



Heritage Coast

Sunderland-Durham-Hartlepool

Seascape Briefing

The Heritage Coast Partnership is thrilled to announce that we have been successful in securing £5m funding for the coastline between the rivers Tyne and Tees, with a first round pass providing £200,000 to develop the final submission. We are the lead partner (hosted by Durham County Council) for Seascape– the UK's first marine Landscape Partnership scheme. We'll be managing the Seascape scheme over the next 6 years on behalf of the Seascape Partnership, a group of local, regional and national partners that work in the coastal, marine and heritage sectors.

We submitted a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) at the end of May 2017 asking for £2.9m to make our vision for this special coastline a reality. In November 2017, we found out that we had been successful! This £2.9m of HLF funding, together with £2m of partnership funding, will allow us to fully develop and deliver a scheme of over 30 projects set to benefit our coastal heritage, the marine environment and local communities.

What is Seascape?

Seascape is the UK's first Landscape Partnership scheme for the marine and coast. We're calling it Seascape for short, but the full title is Tyne to Tees, Shores and Seas – Seascape Partnership.

The scheme focuses on the undervalued Magnesian Limestone seascape between the rivers Tyne and Tees in North East England. This coastline is characterised by its unique geology and is largely designated as Heritage Coast; quite often overlooked as perceptions are blighted by an industrial past. This seascape is rich in maritime, wartime and natural heritage; though much of this is out of sight, held only in memory or hidden beneath the waves, and just waiting to be discovered.

Through the 30 projects, the Seascape scheme will improve access to beaches, explore the shipwrecks and habitats beneath the waves, improve biological recording through citizen science, construct a coastal conservation centre, tackle marine litter and create opportunities for local people and visitors to enjoy being on and in the sea. The detail of these projects will be finalised through the funded development phase, due to commence in January 2018. The scheme aims to take a community-led approach from the beginning, engaging coastal communities and sea users throughout development and delivery.

Who are the Seascope Partnership?

We are a partnership of local, regional and national organisations working in the coastal, marine and heritage sectors that have come together to better protect and celebrate the unique but all too often overlooked coastline between the rivers Tyne and Tees in North East England.

The Heritage Coast Partnership is the lead partner, alongside South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool Councils, the National Trust, Northumbrian Water, Durham Wildlife Trust, North East Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Natural England, Groundwork, Marine Management Organisation, the Environment Agency, East Durham Heritage Group, Donnison School and Durham and Newcastle Universities.

The Partnership would welcome community representation, please get in touch if you are interested in being involved.

What happens now?

We will begin with a funded development phase (2018-19). The application we submitted to win the funding outlined a vision of the projects we would like to deliver, but we now need to develop the detail of the scheme. HLF has given us £200,000 to do this and we will begin by hiring a Development Manager to lead this process over the next 18 months. HLF have assigned the overall funding to our scheme, but in order to unlock it we need to produce a document called a Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) which details the specifics of projects, partners and the scheme as a whole. We want this process to be community-led, so we will also be hiring an Engagement Officer to work with coastal communities and sea users to ensure their vision is at the heart of the LCAP. We aim to submit this second stage application in 2019.

All being well, we aim to commence the Delivery phase of the scheme in 2020. This means when we actually start delivering those exciting projects! The Seascope scheme will run for 4 years (2020-24), delivering over 30 projects to the communities of South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool.

How can I get involved?

Once the Development Team are in post, we'll begin announcing details of how you can get involved and how you can stay up to date. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to hear it first.

For more information, please contact Niall Benson, Heritage Coast Officer on niall.benson@durham.gov.uk or 03000 268130.

Themes and projects

Theme 1: Seascape over Time

Telling the incredible story of the Tyne to Tees seascape from Zechstein Sea, through ice ages, wars and significant industrial history up to the present day.

- Seaton Carew High & Low Lights - Restoration and interpretation of two 19th Century navigation markers (Grade II listed)
- Coast at War - Exploration of the seascape's wartime heritage: the East Coast War Channels, defence structures and coastal bombardments through community recording, workshops and restoration of Trow Gun Scheduled Monument, Wave Basin Battery (Grade II listed), Roker and Abbs Batteries and Roker Pier (Grade II Listed) Torpedo Battery.
- Community Voices - Using the community voice method to record memories and knowledge, exploring the themes of food heritage, industrial heritage and perceptions of coast.
- Our History, Our Future - Working with schools in to explore their heritage, their local area and their future, through recording, visits and workshops.
- Soundscapes - Creation of audio recordings to be hosted online and in heritage gateways that reproduce wartime, industrial and natural soundscapes above and below the waves.
- Reading the Rocks - The story of the physical seascape over time, from Permian reefs to today's eroding coast, told using animation.
- Changing Coastline - The story of the changing cultural seascape exploring industry, war and tourism. The story will be revealed through community excavation and brought to life using animation.

Theme 2: Revealing Hidden Heritage

Using innovative methods and participative approaches to ensure our heritage is better recorded, in better condition and better understood, engaging beyond our usual audiences.

- Coastal Butterflies - Celebrating the importance of this coast for butterflies and reintroducing the small blue butterfly to the Durham Coast NNR.
- Coastal Wildlife Groups - Creating 4 local groups along the coast as a platform for increasing participation in recording and conserving the natural heritage of the coast, creating a legacy of volunteering.
- North Sea Explorers - Training 30 school groups in snorkelling, water safety and basic marine wildlife identification in a safe swimming pool environment with models used to recreate the North Sea. Adults can join led snorkel safaris.
- Cliff Management - Safeguard the unique cliff habitats, the only place in the world where Magnesian limestone rock meets the sea, using specialist skills to conserve the habitats of this Special Area of Conservation.
- Dive Surveys - Detailed biological surveys that will explore for the first time whether the Magnesian limestone undersea reefs support a unique assemblage of marine life in the same way as the cliffs. Data and imagery gathered will showcase the special character of this place.
- Shorebirds - Surveys of shorebirds and training a new generation of citizen scientists to ensure that long term monitoring is carried out. The coast has international designations for its birds: Special Protection Area and Ramsar.
- Seascape Shipwrecks- Production of a virtual wreck dive, for online and local heritage centre use. Local dive clubs will be trained to record wrecks and an online wreck catalogue produced, encouraging respect and stewardship.
- Seascape Citizen Scientists - An overarching initiative to increase public participation in wildlife and historic environment recording, targeting coastal users and communities through events and training.
- Sustainable Seascape: Food and Folklore - Connecting communities to the inshore harvest through exploration and celebration of seafood traditions and folklore and developing a local supply chain.

Theme 3: Accessing the Sea

Improving access gateways and opportunities, breaking down barriers and allowing local communities to make full use of the seascape's coastal and marine assets.

- Access to Beach - Improve beach access from England Coast Path at 6 strategic heritage sites
- Brus to Headland Cycle Route- Surface and signage improvements to better connect a residential area to coastal heritage assets, encouraging sustainable recreational use.
- Seascape Stations - Interpretation points showcasing key heritage assets linked by the England Coast Path. Some access improvement work is required, including the provision of seabird hides
- Whitburn Coastal Conservation Centre - Building a centre within the Whitburn Coastal Park, creating a local gateway and showcasing the area's heritage.
- Marsden Bay: Accessing our Heritage - Repair work to the beach access steps pioneering the use of self-healing concrete, as well as restoration of the disused Lifeguard Station and a WWII pillbox (local list) for use as a heritage hub.
- Secret Naming Place - Linked to the Stations project, local communities will be invited to explore the seascape and the stories behind its place names. Facilitated by professional writers, this will also encourage the naming of nameless places, engendering local pride.
- Little Tern Wardening - Access management, habitat enhancement and wardening to educate and engage at the Crimdon breeding site of this Red List seabird.
- England Coast Path Identity - Working across the Seascape area to coherently brand the inclusive section of England Coast Path; linking all seascape projects.
- Clavering Circular Trail - Linking communities to coastal heritage assets by developing a circular walking trail, guided walks, leaflets and interpretation panels
- Blue Gym - Working with watersports centres and clubs to provide fun activities on, in and under the sea, such as kayaking and coasteering. Moving beyond our usual audiences, bringing additional health and wellbeing benefits and addressing the social, physical and cultural barriers prohibiting access to sea.

Theme 4: Coastal Champions

Providing opportunities for learning, training and enjoyment so that the heritage of the area is better appreciated; engendering a stewardship of this unique seascape for generations to come

- Young Beach Rangers - Creating opportunities for young people to undertake practical conservation activities and learn new skills, including film making – allowing them to tell the story of their coast in their own words.
- Beach Tots - Creative play and exploration sessions for toddlers as a way to engage hard-to-reach, non-traditional audiences and encouraging coastal stewardship.
- Seascape Trainees - 8 trainees engaged in a 24 month programme with the core team and partners.
- Beach Care and Aware - Community engagement project working to tackle beach litter and create coastal champions through beach clean events, coastal business engagement and educational activity.
- Events, Engage, Activity - An exciting activity programme raising awareness of the project and offering opportunities for involvement and enjoyment suitable for everyone.
- Community Grants Scheme - A small grants scheme open to community groups for projects that contribute towards the Seascape vision.
- Seascape Education Plus - Provision of resources for heritage education, including delivery of the John Muir Challenge and linking with wider data collection aims through teaching of citizen science skills.