbodies in the National Park that are failing WFD targets (moderate or poor status) including Tipalt Burn and Haltwhistle Burn.

1.5 Protect and enhance important grassland, including hay meadows.

- Conserve 200 hectares of existing high quality species rich hay meadows and 1,200 hectares of waxcap grassland.
- Enhance a further 150 hectares of hay meadow grassland to improve species diversity by 2030.
- Enhance connectivity of important grasslands targeting enhancements close to existing sites thereby establishing pollinator corridors.

1.6 Expand, improve and connect networks of diverse, high quality, resilient, wildlife-rich habitats to enhance the abundance and distribution of key native species.

- Restore habitats to enhance the abundance and distribution of key native species including curlew, red squirrels, white-clawed crayfish, mountain bumblebees, reptiles, waxcap fungi and hen harrier, as set out in the NNPA Natural Environment Vision.

- Deliver species-specific projects to enhance species range where habitats are suitable.
- Enhance resilience, by ensuring that habitats are linked inside and outside the National Park.
- Establish an effective evidence base for habitat quality and then using that baseline to create opportunities for improvements.

1.7 We will use the National Park's rich natural environment to maximise the connection to and understanding of why nature is important to people.

- Using our rich natural environment to raise awareness, educate, inform and engage people with nature and concepts such as a nature first approach. This will aid understanding of the importance of protecting and enhancing our natural environment.
- Engaging local communities, research institutions, volunteers and others in a nature first approach to caring for and celebrating nature within the National Park.
- Developing opportunities to increase participation with, and the conservation of, the natural environment particularly among young people and under represented parts of society. An example of this is the Hadrian's Wall Recovering Nature project.

Theme Two: Climate Action

Aim: Empower, enable and inspire climate action to work towards a net zero National Park by 2030. Beyond 2030 we will be working towards the National Park being a carbon sink.

Objectives:

2.1 Leading by example to develop visible projects and support initiatives which demonstrate and inspire on climate action.

- Within the first three years identify and begin projects and initiatives that will work towards the aim to be Net Zero by 2030, using the baseline established in "A Greenhouse gas emissions assessment (2022) and target scenario for Northumberland National Park".
- Working with partners including Northumberland County Council to deliver a programme of carbon reduction including a Zero Emission Vehicle charging network and the development and promotion of active-travel. This will be achieved within five years of the adoption of this Management Plan.
- Within the Plan period we will work with businesses and landowners to identify and map a natural capital and carbon accounting approach at a local level. This will include exploring opportunities for a linked-up and co-ordinated approach across identified areas.
- Identify opportunities, including funding schemes and networks, to measure and increase appropriate carbon sequestration, for example, through peatland restoration, tree planting and soil enhancement. The first five schemes shall be identified and started within three years of the Plan.

2.2 To help the National Park and its communities to adapt to, mitigate against and be resilient to the effects of climate change.

- Support and facilitate land managers in carrying out adaptation and resilience measures which protect from the long-term effects of flooding, storm damage and drought events.
- Work with partners to develop opportunities to improve business and infrastructure resilience within the National Park, including broadband, electricity and EV points.

- Support and promote undergrounding of power and telecommunications infrastructure to support resilient communities.
- Develop, support and encourage residents and communities to reduce emissions towards Net Zero through increasing use of renewable energy sources and increasing energy efficiency of buildings.
- Support locally led solutions through creating a network of community climate groups, sharing ideas through networks including groups in gateway settlements and beyond.
- Work with partners, including the Northumberland Local Resilience Forum, to support National Park communities when and after experiencing extreme events predicted to be caused by climate change.

2.3 Enable and promote Net Zero, then climate negative, resident and visitor experiences.

- Working with Northumberland County Council, Transport NE and other transport stakeholders to explore sustainable public transport and active travel opportunities for the National Park and gateway settlements.
- Promote public transport, cycling and walking including lobbying partners for a connected transport network and off road infrastructure.
- Research and promote innovative solutions to encourage active travel, city to county links and sustainable final mile solutions for visitors and residents.
- In connection with our objectives under the Thriving Communities theme, within the Plan period we will develop an exemplar programme for Net Zero visitor experiences.

Theme Three: Valuing Place: Culture and Heritage

Aim: To conserve, enhance and celebrate our historic environment and rich cultural heritage by connecting people and place.

Objectives:

3.1 The rich historic environment of the National Park will be understood, valued and cared for.

- Conserve and enhance nationally important heritage ensuring that less than 5% are considered at risk by the end of the Plan period.
- Working with partners to understand and develop solutions/practical strategies to safeguard archaeology and the historic buildings from the impacts of climate change.
- To audit key heritage skills gaps and develop with partners a heritage skills programme to ensure we have the necessary skills and know how to conserve and enhance our heritage.
- Review designations, scheduling and listing to ensure the historic and cultural assets of the National Park are properly recorded and protected. By the end of the Plan period a review of all heritage assets in the National Park will have been initiated.

3.2 We will use the National Park's rich historic and cultural heritage, to maximise the benefits for people, taking a cultural capital approach.

- Using our historic and cultural heritage as a key means to deliver other key priorities including engaging diverse audiences, initiating action on climate and supporting the social economic well-being of local communities through appropriate heritage tourism opportunities.
- Engage local communities, research institutions, volunteers and others in community led approaches to discovering, caring for and celebrating our heritage.
- Continue to build upon active partnerships with Universities and other research and training institutions through collaborative partnerships and student placements.

- Ensure that access to culture and heritage is equal and enabled by identifying and breaking down barriers to participation.
- Working with partners to develop and integrate digital approaches to the research, conservation and engagement with cultural heritage, broadening accessibility and opening up the heritage of the National Park to a wider and more diverse audience.
- Develop opportunities to increase participation with cultural heritage, particularly among young people and other underrepresented parts of society. By supporting the delivery of The Sill Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) and working collaboratively with the wider YAC network as an integrated part of the engagement programme delivering a minimum of six events each year.

3.3 Support and celebrate the vibrant cultural traditions of the National Park.

- To support and promote initiatives linked to the rich dialect, music, art, literature and storytelling of the National Park and connecting areas. Support cultural programmes which tell the story of people in the National Park from Prehistoric communities, to Roman soldiers and Reiver families to the present-day communities.
- To better understand, protect and interpret the unique character of the National Park's landscape as a frontier borderland.
- Support the creative and cultural sector, communities and visitors to interpret, celebrate and enjoy the rich cultural heritage of the National Park through programmes of landscape and land-based arts and culture, performance and exhibitions.

Theme Four: A Welcoming Park for All

Aim: To be a welcoming place, offering enjoyment and exploration of one of our finest landscapes and to support wellbeing.

Objectives:

4.1 Develop partnerships and networks which facilitate engagement in the National Park for health and wellbeing.

- Communicate the intrinsic benefit of connecting with nature and heritage for physical and mental health.
- Work with partners on initiatives such as green prescribing which target and evidence specific health outcomes for target groups.
- Identify best practice and create a knowledge sharing network for health and wellbeing.

4.2 To be a welcoming National Park for a diverse range of visitors.

- Take positive action to ensure all of society feel connected to the National Park.
- Through volunteering and participation programmes, increase engagement with all parts of our diverse society particularly those groups who are currently under-represented.
- Promoting opportunities for the National Park to be used as a sustainable resource for education.
- Create engaging and accessible information to empower people to connect with the National Park on their own terms.
- Provide innovative and imaginative digital tools to take the National Park to the people who cannot visit.
- Develop programmes to engage younger people with the National Park including through education, volunteering and governance.
- Support the development of a strong network of local partners, delivering a shared ethos, to provide a consistent high-quality welcome across the National Park.

4.3 Create, develop and promote a more accessible National Park for all.

- Facilitate improvements to a network of visitor hubs across the National Park with easy to use, well signposted rights of way and open access land, whilst also ensuring infrastructure to support these hubs through development of a NNPA Visitor Development Strategy.
- Develop and maintain a sustainable network of access opportunities across the National Park which meet a range of needs, including targeting areas for increasing the number of miles without stiles.
- Facilitate with our partners, a network of changing place facilities across the National Park. We would aim for three new changing places to be developed within the first three years of the Plan.
- Create a network of well-connected routes for outdoor recreation, including off-road bicycle, walking and horse riding networks, that link with public transport.
- In line with our climate action ambitions, influence and promote a connected public transport network allowing visitors more sustainable travel options.

Theme Five: Thriving Communities

Aim: To have engaged, resilient and balanced communities in a unique living, working landscape.

Objectives:

5.1 Helping communities to thrive by encouraging and enabling more working families to live in the National Park.

- Implement positive planning policies allowing conversions of existing buildings and new housing to be built for principal residence without compromising the special qualities of the National Park.
- Deliver new housing targets in the National Park in line with the requirements of the Local Plan (currently 8 per year) to support the population of the National Park.
- Support the retention of community services and facilities within our communities.

5.2 Continue to work and support land managers as a key priority, recognising the important role farming and land management plays in the National Park, particularly during times of transition and land use change.

- Maintain and support a network of facilitation for farmers and land managers to support the delivery of other key priorities in this Management Plan including delivering for climate, nature, people and place.
- Promotion and support of local goods and services through supply chains with visitor infrastructure and local businesses.
- Support appropriate scale sustainable farm diversification schemes to encourage a diverse rural economy.

5.3 Enhance and enable all forms of connectivity (power, broadband, mobile transport) to create resilient, innovation-ready networks.

- Work with partners, Government, Northumberland County Council and others on initiatives to improve communications and digital infrastructure, especially for the most hard-to-reach areas.

- Promote undergrounded infrastructure to provide services to those currently not served and provide resilience to all communities.
- Promote renewable energy sources and innovative solutions to provide all forms of power and connectivity.
- Support the provision of community hubs, including within gateway towns and villages, to enable connectivity and power for our communities by working with Community Action Northumberland and others.
- Through working with partners, promote a connected and sustainable public transport and active travel network throughout the National Park and the gateway settlements.

5.4 Support the development of sustainable tourism and the rural economy in the National Park.

- Developing a sustainable Tourism Plan, which aims to deliver a Net Zero visitor economy for the National Park, which will be developed within the Plan period.
- Support National Park businesses to develop visitor experiences that allow visitors to contribute as part of their visit to climate off-setting, nature and heritage conservation or visitor payback.
- Working with partners, support and encourage tourism businesses in the National Park to adopt the dark-sky friendly lighting scheme, resulting in a 10% increase of businesses being accredited within three years.
- Supporting tourism providers to provide low carbon transport alternatives for visitors including EV charging, active travel and final-mile solutions in line with our climate change objectives.
- Supporting tourism partners and local communities to be truly welcoming by promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion standards through information and knowledge sharing.

5.5 Support sustainable business creation and development.

- Working with partners to create opportunities for skills development and diverse business portfolio, which maximises our natural assets and other special qualities.
- Develop opportunities that attract, upskill, and retain a local workforce with a particular focus on the visitor, landscape, heritage, agricultural and land management economies.
- Support and develop networks to encourage rural innovation including supporting businesses to relocate into the National Park.
- Encouraging a diverse supply chain, through visitor infrastructure to promote local goods through accredited schemes.

Appendix A: Consultation process

Process:

The consultation on a draft version of the Management Plan was held for 6 weeks in April and May 2022.

Consultation:

To ensure an extensive and engaged consultation, letters were sent to every household in the National Park inviting them to come along to drop-in sessions at four locations and encouraging them to engage in our online questionnaire. In addition to the more traditional approach, a digital consultation was also carried out. This included a dedicated web page which included a short film explaining the Management Plan and an online questionnaire which was promoted through social media. Further promotion of the consultation was taken through the local press, letters to all 32 Parish Councils and through a Newsletter sent to all 214 farmers and landowners in the National Park. An E-Newsletter to contacts on the National Park database featured a request to get everyone engaged and have their say on the Management Plan.

Social media:

Over the six-week consultation period, 26 questions were posted on social media - Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn, covering a variety of questions across all the main themes as well as wider questions about the challenges being faced in the National Park.

Response:

A total of 238 responses were received to the consultation process, with a wide-range of in-depth responses, depending upon the different methods of consultation. These responses were all examined in full by the project team and fed into the amended aims and objectives to form the final Management Plan.

Appendix B: Organisations involved in the development of the Management Plan

Management Plan Partnership Group members

Artist in Residence, eftec consulting (Economics for the Environment Consultancy), GP - NHS, Historic England, Natural England, North of Tyne Combined Authority (NoTCA), Northumberland County Council (Economy & Regeneration), Northumberland County Council (Public Health).

Other organisations

Adapt Tynedale, Advance Northumberland, Climate Action Network Northumberland (CANN), Community Action Northumberland, Country Land and Business Association (CLA), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Durham University, Education Partnership NE, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Food Farming & Countryside Commission, Forestry Commission, Forestry England, Gateshead MB Council, Glendale Gateway Trust, Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project, Hadrian's Wall Partnership, Haltwhistle Partnership, Headway Arts, Healthwatch Northumberland, ID On The Tyne, Innovation Supernetwork, JET, Mental Health Concern/Recovery College, Ministry of Defence, National Farmers Union, National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise, National Trust, NE Climate Coalition/Voluntary Organisations' Network NE, NE Culture Partnership, NE Local Enterprise Partnership, NE Nature Partnership, NE Youth, Newcastle University, North East England Chamber of Commerce, North East Local Enterprise Partnership, North Pennines AONB, North Tyne Youth, Northern Powergrid, Northern Uplands Chain Local Nature Partnership, Northumberland Communities Together Hub, Northumberland County Council, Northumberland Joint Local Access Forum, Northumberland Rivers Trust, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Northumbria University, Northumbrian Water, RSPB, Rural Catalyst Advisory Panel members, Rural Design Centre Innovation Project, Transport NE, Tyne Rivers Trust, Tyne & Wear Museums, Tyneside & Northumberland Mind, Useful Vision, Wild Intrigue, Woodland Trust.