



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Environment
Agency



NATURAL
ENGLAND



Forestry Commission
England

Creating a great place for living:

North East 2017/18



North East– Our area

Our environment:

All of our work is part of our wider shared ambition to see a thriving economy with a rich and resilient environment, that is valued by the people of the North East.

The North East Area extends from the Scottish border in the north to Teesside in the south, bordering Cumbria and the Pennines to the west and north sea coast to the east. Approximately 2.5 million people live in the area, mainly in the urban areas of Tyne and Wear and the Tees Valley.

It is a region of contrasts; we have diverse and cosmopolitan cities rich in culture and heritage; areas of manufacturing, recovering from a legacy of heavy industry and with growing science and digital industries, such as in parts of Sunderland and Teesside. And we have wide open beaches and castles and the most sparsely populated areas of England in the remote, wild, tranquil and beautiful parts of Northumberland's rolling hills and forests and the Durham moors and Dales.

Two thirds of the area is farmed or used for forestry and there is a world class food and wood processing industry and tourism sector associated with it. The area has a rich diversity of wildlife and habitats supporting species of global and national importance and has fantastic scenery including in the Northumberland National Park, Durham Heritage Coast and North Pennines and Northumberland Coast AONB's.

We have provided a snapshot of some of the key environmental facts and figures for the North East within our joint thumbprint.

Working together:

How we work together

- Co-location at area offices for the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission
- All three bodies are actively involved in our Local Nature Partnerships and Catchment Partnerships
- All three bodies are working closely on our joint priorities
- We have made a joint commitment to embody our organisation's values as we deliver this plan

North East– Our ambition

We want to help people to value and understand their environment, through the essential services it supplies, their direct enjoyment and experience or the economic activity and growth that it supports.

Creative thinking will be essential to meet the challenges and take the opportunities we face, including from Brexit. We want to think big, be ambitious and build on the innovative initiatives we already have underway:

The Border Upland Demonstrator will establish a collaborative programme to explore how we can nurture and sustain an environment-based rural economy.



The Tees Estuary Partnership will create a co-owned framework that recognises the needs of a world class industry, alongside plans for the restoration of habitats as part of an integrated framework for the future.

North East– Our commitment

We are all proud of the work you do to enrich the fantastic North East environment, help our economy thrive, and create a great place for living.

We have developed this joint plan together because we see many opportunities where we can work more closely together to deliver more for our environment and local communities. This collaboration brings many opportunities for us all too – be it meeting new colleagues, gaining different perspectives, delivering more effectively or simply being proud of the differences we can make together.

We have identified a number of priority areas in this plan where we will be strengthening our joint working as one team. We will be meeting regularly as a joint leadership team to review our progress and capture our learning. But we are keen to hear too about your wider successes, learning and further opportunities to take a partnership approach.

We will be holding a launch event in May. We look forward to seeing many of you there and hearing your ideas to help us be ambitious together, and make an even bigger difference across the North East.



Oliver Harmar

Environment Agency Area Director



Brad Tooze

Natural England Area Director



Crispin Thorn

Forestry Commission Area Director

North East – Our Priorities

As well as our joint priority places, we are committed to delivering the priority activities below:

Pan - Area Priority

Planning together from the outset, so that we can make balanced and strategic choices about how we use the environment. This will ensure careful consideration of all of our collective goals and interests to ensure shared understanding and ownership of our approach.

Conservation of iconic priority species, including red squirrel, fresh water pearl mussel, white clawed crayfish, black grouse, salmon and sea trout

Sustain and grow our forestry sector through the Roots to Prosperity initiative.

Ensure the environment plays a full part in the economic development of the North East through our working relationships with Combined Authorities and LEAs.

Maximise benefit at priority locations by working together to focus our investment from the Rural Development Programme, PR19, Flood & Coastal Risk Management Programme and the Environment Programme.

Develop and trial new models of delivery to demonstrate how outcomes can be integrated across landscapes to benefit the environment, communities and the rural economy through the Border Uplands Demonstrator

Reduce water pollution and flood risk through woodland creation via our Woodlands for Water project

Move towards a more resilient landscape that harnesses the potential of Natural Flood Management to reduce flood risk for homes and businesses

Use the Catchment Sensitive Farming approach to support farmers to adopt more sustainable agricultural practices at sensitive locations

We will also work together on challenging operational areas to improve delivery and support staff to work effectively, for example, in delivery of our Countryside Stewardship programme. The joint area leadership team will look for opportunities to understand where we can make improvements and to action them to support staff in their day to day work.



North East Outcome Statements Map



Revitalising Redesdale

Revitalised Redesdale will be an area of empowered local communities with better understanding, commitment to conserving and enhancing the landscape and natural environment forged by centuries of conflict. They will celebrate the unique character of the landscape, its biodiversity and its culture, while building the future resilience of its heritage and identity.

Kielder Water & Forest Park

Kielder Water and Forest Park will continue to develop as a diverse, attractive and productive forest and major tourist attraction, exemplifying sustainable land management and delivering considerable social, economic and environmental benefit with little cost to the public purse.

Land of Oak and Iron

Communities and partners have come together to conserve, enhance and celebrate the natural, industrial and cultural heritage of the Derwent valley, delivering a legacy of job creation, tourism and economic benefits. This will increase the amount of ancient woodland in sustainable management, improve fish passage and grow public use and enjoyment of this unique area of countryside on the doorstep of the Newcastle-Gateshead conurbation.

North Pennines

The rivers, streams and associated habitats of the pennine uplands will be restored through a programme of innovation and partnership. This will enhance the special landscape of the area and support the visitor economy, while demonstrating new ways of working with landowners to reduce flood risk and enhance wildlife.

River Till Catchment

A vibrant agricultural, forestry and tourism economy will be underpinned by a sustainably managed catchment that is an exemplar of the catchment based approach. The natural environment will be enhanced with better protected drinking water supplies, improved biodiversity and nationally important forestry investment.

Northumberland Coastal Focus Area

More visitors and communities will access the area and have high quality experiences that make them feel well connected to, and appreciative of, this superb environment. Lindisfarne NNR provides an effective gateway to the wider Northumberland Coast and integrated offers ensure historic and natural assets are preserved and promoted sustainably.

Tyneside & Ponteland

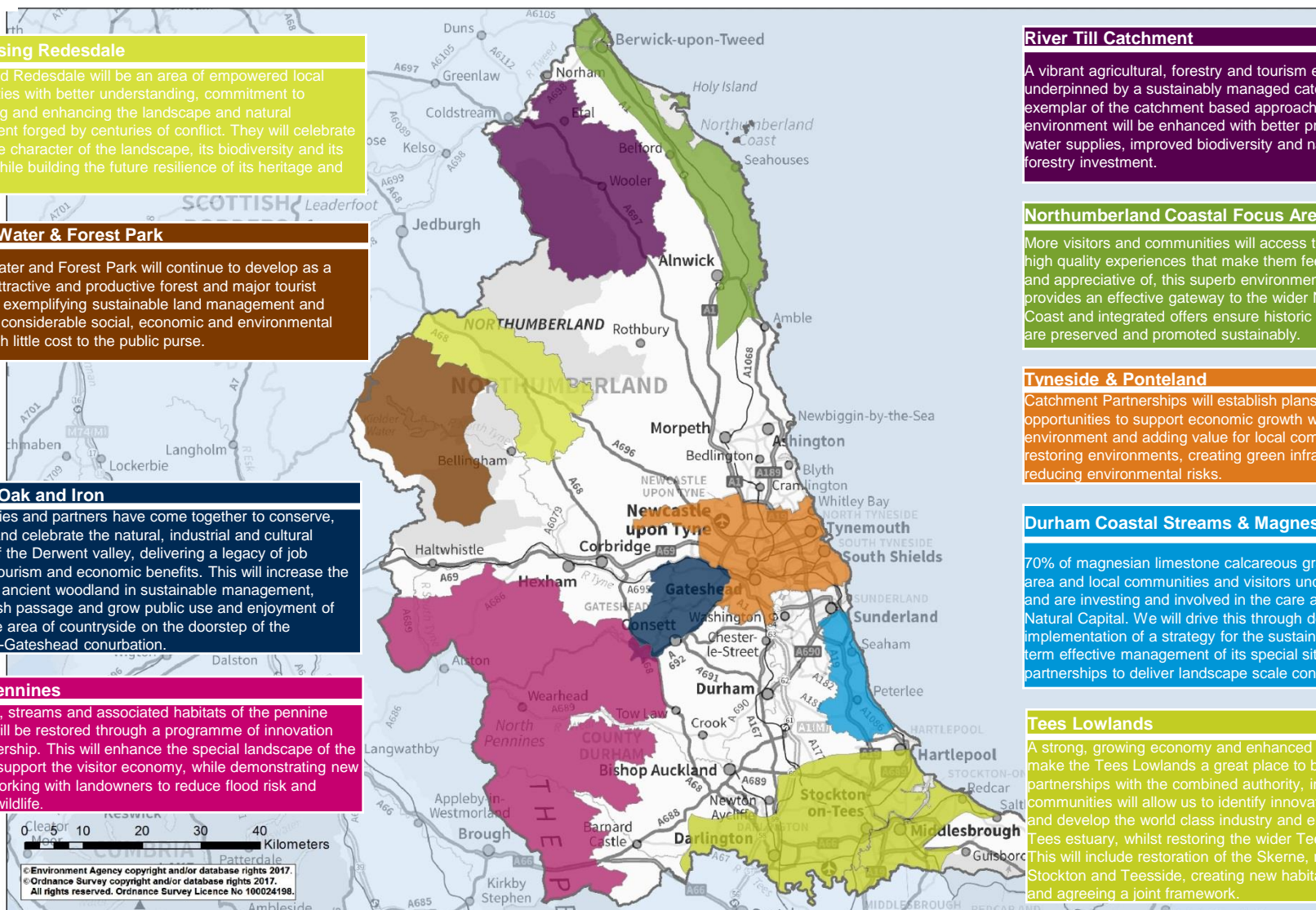
Catchment Partnerships will establish plans that take opportunities to support economic growth while enhancing the environment and adding value for local communities by restoring environments, creating green infrastructure and reducing environmental risks.

Durham Coastal Streams & Magnesian Limestone

70% of magnesian limestone calcareous grassland is in this area and local communities and visitors understand its value and are investing and involved in the care and protection of this Natural Capital. We will drive this through development and implementation of a strategy for the sustainable, resilient, long-term effective management of its special sites, by building new partnerships to deliver landscape scale conservation.

Tees Lowlands

A strong, growing economy and enhanced environment will make the Tees Lowlands a great place to be. Active partnerships with the combined authority, industry and communities will allow us to identify innovation that can secure and develop the world class industry and environment of the Tees estuary, whilst restoring the wider Tees lowlands area. This will include restoration of the Skerne, reducing flood risk in Stockton and Teesside, creating new habitat on the estuary and agreeing a joint framework.





North East Joint Priorities Map



Revitalising Redesdale

Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Conserving fresh water pearl mussel through diffuse pollution & habitat restoration measures	NE, EA
	Restoring peatland at Steng Moss/Harwood Burn	NE
	Work with farmers to increase Countryside Stewardship	NE, FC
	Drive empowerment of communities by developing and implementing a HLF landscape partnership	NE, EA, FC
	Enrich the visitor environment, including the installation of artwork	FC

Kielder Water & Forest Park

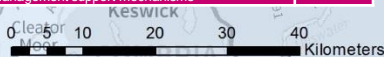
Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Support the Kielder Forest & Water Partnership to develop the park and surrounding environment	NE, EA, FC
	Work to ensure that Kielder Forest is at the heart of a vibrant forestry sector in the North East	FC
	Living Wild at Kielder project	NE, EA, FC
	Develop the Kielder Salmon Centre, refurbishing the visitor centre and enhancing conservation facilities for pearl mussel	NE, EA

Land of Oak and Iron

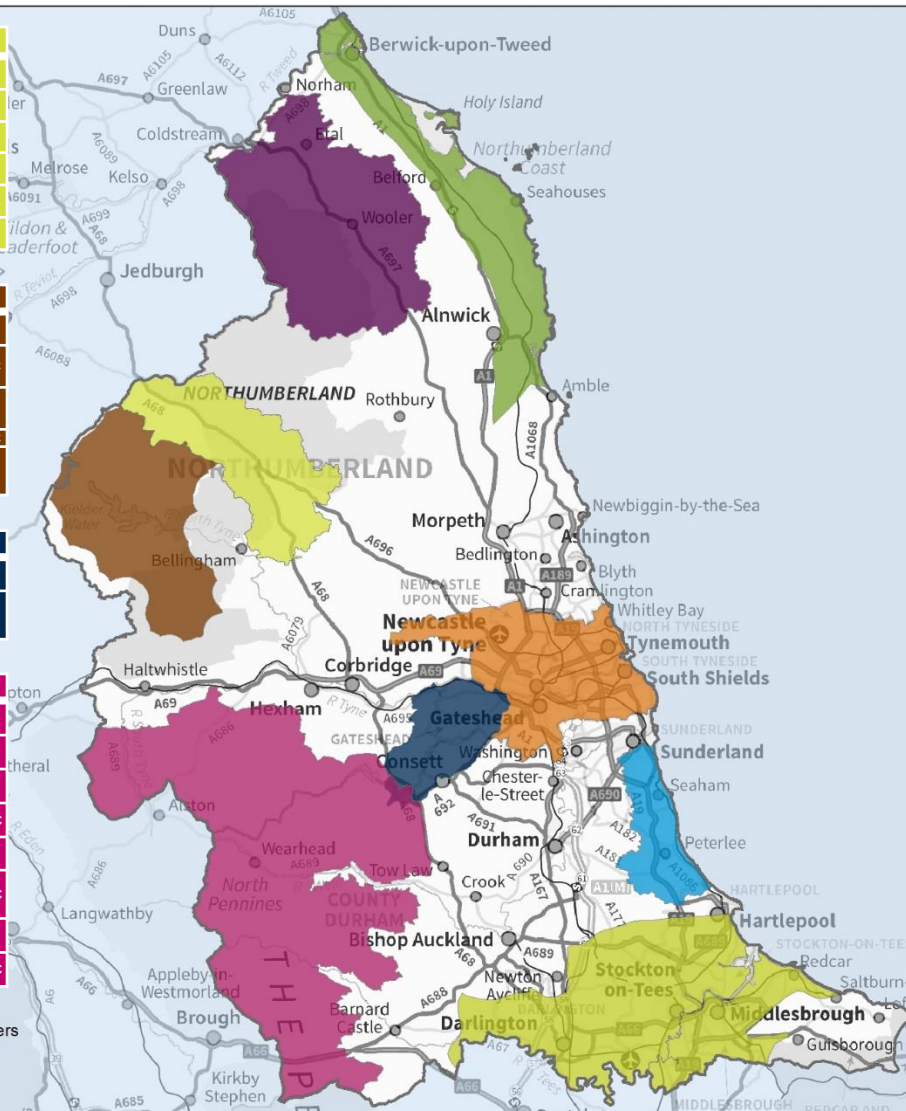
Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Develop and deliver a HLF Landscape partnership to improve the status and accessibility of the heritage of the Derwent Valley	EA, FC

North Pennines

Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Support the development of holistic, landscape scale estate management plans	NE, FC
	Delivery of landscape scale peatland restoration plans	NE, EA
	Explore the potential for large scale natural flood management through the Weardale NFM Pilot	NE, EA, FC
	Use innovative approaches to reduce the impacts of minewaters	EA
	Developing community champions and feeding new ideas around landscape into future policy, strategy and plans	NE, EA, FC
	Woodlands for Water	EA, FC
	Trial results based stewardship to inform future land management support mechanisms	NE, EA, FC



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River Till Catchment

Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Fill river restoration	NE, EA
	Fell sandstone aquifer protection	NE, EA
	New abstraction authorisations regime	NE, EA
	Woodlands for Water	NE, EA, FC
	Doddington North Moor Woodland Plan	NE, EA, FC
	Catchment Sensitive Farming	EA, NE, EA

Northumberland Coastal Focus Area

Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Improving our shellfish waters	NE, EA
	Water quality improved through a diffuse water pollution plan	NE, EA
	Increased access & tourism through the England Coast Path	NE
	Development of Lindisfarne NNR Gateway Project and wider NNR Strategy	
	Buddle Bay & Holy Island eutrophication investigation	NE, EA

Tyneside & Ponteland

Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Facilitate the Garden Village proposal to secure a better environment and reduced flood risk, alongside major housing development	NE/EA
	Ensure effective regulation and restoration of the Pont system	NE/EA
	Develop and implement integrated, inclusive programmes of work on the Ouseburn, Don & Team catchments	NE/EA/FC
	Work with Local Authorities to influence funding programmes to retain and enhance green infrastructure	NE/EA/FC
	International Advanced Manufacturing Park	NE/EA

Durham Coastal Streams & Magnesian Limestone

Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Castle Eden Dene NNR exemplar site & hub to engage local community	NE, EA
	Sustainable management of MG grasslands with landowners	NE
	Seascape heritage in better condition & better valued through Durham Heritage Coast Seascapes HLF bid	NE, EA
	Water quality improved through Coastal Streams Partnership	NE, EA

Tees Lowlands

Aim	Priority	Delivery Partner
	Lustrum Beck Flood Alleviation Scheme	EA, FC
	Tees Estuary Partnership joint framework	NE, EA
	Bright Water HLF Landscape partnership	NE, EA
	Work with Tees Valley Combined Authority to place the environment at the heart of economic regeneration	NE, EA, FC
	Creation of new inter-tidal habitat and reduced flood risk at Port Clarence and Greatham Creek	NE, EA

North East – Our team

For each priority Area we have established a team, with a lead contact for each organisation and an overall **lead** for the priority work area as a whole. The overall lead will work with their counter-parts to develop our vision for the priority area, support delivery by the wider team, monitor progress and report to the joint area leadership team.

Priority Area	Overall Lead	EA Lead	NE Lead	FC Lead
North Pennines	EA	Jim Heslop	Christine Venus	Kate Hawley
Kielder Water & Forest Park	FC	Phil Rippon	Christine Venus	Richard Pow
Revitalising Redesdale	NE	Maria Hardy	Lydia Speakman	Ian Everard
River Till Catchment	EA	George Gerring	Karen Purvis	Richard Pow
Northumberland Coastal Focus Area	NE	Phil Wilson	Steve Pullan	
Tyneside & Ponteland	EA	Clare Steward	Andy Whitehead	Richard Pow
Land of Oak & Iron	FC	Rob Carr		Richard Pow
Durham Coastal Streams & Magnesian Limestone	NE	Rob Carr	Amanda Hunter	
Tees Lowlands	EA	Leonore Frear	Glyn Bateman	Jim Smith