North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast Management Plan

2015 – 2020

Produced by the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum Partnership
North York Moors National Park Authority, North Yorkshire County Council,
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum
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Background

The purpose of this Management Plan is to provide a framework for management of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast over the next five years. It replaces the Heritage Coast Strategy 2008 – 2013 and builds on achievements from that period.

The new plan is based on the original national objectives set out for Heritage Coasts around England and Wales. Natural England is the national body that oversees work undertaken on Heritage Coasts in England whilst the relevant local coastal authorities are the organisations that develop the strategies and plans for these areas.

The concept of Heritage Coasts was first proposed in 1970. Today many of the finest stretches of undeveloped outstanding natural coastlines have been defined as Heritage Coast (see fig. 1.1). The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast was defined in 1974 by the then Countryside Commission (now Natural England) with small boundary changes negotiated in 1981 and 1996.
The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast boundary extends for 55 kilometres or 34 miles between Saltburn by the Sea in Cleveland and Scalby Mills, near Scarborough (See fig 1.2)

The original Countryside Commission policy statement on Heritage Coasts stated that:

‘All Heritage Coasts should have a management plan stating how Heritage Coast objectives are to be met, including the organisations involved, the targets to be adopted, the resources that will be required, and a timetable for implementation. The plan should complement the statutory plan policies and should also accord with, or be an identifiable part of, any National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) management plan that relates to the area.

The original purpose of defining Heritage Coasts was not simply to identify them for protection but to focus on the management needs of the coasts and the relationship between different and sometimes conflicting issues’.
National Objectives for Heritage Coasts

The original policy document published in 1992 by the Countryside Commission for Heritage Coasts identified the following objectives;

1. To conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of these coasts, including their terrestrial, littoral and marine flora and fauna, and their heritage features of architectural, historical and archaeological interest;

2. To facilitate and enhance their enjoyment, understanding and appreciation by the public by improving and extending opportunities for recreational, educational, sporting and tourist activities that draw on and are consistent with, the conservation of their natural beauty and the protection of their heritage features;

3. To maintain and improve (where necessary) the environmental health of inshore waters affecting Heritage Coasts and their beaches through appropriate works and management measures and

4. To take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing and of the economic needs of these small coastal communities, through promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development, which in themselves conserve and enhance the natural beauty and heritage features.

Management of the Heritage Coast

The national policy on Heritage Coasts also makes clear recommendations about the management of the Heritage Coast. Although there has been no recent review of Heritage Coast policy at a national level the original objectives are still very relevant in 2015. The original policy statement noted that;

- Local authorities should take the prime responsibility for Heritage Coast matters;
- There is a need for Heritage Coasts to have an identity within a local authority;
- For those Heritage Coasts within National Parks, National Park Authorities should look after Heritage Coast interests;
- It has been the commitment and enthusiasm of Heritage Coast Officers and Rangers that has led to successful management measures. However, their brief has often been too limited and the resources only sufficient to cope with small scale management measures. Many problems remain that require the full use of all local authority powers and greater financial resources;
- Local authorities need to ensure that each has such a service and that the responsibilities are clearly defined at all levels, including senior ones so that the principle tasks are carried out;
- Heritage Coasts are properly protected and funds secured for their management;
- A management plan is prepared for the area including the intertidal strand and adjacent inshore waters and
- The management plans implementation is overseen through a countryside management approach towards practical work, through liaison with all interests involved in the management and use of the Heritage Coast and through statutory planning.
Coordination of Heritage Coast management

This new plan has been produced by a coastal partnership consisting of the North York Moors National Park Authority, North Yorkshire County Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum. These organisations will ensure that the plan is implemented and monitored as opportunities allow.

The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum covers the area between South Gare (southern bank of the Tees Estuary) through to Speeton (southern coastal boundary of the county of North Yorkshire) and includes the entire length of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast. The coastline within the Forum area north and south of the Heritage Coast contains some varied land and seascapes that are of considerable value.

The Coastal Forum is a non-statutory body and was established in 2002. It is tasked with overseeing many of the coastal plans for North Yorkshire and Cleveland. The full Forum consists of over 160 coastal organisations and individuals who take an active interest in coastal matters.

The Forum partners include Scarborough Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, North York Moors National Park Authority, North Yorkshire County Council, National Trust, National Farmers Union and the North East Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority.

The terms of reference for the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum are to provide:

‘An integrated Forum for the co-ordination of coastal management focusing on conservation, recreation, coastal and flood defence, natural processes, water quality and marine issues, tourism and the economy’.
Heritage Coast boundary

The boundaries of the Heritage Coast are identified on site by stone boundary markers. These are situated on the cliff above the Ship Inn at Saltburn, Upgang Chine at Whitby, Abbey Field at Whitby and Scalby Mills near Scarborough. The entire coastal frontage between these stones is included in the Heritage Coast, with a small area at Whitby being excluded due to its developed nature.

The inland boundary is the first major road from the clifftop, or as is the case at Robin Hood’s Bay the old railway line or Cinder Track. This gives a linear management unit of coastal hinterland which provides a focus for projects to manage and enhance the coastal environment.

Eastwards, the open sea boundary is not defined but it is considered that the extent of inshore waters up to 3 miles out to sea is an obvious marker for influential management.

The majority of the Heritage Coast lies within the boundaries of the North York Moors National Park, a nationally designated landscape selected for its intrinsic merits as an area of beautiful and unspoilt country and magnificent coast with a wealth of architectural interest. The National Park designation overlaps the Heritage Coast status for approximately 70% of the coastal area and brings increased protection for the landscape here.

There have been a number of attempts over the years to extend the Heritage Coast boundary to the south beyond Scarborough. Whilst Heritage Coasts are defined due to their undeveloped nature, the coastline between Holbeck and Filey could well qualify for Heritage Coast status on certain grounds. A proposal from Scarborough Borough Council to include this area as Heritage Coast was put to Natural England in 2009. Unfortunately, at that time Natural England were not in a position to define or designate any more protected landscapes or alter boundaries. However, this is still an action that the Heritage Coast Partnership would like to see implemented as opportunities arise and as such should be included as an option for this Plan.

Similarly, a recent enquiry as to a northern extension to include Marske by the Sea has been raised by the local community.
Resources for Heritage Coast Management

Over the period of the last Management Plan (2008-2013) the Heritage Coast Partnership has been successful in attracting a wide range of external funding for coastal work. These have included partner contributions, LEADER funding, national agri-environment delivery funds, National Park delivery grants for land management as well as contributions to specific on the ground projects from land managers.

The 2015-2020 Management Plan is an aspirational document which identifies further key principles relating to the coast that are in need of implementation. Whilst there are currently no core resources from existing local authority Heritage Coast partners to provide coordination for this plan, there are limited elements that can be pursued via existing methods and through the work of each partner organisation.

It is anticipated that there are likely to be external funding opportunities to obtain funding for appropriate delivery of the Plans key objectives over the lifespan of this Plan. It is however recognised that these are more likely to be on a project basis rather than for a dedicated Heritage Coast Partnership Project function in its own right.

In terms of future management projects, there are a number of funding opportunities which need to be investigated and applied for to deliver projects on the coast, but this will need to be progressed via partner organisations taking a lead role for developing specific projects and relevant funding bids.

Whilst it is recognised that there are current restrictions on public sector funds, the opportunities that external funds present should be maximised wherever possible. The coast represents a significant asset to the region and an opportunity for local and national partner organisations to develop it as a hub for sensitive and appropriate economic activity. Any opportunity to direct sustainable tourism to the coast needs to be fully explored, yet measures also need to be in place to ensure that the tranquillity of the rural coastal environment is not lost.

Local Community Involvement

It is an essential element of this Plan that the local coastal communities have an ownership of what happens on the Heritage Coast. It would be wrong to develop management proposals that are not fully endorsed by the coastal communities. In recognition of this, the Partnership undertook a consultation during summer 2014 to determine what residents felt were priority projects for inclusion in the new Plan. The process and results of the consultation are included in Appendix 1 and 2.

The Heritage Coast is a living and working coast and as a result local needs should form an integral part of the Plan. Communication should be two way between residents and coastal planners and opportunities to do this currently exist. The annual North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coastal Forum, the National Park Authority Coastal Parish Forum, Scarborough Borough Council Area Committee meetings and local parish meetings provide mechanisms to do this.

Farming and fishing industries are an integral part of the life and landscape of the coast. It is vital that good relationships are maintained with these sectors as they have a direct influence on the environment of the coastline.
Planning Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the framework of planning policies at a national level and how these should be applied. Paragraph 114 of the NPPF states, ‘Local planning authorities should maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.’

Alongside the NPPF, is the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). In relation to Heritage Coasts, the PPG emphasises their role in conserving the natural beauty of the most beautiful and undeveloped coastlines whilst improving accessibility to visitors. The guidance also points to advice published by Natural England regarding Heritage Coasts.

As the majority of the Heritage Coast lies within the National Park, the key development plan is the National Park Core Strategy and Development Policies Document which was adopted in 2008.

This contains a number of core and more detailed development management policies which operate Park-wide and therefore, whilst not bespoke coastal policies, nevertheless provide the relevant planning policy framework covering the Heritage Coast area within the National Park.

Within the Scarborough local planning area, the 1999 Scarborough Borough Local Plan includes a specific policy on ‘The Coastal Zone’, this states ‘Development within the defined coastal zone will be strictly limited to that for which a coastal location is essential and where it will enhance the open, expansive character of the coastal landscape. Special attention will be given to protecting the remote character, nature conservation interest, wildlife value and marine environment of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland and Flamborough Headland Heritage Coasts.’

Scarborough Borough Council is in the process of replacing the 1999 Borough Local Plan with a new Local Plan, and consulted on a draft Local Plan in May 2014. This included specific mention of the Heritage Coast designation in relation to policy regarding development affecting the countryside. The policy states development in the countryside will be restricted to those for which a countryside location is essential and will have to respond to particular characteristics of distinctive areas such as the Heritage Coast in order to protect and where possible enhance the distinctiveness or special features that contribute to the landscape character.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible for preparing statutory marine plans in England. The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) provides the policy framework for the marine planning system. Where there is no marine plan in place, the MPS sets the direction for decisions that affect the marine areas. The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast lies within the North East Inshore Marine Plan Area.

Relationship with other strategies

The Heritage Coast Management Plan is one of a number of strategic plans for the coastal zone. The Management Plan will be one of the key reference documents to consider when looking at strategic development along the rural coast, ensuring that the open rural land and seascapes are not compromised.

There are a number of key documents that impact on the management of the Heritage Coast and these are noted below:

- North York Moors National Park Management Plan,
- York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan, Shoreline Management Plan, North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership strategy,
- Tees Valley Local Nature Partnership strategy,
- Cleveland Way Management Plan,
Relationships with European Union (EU) Directives

European Union Directives lay down certain end results that must be achieved in every Member State. National authorities have to adapt their laws to meet these goals, but are free to decide how to do so.

There are a number of European Union Directives that relate to management of the Heritage Coast.

   The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires Member States to put in place the necessary management measures to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in their marine waters by 2020. Achieving GES involves protecting the marine environment, preventing its deterioration and restoring it where practical, whilst at the same time providing for sustainable use of marine resources. GES does not require the achievement of a pristine environmental state across the whole of the UK’s seas.

2. **EU Bathing Water Directive (BWD)**
   The EU Bathing Waters Directive requires Member States to identify popular bathing places in fresh and coastal waters and monitor them for indicators of microbiological pollution (and other substances) throughout the bathing season which runs from May to September. From 2015 onwards there will be more stringent levels of water cleanliness if the beaches are to retain their status as EU bathing beaches.

   The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. It will ensure that all aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands meet ‘good status’ by 2015.

   With rapidly increasing demand for maritime space for new activities, from renewable energy to aquaculture installations, better and coherent planning of maritime activities at sea is needed. The Directive sets minimum requirements for the drawing up of national maritime spatial plans. These plans will identify all existing human activities, taking into account land-sea interactions, and the most effective way of managing them. As many of the activities run across national borders, the Directive will help Member States co-operate better. Once finally adopted by ministers, Member States must transpose the Directive into their national legislation by 2016 and nominate the competent authority in charge of the implementation of MSP. Member States must also draw up their national maritime spatial plans by 2021. They are free to tailor the content of the plans and strategies to their specific economic, social and environmental priorities, and their national sectorial policy objectives and legal traditions, but must respect the minimum requirements of the Directive.
Coastal Economy

The Heritage Coast has been an important destination for visitors for decades. It is well recognised that tourism is the biggest contributor to the coastal economy. The rural coastline of North Yorkshire and Cleveland offers a fantastic attraction with its many secret coves, beautiful beaches and historic remains. Central to this tourism economy is the provision of a quality natural environment which is accessible, explained and cared for by local communities and organisations. It is therefore imperative to ensure that the natural coastal asset remains a quality destination. However, this cannot be done without local people and relevant organisations. Available finance is a major influence in the provision of the quality coastal offer and currently this is becoming more and more restricted due to the recent economic climate.

However, opportunities do exist and funding is available for the coast nationally via various mechanisms. Local authority funding has been essential in maintaining or upgrading the coastal environment and access to it, but public sector finances are currently under huge pressure. It is important to recognise where public sector funding is still critical but also where opportunities for other sources of funding such as from grant giving bodies and investment from the private sector. One particular relevant example is the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF). In 2014, £64 million was offered to UK coastal communities to bid for through the BIG Lottery Fund’s Coastal Communities Fund. This followed £27 million on offer from the 2012 programme. These funding programmes were directed at job creation on the coast, addressing seasonality, promoting business and upgrading the coastal offer.

Whilst it is recognised that the core principles of Heritage Coasts should not be compromised, there is a real reason and opportunity to promote new ways of selling the rural Heritage Coast and encouraging new users to appreciate and care for the environment. This Plan adopts a new key objective relating to promoting the coastline whilst recognising the thresholds of sustainability. The proposed objective can be applied across all four national principle work areas of Heritage Coast policy.

The new key objective is;

‘To establish a thriving business orientated rural coastal enterprise area which is centred on the special qualities of the area and which will ensure they continue to be cared for so that future generations can enjoy them. Some of the natural assets are fragile and this needs to be recognised by the beneficiaries leading to an enhanced awareness of the need to conserve them for their own sake and through participation and enjoyment’.

Any economic activity that is encouraged should be based on, and would directly relate to, what makes the Heritage Coast a special place in terms of remoteness and tranquillity. It is important that large scale economic development within the rural coastal zone is not compatible with the intrinsic nature of the Heritage Coast and does not reflect the original objectives of definition of these undeveloped protected coastlines.

The following section sets out the key principles within each of the four original national objectives for Heritage Coasts and encapsulates the proposed new objective within each work area.
National Objective 1

CONSERVATION OF THE COASTLINE

The first Heritage Coast objective surrounds the need for conservation, protection and enhancement of the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage features. The following section of the strategy sets out the existing issues and proposes the need for specific action to address these.

Landscape of the Coast

The coastal landscape has always been one of the attractions of the area and maintaining and enhancing it is still a priority. Local Planning Authority planning policies ensure that development is appropriate to the landscape in which it sits. The National Park Authority promotes landscape enhancements by working with key stakeholders on the coast such as farmers and landowners. Uptake of grants for this work has been extremely successful and schemes such as the previous Upland Management Scheme and Landscape Intervention Fund and more recently the ongoing Habitat Connectivity Programme have supported work on the coast.

The 1995 Heritage Coast strategy identified four landscape areas within the hinterland of the coast as being in need of attention and focused improvements. A number of landscape assessments were undertaken in these areas and subsequently a variety of enhancements have been completed within these zones. The areas at Staithes to Runswick, Kettleness to Goldsborough, Maw Wyke to Whitby Abbey and Scalby to Burniston have all been upgraded in terms of landscape via improvements to traditional boundaries, entry into Environmental Stewardship schemes or agreements through National Park land management schemes.

Priorities for action to address landscape issues should continue to be developed utilising both local and national funding mechanisms. The new Countryside Stewardship scheme is due to be introduced in 2015 and this national scheme will be the first port of call for any landscape enhancements for the coast. More localised funding through National Park schemes will complement the national schemes where necessary and as future funding allows.

One of the original landscape conservation targets for Heritage Coasts was the creation of a strip of vegetation behind the beach or cliff edge that would accommodate the cliff path. Where appropriate and agreeable this strip should be as wide as possible. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 legislated for coastal access to be delivered around the English coastline so that a continuous path is created to form a national coastal trail. As part of the trail, ‘spreading room’ has also been included to take in not just the cliff path but the undercliff, beach and shore down to low water mark. This will ensure that a default right of access is available from cliff top to low water. Part of the original proposal for coastal access was to create a five metre vegetated strip inland of the coastal path, however this was deemed not to be essential if undercliff and shore access is implemented. A major benefit of the Act ensures that if any path or access is lost over the cliff through coastal erosion the route can be automatically reinstated so that the trail remains in perpetuity. This is known as automatic rollback.

With such an attractive coastline it is easy to see why many developers want to establish businesses here. There are a number of holiday parks on the Heritage Coast each offering accommodation and supporting coastal tourism and the associated economy. However, careful development management needs to be observed at all times. The National Park Authority has worked for a number of years with existing holiday park operators in reducing the visual and other impacts of the holiday parks on the landscape wherever possible.

Woodland cover along the coast is restricted mainly to the wooded gills or valleys that run down to the shore. Large tracts of Ancient Woodland at Mulgrave, Roxby, Esk Valley, Kilton and Saltburn along with the smaller gills at Robin Hood’s Bay and Hayburn Wyke provide vital links to other woodlands below the eastern moorland plateau. Retaining and expanding these linear linkages of woodland cover remains a priority for the Heritage Coast and ensuring there are conservation management plans for these sites is important.

Key Principle 1

Continue to support measures that will conserve and enhance the unique coastal landscape and retain its open character and extensive uninterrupted views.
Seascapes

The Heritage Coast visual experience relies on undeveloped seascape quality as well as landscape. The land / sea interface is one of the special qualities of the area. The open seascapes have been a traditional attraction for artists and authors alike for many years, but there are pressures to develop within the seascape in terms of offshore wind and gas installations. Maintaining an uninterrupted natural horizon adjacent to protected landscapes should be a priority for seascape policy and this theme will be evident in any forthcoming Marine Plan written by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Protected coastlines in National Parks, AONBs and Heritage Coasts should be taken into account in any proposals for seascape development. The recent installation of 37 turbines just off the Redcar coastline is visible from a number of prominent locations from the northern section of Heritage Coast and marine planning has a major role to play in determining this type of development in the future.

Natural Environment

The Heritage Coast includes habitats that are subject to national and international designation. Approximately half of the coastal slope and rocky shore is designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) whilst Robin Hood’s Bay and the slope and rocky shore immediately north and south form part of an EU Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its vegetated sea cliff communities. The coastal inshore waters in the Bay are classed as a Sensitive Marine Area (SMA) because of the wealth of intertidal and subtidal marine life. The designation of the inshore waters between Staalishes and Sandsend as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) has been proposed and consultation is due to begin on this in 2015. The MCZ, known as Runswick Bay MCZ, was proposed by the regional Net Gain stakeholder group in 2012 consisting of local fishermen, marine scientists, Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority and the National Park Authority and it is seen as a major step forward in conserving our marine environment.

Fencing and undercliff grazing project at Wrack Hills SSSI, Runswick Bay (J. Beech)
Pond creation project on the Heritage Coast (J. Beech)

There is potential to increase the extent of semi natural habitats on the coast for both aesthetic and wildlife conservation reasons. Creation of scrub, scrub woodland, low intensity pasture, rough grazing and coastal heath are all important habitats on the coast and this is to be encouraged where appropriate. A good proportion of the coastal undercliff and rocky shore is scheduled as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological and botanical interest. Coastal slopes such as Beast Cliff at Ravenscar are one of the least intensively managed habitats in the North York Moors National Park due to their inaccessibility and as such provide a quiet refuge for wildlife. There are a number of sites along the coast that now have appropriate management agreements on them to introduce small numbers of livestock to graze the undercliff and combat the encroaching vegetation on these important sea cliff grassland areas.

The North York Moors National Park Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) contains a section on coastal habitat management and the Heritage Coast Partnership has previously been instrumental in delivering a number of improvement actions from it.

**Key Principle 2**
Develop projects to further the nature conservation of the coast by cross referencing to the Coastal Biodiversity Habitat Action Plans. Develop the potential for habitat connectivity recognising the priority areas set out in the habitat modelling exercise.

The North York Moors National Park Authority has developed a habitat model and direction for works to further the principle of habitat connectivity across the National Park with a significant focus on the coastal area. Works to link the fragmented habitats and restore wildlife corridors have been carried out to enhance biodiversity and species travel. Whilst a great deal has already been achieved on the coast already there is a continuing need to promote this principle further.

**Key Principle 3**
Continue to work with landowners to offer advice and assistance with agri environment schemes to ensure quality biodiversity sites and linkages along the coast.
Geological Conservation

The Heritage Coast has a reputation as being one of the prime sites in the UK to study Jurassic geology. William Smith, a father figure of British Geology, studied the Scarborough coastline for many years in the Victorian period and founded much of the current understanding of geological science as we know it today.

There are a number of individuals and organisations that interpret the rocks and fossils that are found on the beach here and geoscience is a fascinating subject for all age groups.

Coastal Villages and the Built Environment

Away from the resorts of Scarborough, Whitby and Saltburn, the small traditional fishing villages ooze with charm and personality. Skinningrove, Staithes, Sandsend, Runswick and Robin Hood’s Bay typify the Heritage Coast and are a major draw for tourism. The traditional village fabric of stone cottages with slate and pantile roofs, diminutive outbuildings, cobbled streets and narrow yards and alleyways all add to the rural seaside charm of the setting.

Various alterations to the streetscapes have been undertaken over the years, some more sympathetic than others. The National Park Authority in conjunction with English Heritage have been involved in the upgrade of public areas in many coastal villages utilising local materials that “fit” with the traditional fabric and environment. Stone flags, sandstone setts, cobbles and stonework have replaced concrete and cement wherever possible and this has made a vast improvement to the quality of the built environment.

These improvements have been made in partnership with the local community (usually the Parish Council) and Highway Authority. Townscape partnership schemes in both Staithes and Robin Hoods Bay have also funded the consolidation of derelict buildings and the reinstatement of missing architectural features thereby facilitating the creation of a number of new businesses and adding to the attraction, vitality and economic sustainability of these villages.

The villages are an important part of the economy of the coast too, with many return visits to the holiday cottages throughout the year. Many of these villages are classed as Conservation Areas and are subject to Article 4 directions which ensure that any alterations to traditional architectural features (such as doors, windows, stone walls and pantile roofs) are brought under appropriate planning control.

Key Principle 4
Support organisations that promote sustainable care and management of the paleontological resource and ensure the code of conduct is followed regarding fossil collection.

Key Principle 5
Continue to support and lead on aspects of village conservation area improvement schemes with local communities.
Historic Environment

The Heritage Coast is scattered with many archaeological remains, telling the story of human influence on the landscape here. The coastline has long been associated with industry with vast quantities of Alum, Jet and Ironstone being ‘won’ from the coastal rock between the 17th to the 19th centuries. The scars of industry left behind on the landscape are still visible today on some of the coastal headlands such as Sandsend, Saltwick and Kettleness.

Prior to this, the coast was an obvious lookout area for overseas invaders and signal stations were built during Roman occupation to warn of raiding parties. The stations linked to inland signalers and provided an early communication link to prepare for attack. During the two world wars the coastal clifftops were again used to scan the horizon for enemy raiders.

Many of the features from these footsteps in history still remain on the coast and conserving, recording and interpreting them is a necessary and important task.

**Key Principle 6**

Continue with archaeological conservation projects along the coast and use the information to promote the importance to the general public.

*Disused Alum Quarries at Boulby (J. Beech)*

*Breakwater built to protect the Black Nab Alum works c.1766 (J. Beech)*
National Objective 2

PUBLIC ENJOYMENT AND RECREATION

The Heritage Coast is unsurpassed in its beauty, variety and strength of offer. It is not, however, as well-known as it should be and more should be done to promote it and connect with its stunning hinterland – the steam railway, Castle Howard and attractions such as Flamingo Land. It deserves the backing and imagination appropriate to this.

The Heritage Coast also plays an important role in offering informal recreation and sporting opportunities as well as being an educational resource. Tourism is the largest economic sector on the coast and this is largely based on the quality environment that people holiday in.

Ensuring that tourism is sustainable is a major challenge especially when considered alongside a desire to attract more people to the area. A high quality experience demands a high quality environment.

The key means of arrival at coastal destinations is by private car and this poses its own problems when space for parking is limited. Robin Hood’s Bay, Staithes and Runswick all have car parks that can accommodate peak weekend visitor numbers currently but alternatives need to found if the coast is to accommodate increased visitor numbers. This should include opportunities for people to visit sensitive sites without their car.

Getting around on the local coast can be an inspirational experience. Walks on the beach or cliff top are invigorating and there are many locations where people can gain easy access to the coast, making it a popular pastime for all age groups.

Watersports (Chris J. Parker)
Access

Visitor surveys show that walking and hiking is the most popular activity on the Heritage Coast. This highlights the need for a well maintained and waymarked public rights of way network. The Cleveland Way National Trail provides a continuous cliff top route and is the main opportunity for public access on the coast on foot. There is also a largely unexplored system of paths and bridleways that link the cliff top to the main roads along the coast. The most popular ones lead from coastal settlements and it is therefore important to ensure these are maintained and enhanced wherever possible.

The Cleveland Way National Trail, with its coastal section running between Saltburn and Filey provides a continuous path along the cliff top for walkers and takes in spectacular views along the way. The old railway trackbed, known locally as the Cinder Track, runs close to the coast between Scarborough and Whitby and can be tackled by all users but is especially favoured by cyclists.

The Cleveland Way National Trail is subject to occasional cliff slippages resulting in part of the Trail being lost over the cliff. The 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act will provide a mechanism to reinstate the trail automatically so that it can continue to provide the English coastal path – a circular route around the perimeter of the coastline. Coastal Access will also provide ‘spreading room’ to enable access between cliff top path and low water mark on the shore.

The famous ‘Coast to Coast’ walk from St. Bees Head to Robin Hood’s Bay begins and ends on separate Heritage Coasts and has been acclaimed as the second most iconic walk in the world. The National Park Authority is part of a partnership which includes the Wainwright Society that actively manages and promotes the route within our Heritage Coast as well as across the country.

When managing the rights of way along the Heritage Coast it is important to remember the sometimes differing requirements. Visitors and residents use the network in different ways whether it be long distance walking, horse riding or cycling and many need easier access facilities, such as wheelchair or pushchair friendly routes.

The Cinder Track represents an ideal opportunity as an all user linear route. The trackbed is owned by Scarborough Borough Council and has recently been managed by Groundwork Trust. The Cinder Track has a ‘Friends of...’ group and has a detailed plan for upgrading the route to Sustrans cycle route status. The plan contains detail of drainage proposals for the track as well as interpretation and habitat management ideas. The Groundwork Trust has led on the upgrading of some of the surfacing and drainage and there are proposals to do more into the future. Whilst it is accepted that there is a need to upgrade the route to a better standard, care should be taken not to deplete the natural environment in the process.

Originally the railtrack continued through Whitby and onwards north towards Middlesbrough. Whilst the track is still used commercially between Boulby and Middlesbrough by Cleveland Potash, the route south of Boulby has become unusable and in some cases built over completely. The trackbed between Sandsend and Hinderwell is still negotiable, however access is discouraged, partly due to disused tunnels that take the track through the cliffs at Deepgrove and Kettleness. The development of the route north from Whitby through the tunnels would create a huge and exciting asset for the coastal tourism industry. This would be a major aspirational project befitting the grandeur and history of the Heritage Coast.

Key Principle 7
Continue to manage recreational routes such as the Cleveland Way and Cinder Track to ensure they are easily accessible, promoted, monitored and maintained.

Key Principle 8
Work with the relevant authorities to enhance the condition of the Cinder Track without degrading the natural environment in which it lies.

Key Principle 9
Seek funding for activity which would establish the practicality of reopening the route north from Whitby and seek implementation.

The ports and harbours along the coast are used as starting points for more specialist recreation such as scuba diving, fishing, sea kayaking, water ski-ing and yachting.

Many people visit the coast just to get to the beach and enjoy the scenery. This provides an opportunity for employing innovative ways of raising awareness about the conservation of the coastal environment. A sand art workshop promoted by the Coastal Forum enabled participants to engage in producing dolphin sand sculptures whilst learning about marine mammals and their environment.

Environmental Sand Art created by Coastal Forum members 2013 (J. Beech)
Interpretation and Tourism

Targeting interpretation at coastal locations is particularly effective and good value for money. For the seaside visitor, enjoyment is no doubt the most important factor, and enjoyment whilst learning about the coast and its habitats can be particularly rewarding. Raising awareness of the coast with people who live in nearby major conurbations can bring multiple benefits and should be pursued further.

**Key Principle 1**
Develop and promote a series of coastal events to raise awareness of the unique environment by using all types of media and method.

Highlighting the importance and uniqueness of the coast to young people should be developed wherever possible. Taking coastal messages into schools within the coastal catchment areas could be an important way to communicate the unique issues and opportunities that the coast provides, especially around the concerns of coastal litter and its impact on the environment and wildlife.

There is a refreshed appetite for learning based holidays and visits to various destinations around the UK. The coastline can play a major part in this approach and already there are various fledgling businesses along the Heritage Coast that are capitalising on this trend. Geology walks, foreshore scavenging and foraging, whale watching and ‘What’s in the pot?’ attractions are beginning to become popular with coastal visitors.

**Key Principle 11**
Develop a green tourism guide focusing on promoting businesses that have green credentials and promote the coast’s natural environment in a sustainable way.

There are various other opportunities to expand on these activities and interests using the natural coastline and its wildlife as the main attractor. Festivals are emerging that encourage longer stays at the coast and this benefits the coastal economy. Sustainable fishing events and lobster festivals are all opportunities to encourage discerning visitors to the coast and ensure that the benefit of these visits is felt by the coastal communities outside of the traditional resort towns.

**Key Principle 12**
Support businesses that showcase the coastal landscape and features leading to an enhanced environmental appreciation.

Ideas are also developing around themed activity holidays for visitors. Weekly packages with daily organised adventure activities such as surfing, canoeing, fishing, foraging and cycling could prove popular and should be explored further with activity providers.

The Heritage Coast villages have long been associated with tales of latter day smuggling with their secret coves and narrow streets lending themselves to storage and movement of contraband away from the eyes of law enforcement. Guided tours take place in some of the villages explaining the various aspects of coastal history and usage.

This scenic area has a reputation for environmental arts. Photography, sculptures, crafts, film and fine art have all been associated with the coast and the location has been used many times as a backdrop for filming various television programmes over the years. Old Jack’s Boat (CBeebies), The Royal (ITV), Heartbeat (ITV) and Countryfile (BBC) and a recent remake of the ‘Dad’s Army’ film have all featured the land and seascapes of the Heritage Coast.

![Aboard a whale watching boat trip from Whitby (J. Beech)](image-url)
Visitor, Transport and Traffic Issues

The coast also has a network of public transport provision to get to the various access points. Bus services operate from Scarborough, Whitby and Middlesbrough making the coastline reasonably accessible without the need for cars. Major train stations at Scarborough, Whitby and Saltburn also bring passenger trains from north, south and west of the Heritage Coast.

Due to the nature of the coast, the number of vehicle access points is limited. Whilst the villages at Skinningrove, Staithes, Runswick, Sandsend, Robin Hood’s Bay and Ravenscar all have car parks to accommodate visitor vehicles the more remote access points are virtually self-managing. Hummersea, Port Mulgrave, Kettleness, Saltwick Bay, Boggle Hole, Hayburn Wyke, Crook Ness and Cloughton Salt Pans all have small scale parking for a handful of vehicles and it is generally considered that they should not be promoted or developed in any way and be ‘left to be discovered’.

Key Principle 13
Continue to manage vehicle access to remote coastal areas and leave specific access points as ‘there to be discovered’.

Casual vehicle access into the lower villages at Staithes and Robin Hood’s Bay is an ongoing issue. The narrow streets are not designed for large volumes of traffic and street design at the bank top in conjunction with signage to car parks has, in most cases been successful in encouraging vehicles to park outside of the village centres.

Key Principle 14
Promote measures to manage traffic flow and numbers into the village frontage areas of the Conservation Areas within the traditional fishing village.

Walking on the Cleveland Way National Trail cliff top path near Saltburn (M.Hodgson)

Yorkshire Coastliner bus
National Objective 3

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF COASTAL WATERS AND BEACHES

Litter

A clean, litter free coastal environment is a key contributor to the health and well-being of the Heritage Coast. The effect of marine litter from outside of the Heritage Coast area is difficult to control and causes real concern amongst residents and visitors alike. Many of the items washed up on the beaches are from natural sources, however a significant proportion are not. A major contributor is that of non-degradable polystyrene and plastics.

Coastal litter not only looks unsightly, it collects in the strandline on the beach and can be dangerous to animals, birds and humans. Articles such as plastics, polypropylene nets, containers, bottles and broken glass are the major offenders. Campaigns for residents to adopt local beaches and clean them regularly are promoted through the Marine Conservation Society [MCS].

Whilst there may be little influence the Heritage Coast Management Plan can have over litter coming from the sea, action can be taken on casual littering by beach users, illegal fly-tipping and deliberate dumping. The general message to all beach users is to ‘Take your litter with you’ however the Local Authorities do provide bins at a number of access points to the shore and these on the whole tend to be used responsibly by visitors.

**Key Principle 16**

Promote the 'Take your litter with you' message at all Heritage Coast beaches.

Bathing Water Quality

2015 sees a raising of the threshold for bathing water quality at all EU bathing beaches. The revised EU Bathing Water Directive will have a significant impact on all EU bathing beaches in terms of improving water quality. Along the Heritage Coast registered bathing beaches are at Staithes, Runswick Bay, Sandsend and Robin Hood’s Bay.

It is the statutory duty of the Environment Agency to undertake microbiological monitoring on a weekly basis at these locations during the bathing season (April – September). Monitoring is important from both a health and wider environmental viewpoint.

Most of the EU bathing beaches along the Heritage Coast meet the current water quality standards at the time of writing. However there are fluctuations in results at several beaches including the Staithes harbour sampling point and this has led to a focusing of joint activity within the watercourse catchment and in the village and harbour.

The National Park Authority has been working in partnership with the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Scarborough Borough Council and Natural England to try to remedy the situation. The Staithes sub group of the Bathing Water Partnership have, since 2009, been active in providing advice, funding and guidance to prevent diffuse and direct pollution entering the Staithes Beck catchment and this is now well known within the area. Many of the agricultural tenants have benefited from assistance and have actively undertaken remedial work to combat the problem.
Key Principle 17
Work with various agencies to strive to achieve the improved water quality standards for EU bathing beaches along the coast. Mitigate any development and use any available funding outcome to focus on environmental improvements that enhance water quality along the coast.

Providing the public with information about bathing water quality is important, however the issue needs to be handled sensitively. Providing information without understanding can be damaging to the tourism potential of a particular resort or village. However, in 2015 if EU bathing beaches are not regularly passing the new water quality standards, notices will be displayed at entry points to the beach to inform visitors and advising them against swimming in the waters adjacent to the beaches.

Allied to the water quality issue is the proposal to designate an area adjacent to the shoreline as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) between Staithes and Sandsend. This designation will cover three of our EU bathing beaches and could potentially impact on the message relayed about coastal water quality.

Emergency Planning at the Coast
A partnership of Maritime and Coastguard Agency, North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council and Environment Agency produced an emergency contingency plan in 2009 to ensure a structured approach to any coastal emergency. The plan focused on the timely co-ordinated reaction to a potential major oil spill off the coast, but could also guide activity following any natural disaster along our coastline. Copies of the plan are held at each of the offices of the partnership authorities as well as the National Park headquarters.

Key Principle 19
Continue to be a partner in the response process for coastal emergencies such as oil spill.

Beach Awards
The Tidy Britain Group Seaside Awards and the EU Blue Flag award are the highest standards that can be received for coastal beaches in terms of facilities and cleanliness. Such awards can significantly benefit tourism to an area as well as raising awareness of standards and issues. The awards are based around the appropriate beach management, information, education and the guardianship by the local community. Both awards (Premier Seaside from Tidy Britain group) and EU Blue Flag award require the bathing water quality to be of EU Bathing Water Directive guideline standards.
National Objective 4

TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES AND OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES, BY PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FORMS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

With its vast array of landscapes, habitats, historical, recreational and built environment assets, the coast has major potential to sell itself to the discerning visitor. Teasing out each opportunity and developing them to maximise their potential is a key task for coastal management over the lifetime of this Management Plan. Encouraging fledgling businesses with ideas and opportunities to make the most of the natural coast, and which can contribute to its enhancement and promotion is a key driver to the success of this Plan. However, this needs to be done in conjunction with all parties that have an interest in this magnificent coastal environment.

Land Use
Land use along the Heritage Coast determines some of the special character of the landscape and, to a certain extent, the seascape. The cliff top fields along the coastal strip are a mixture of permanent pasture and arable with minimal forestry intervention. Agricultural practices have modelled the landscape that we see today with enclosures such as hedges, walls and fences in various states of repair dominating the hinterland. The boulder clay soils that lie on the coastal plateau are the footprint to the agricultural use of the land, whilst the steep incised valleys or wykes are generally wooded with a mixture of ancient semi natural trees.

Fishing
The fishing industry has historically been a major business along the coast. Many of the coastal villages have built up around fishing communities and their boats. Part of the attraction of the coastal landscape is the traditional villages that contribute to the unique coastal experience here. Small fishing businesses have struggled over recent times and the rural fleet is much reduced. There are still a number of small boats that operate from these villages mainly for potting, long lining and netting small catches. Trawlers take the major catches further out to sea and are still evident in the bigger ports at Whitby and Scarborough.

Staithes, once the home to the largest herring fleet on the East coast, has seen a decline in the number of vessels, mainly due to the modernisation of the industry over the last 100 years or so. Like many similar villages fishing has been overtaken by tourism as the primary financial income for the coast, yet some small boats still exist and provide for niche tourism with fishing trips, wildlife watching and ‘catch and cook’ style activities.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is currently supporting the development of Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGS) to incentivise joint working within the fishing industry. It encourages members of
the fishing community to develop and submit ideas for projects to diversify and enhance facilities at ports and harbours. This is seen as a positive way forward to encourage sharing of ideas within the industry.

The EU funded LEADER initiative has been active in the coastal area via its community driven structured funding programmes over the last 12 years and has gained a good understanding of local community needs and aspirations. There is an opportunity to build on these and bring new projects and actions to fruition that help meet the current economic focus that LEADER will have between 2015 and 2020.

**Key Principle 20**
Develop a Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) to maximise the opportunities to draw down structural funds such as European Fisheries Fund.

The villages along the coast such as Robin Hood’s Bay, Staithes and Runswick are honey pots for tourism during the summer months but many visitors will only pay for car parking and light refreshment. There is great potential within the villages to increase the season and the length of stay for visitors and to expand the range of businesses that can be supported by tourism.

Providing out of season festivals, integrated holiday opportunities, adventure holidays, outdoor learning experiences, seafood delicacies, catch & cook events, arts festivals, historical tours and landscape appreciation events all have the potential to sustainably promote the Heritage Coast for an increased, yet managed, tourism influx.

By promoting sustainable forms of economic and social development, which conserve and enhance the natural beauty and heritage features, the Heritage Coast partnership would be ensuring that the coastal community needs are being met and managed responsibly. The approach recognises that these rural villages have a unique offer and that more conventional resort experiences are met nearby in Scarborough and Whitby.

**Key Principle 21**
Support for small and new businesses at coastal locations. Have a joined up approach of amenities and the natural ‘offer’.

**Agriculture at coast**

**Fishing coble at Staithes (Volunteer Brian Nicholson)**
OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN NORTH YORKSHIRE AND CLEVELAND

Whilst the strategy has covered all of the objectives that relate to Heritage Coasts, there are a number of other factors that will influence the management of the coast into the future. Climate Change, Offshore mineral extraction, renewable energy and coastal and flood defences all have a major impact on the coastline.

In relation to coastal and flood defences, Scarborough Borough Council and the Environment Agency are joint lead partners to the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) process in North Yorkshire and Cleveland, as well as throughout the whole of coastal cell 1 from Berwick to Flamborough. The second generation SMP was written in 2009 and subsequent strategies for subcells where defences are necessary are being written. Plans for defences at Sandsend, Runswick and Robin Hood’s Bay have been identified and are currently under discussion.

*Stormy conditions at Sandsend (J. Beech)*
Historically, oil and gas exploration has taken place off the Heritage Coast. Licences for such exploration are now issued through the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Such exploration should not adversely affect Heritage Coast policies.

With depleting underground natural resources, renewable sources have been identified as an untapped mechanism to provide power and green energy for the future. With the inshore waters off the Heritage Coast being too deep for wind turbines, there is a proposal for the Dogger Bank zone in the middle of the North Sea to become a site for a major wind farm in 2020. The shallow depth [between 10 and 30m] of the Bank could provide a foothold for up to 2,500 turbines, which if given the permission would equate to an area the size of North Yorkshire devoted to renewable energy production. Being some 60 miles away at its shortest point, the windfarm would not be visible from the Heritage Coast and the connection onshore is likely to be on the East Yorkshire coast to the south. The visual impact of the windfarm development would therefore be negligible to the Heritage Coast seascape.
The revised Management Plan is a necessary and important strategic document that identifies the various key objectives that will be the crucial driving force for policy for the Heritage Coast over the next five years.

It will be one of the referral documents for all coastal partners with regard to the management of the undeveloped coastline in the future. The Management Plan will remain the property of all the relevant coastal partners. It will be the responsibility of the coastal partners to promote the Management Plan wherever possible and to develop and deliver projects from the document whenever opportunities arise. Where necessary and when funding becomes available, the partners should aspire to address the priorities to enable the Plan to be driven forward with the necessary resources to implement the key objectives and projects identified.
The North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast Partnership group is currently writing a new management plan. The plan will focus on work to enhance the rural coastline between Saltburn and Scarborough over the next 5 years. The partnership is currently seeking views on what people want to see in the plan. This may vary from wide aspirations for the future to small enhancement projects. We are keen to collect as many thoughts as possible from interested individuals and organisations.

We are following national policy objectives set for Heritage Coasts by the Countryside Commission [now Natural England] and these are as follows;

- Conservation of the natural and built environment of the rural coast
- Public Enjoyment and recreation at the coast
- Improvements to beach and water quality
- Taking account of the needs of the coastal communities

We have included a fifth policy objective to guide a new area of work that will be central to the plan based around the rural coastal economy.

The inland and seaward boundaries for the plan have deliberately been removed to allow free thought into the process but any ideas must have a coastal theme or relate to coastal activity. The developed areas at Scarborough, Whitby and Saltburn are not in the Heritage Coast.

We are keen to hear any views that you have about the coastline and all of these comments that you submit will be considered for inclusion in the plan for 2015 – 2020. A draft plan will be written based on national policy and your comments and views and real projects will be developed wherever possible from this approach. The plan will also contain information on suitable sources of funding to make improvement schemes happen.

The plan will be launched in early 2015 and work will begin on developing projects and ideas to bring them to fruition soon after.

For further details please contact;

John Beech, Coastal Projects Officer,
North Yorkshire and Cleveland
J.Beech@northyorkmoors.org.uk
01439 770657

Questionnaire produced in 2014 to gauge views and ideas regarding the future management of the Heritage Coast.

Appendix 1
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<tr>
<th>Heritage Coast Objective</th>
<th>Response /Project Ideas</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Embed the coastal management policies from the River Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan including preparing coastal communities for adaptation to coastal change where appropriate. Support the conservation objectives for coastal SSSIs including maintaining coastal processes on geological SSSIs. Support the conservation objectives for proposed Marine Conservation Zones including Runswick Bay recommended MCZ. Identify and protect maritime cliff and slope BAP habitat from inappropriate coastal management (such as regrading/stabilisation works). Continued support and encouragement (through advice and agri-environment schemes) for land managers to appropriately manage important habitats, including the grazing of marginal cliff habitats, such as maritime and coastal slope BAP habitat. Furthermore, there are significant areas of farmed, semi-improved grasslands adjacent to these areas (on the cliff tops) which are important in their own right, but also as a buffer to the seaward habitats. We wish to emphasise that plans to manage the coast should extend beyond the usual consideration of vertebrates and flowering plants. The coast also has considerable wealth of fungi (including lichens) invertebrates, marine algae, non-flowering plants and other organisms. There has, for example, been work at Boulby showing that the rocks themselves are home to unique endolithic bacteria. Many more examples could be cited. There are some special habitats along the coast, with associated flora and fauna that need conservation. Almost all the coast has some value. With regard to fossils, it would be a good idea to have signposts at various localities, warning of the dangers, over collecting and rules and regulations. This may make some of the more ‘adventurous’ collectors aware. Protection of habitats and preservation of natural beauty should be paramount. Encourage further management of walls, hedgerows etc. and consider cliff edge management in relation to landslips, and the effect on access to coastal footpaths. Opportunities for public involvement in conservation activities as new tasks or through existing organisations, possibly as a joint approach. I would like to know what provision, if any, has been made to survey and monitor seaweed biodiversity on the Heritage Coast. Seaweeds are important ecosystem service providers supplying shelter, food and habitat for a wide range of intertidal and inshore species. They have been identified as potential indicators of climate change and its effects, e.g. changes in sea surface temperatures and ocean acidification. Algal maps do not give a true picture of algal biodiversity on this coast - not because algal biodiversity is low but mainly because few surveys have been carried out and even fewer voucher specimens prepared and lodged in local, regional or national centres. If we don’t know what’s there now we can’t demonstrate change in the future. Focus on networks and the wider area as well as individual sites. Farming incentives for wildflowers, boundaries, ponds and other habitats. Support designation of Runswick Bay proposed Marine Conservation Zone (pMCZ) by responding to the DEFRA consultation in January 2019. Make the case to DEFRA for the inclusion of further intertidal features within the Runswick Bay proposed Marine Conservation Zone (pMCZ). Make the case to DEFRA for the protection of black-legged kittiwakes within the Runswick Bay proposed Marine Conservation Zone (pMCZ). If the Runswick Bay proposed Marine Conservation Zone (pMCZ) is not designated in the second tranche carry out a programme of work to develop further evidence and public support for designation during a third tranche of consultation.</td>
<td>Natural England</td>
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<td>Heritage Coast Objective</td>
<td>Response /Project Ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Develop a programme of awareness-raising for of the importance of other areas of the coast outside the Runswick Bay area.</td>
<td>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td></td>
<td>There are some special habitats along the coast, with associated flora and fauna that need conserving. Almost all the coast has some value, but the sites below are of particular interest to me:</td>
<td>Wendy English, Whitby Naturalists club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saltmarsh areas at Calla Beck and on the W side of the Esk from the marina up to Ruswarp. (Rare plants including Sea Milkwort, Greater Sea Spurrey, Sea Aster and several rushes and grasses) These areas are part of a SINC, and get occasional community tasks, such as litter picks. The fence encroaching on the saltmarsh at Calla Beck is of concern.</td>
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<td>Flood meadows at the Batts, Ruswarp (Rare plants including Mare’s tail, a Water Crowfoot and wintering birds.) This area is currently grazed.</td>
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<td>Grassland at Upgang Ravine (Rare plants including Bithynian Vetch, Pepper Saxifrage, Sawwort, Bee Orchids; butterflies including Dingy Skipper; birds such as Lesser Whitethroat.) Work task by Whitby Naturalists with Gateway improved condition this year, but this has to be done regularly to maintain the flora.</td>
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<td>Wildflower meadows at Hawsker and Ravenscar, currently well maintained by the caravan park and National Trust respectively.</td>
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<td>Skinningrove harbour area and coastal cliffs (Rare splash zone plants including Sea Milkwort, Sand Spurrey, Maritime Pearlwort, Sea Fern Grass; sand dune system with Marram and Lyme grass; cliff grassland flora including Pyramidal Orchids, Fragrant Orchids, Yellow wort, Greater Knapweed, Burnett rose; butterflies including Grayling.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rocky foreshore at Ravenscar, with breeding seal colony. This appears to thrive, although suffers some disturbance from visitors.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sea cliffs at Saltwick, with breeding colony of Kittiwakes and Fulmars. Generally the quality of coastal grasslands seems to be degrading, with areas such as the slopes at Saltburn becoming quite coarse. Management of these areas is very difficult, as they are generally too steep for cutting, and grazing is impractical. Some parts of the CW have been fenced off to avoid encounters between walkers and stock, resulting in previously grazed areas becoming overgrown with scrub and coarser grasses. Coastal erosion is also a problem. Sand Martin colonies between Whitby and Sandsend disappeared this year in a cliff collapse, and the necessary flood defence work at Raithwaite will affect the flora and fauna of the banks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Offer more “seashore safari” events for groups and families to encourage an interest in intertidal ecology and an appreciation of what’s around our coast.</td>
<td>Resident</td>
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<td>I would like to see lots of improvements for the beaches at Skinningrove - access is very poor to both beaches and impossible for the disabled. Cattersty is a lovely area but is not promoted at all - it is ideal for families but has such a poor approach. There are no available public toilets, no signs for facilities in the village e.g. a renovated bar and B&amp;B at the pub, a newly opened café/bar/bistro, a shop, fish and chips. There are no car park signs to guide visitors to the beach areas. Some signs need to be on the Cleveland Way to attract walkers into the village. Public footpaths need an overhaul and better signing, with distances given. There are very few seats, no picnic areas; all is most basic and not likely to attract visitors to spend time here. The coastline is magnificent but not promoted and lacking facilities. Many walkers are retired people and the steps up to the clifftop out of the village are difficult, especially on the descent, they need improvement. There is little information in Loftus for visitors as to what lies a mile away, i.e. the Cleveland Way, the cliffs, Alum, Hummersea bay, the beach with rockpools, ammonites etc. We do not want to be inundated with too many people but promotion would help local traders and give much needed jobs.</td>
<td>Resident, Hummersea Cliffs, Loftus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heritage Coast Objective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>Bus services are very important for residents and visitors. The recent cut to the service to Ravenscar has been bad for both. However, the change to the No 4/5 service from Whitby, which now follows the coast to Saltburn has been good for both, and has been well used. Visitors require toilets, and the money saving measures that have forced closure of some public toilets is regrettable. The remaining ones need to be kept open! The Cleveland Way and Cinder Track are superb facilities, much appreciated by visitors and residents.</td>
<td>Wendy English, Whitby Naturalists club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Increase education about the issues facing the coast, and encourage people to feel responsible for it – perhaps local groups could sponsor a section each. Increase in frequency/diversity of boat trips as a unique selling point. Ensuring tourism growth is sustainable and doesn’t impact negatively locally. Add destinations and distances to signage on public paths which lead to and from the coast path The ultimate goal should be to encourage visitors to explore routes/pathways which are new to them. I notice recreation and I think events on the coast are useful, perhaps a Coast Fest, there was one on the coast a Saltburn which included a giant puppet walk in the evening with lanterns, but the walks and children's events are always booked up and educate.</td>
<td>NYMNPA</td>
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<td>Again, in regards to fossils/palaeontology, the Yorkshire coast is a wonderful location and one of the best (the best, in my opinion) for Early Jurassic fossils/fossil collecting. Potentially something regarding the history of the locations etc., perhaps an annual lecture/talk or something? I know that the fossil festival is scheduled for this year and I hope that this will generate a lot of general, leisurely events.</td>
<td>Doncaster Museums</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Should remain a haven for flora and fauna, a resource for artists, poets and people who appreciate natural beauty. A haven from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. No inappropriate recreational facilities or attempts to attract more visitors.</td>
<td>Resident</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Promote Cleveland Way as part of the England Coast Path. Rapidly react to coastal erosion through set back using Coastal Access Legislation. Promote wider activities of which walking and cycling form a part – e.g. Geocaching, Bushcraft etc. Promote the coast as an excellent boost for Health and Wellbeing, in particular the mental health of the nation. Continue the drive towards better accessibility on Cleveland Way and circular routes off where possible. Improve and sign links between the Cleveland Way and the Cinder Track. Sign settlements/ businesses off the Cleveland Way – with businesses supplying the funding. Interpretation – encourage use of apps to improve connection of public with farming – e.g. developing Food Cloud app by Hull University. Support Walk &amp; Talk days for local businesses to network on the trails.</td>
<td>Malcolm Hodgson, National Trails Officer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Promotion of local walk routes linking to coast and identifying activities at accessible coastal areas which are not so well known e.g. Skinningrove. It has a fantastic beach and shoreline with the Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum within walking distance of the beachfront car park. There is a heritage trail in the village and a significant amount of artwork at various locations.</td>
<td>Redcar &amp; Cleveland Borough Council</td>
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<td>Why does the coastline between Saltburn &amp; Marske not be included in the Cleveland Way/Heritage coastal walks &amp; all other things? Marske has its very own character &amp; is just as pleasant as anywhere else. We never seem to be included &amp; I have heard that the funding etc. is from South Gare to Filey Brigg.</td>
<td>Marske resident</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Invest in Cinder Track repair and maintenance, Support sustainable tourism and its providers, e.g. Bike hire, surfing, nature. Link marketing of various cycle routes together, join up network better physically and add new routes.</td>
<td>Groundwork Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heritage Coast Objective</td>
<td>Response /Project Ideas</td>
<td>Organisation</td>
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<td><strong>Recreation</strong></td>
<td>Improve public awareness and understanding of the coastal environment through the development of signage, interpretation boards, guided walks and dedicated wildlife excursions. Work with the owners of local fishing vessels to develop a programme of wildlife watching trips. Investigate the development of snorkel safaris.</td>
<td>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Desperate need for better access to both beaches at Skinningrove, especially Cattersty. No public toilets. The path from the car park to the jetty at Skinningrove is very rough and not pushchair friendly. Getting down from just past the jetty onto the big beach is very difficult for families to get down with little ones. Such a gem on our coast.</td>
<td>Loftus Resident</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Improvements to Beach and Water Quality</strong></th>
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<td>More education about litter, e.g. Scarborough South Bay info board. More volunteer beach clean events and support for these.</td>
<td>Resident</td>
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<td>Offer continued support of advice, training and encouragement to farmers and land managers to adopt changes in farming practice where there is a high confidence that agriculture is a major reason for the failing to achieve of water quality objectives. Respond to the Water Framework Directive once findings and direction become clear. Management plan to consider financial support of a small scale capital grant scheme to assist in farm infrastructure improvement where sustainable water quality gain will result. Link infrastructure improvements with volunteering or possibly a training initiative such as NYMNPA ‘Young Apprentice Scheme’. Promote agri-environment scheme (NELMS) as a mechanism to address water quality improvement.</td>
<td>Natural England</td>
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<td>Find mechanism to facilitate a joined up approach of farm advice and support networks such as Catchment Sensitive Farming, LEADER, Environment Agency, Rivers Trust, NYMNPA, and Natural England to ensure support hubs are easily accessible to farmers and land managers. Education is key, with support where possible to reduce pollutants and improve water quality. Need for regular cleaning of rubbish / seaweed at Skinningrove and permanent access to Cliffside beach. Events or volunteer activity days to promote better beaches and cleaner water. Work with businesses and agriculture to encourage them to think about how they can improve systems to contribute to improved quality. Show how what they do affects the ecosystem and eventually the beach and offer advice on how to change this, on grants etc. if costs are involved and develop programmes if expected to be a longer term project. We should all recognise that the natural resources available along our coast are providing important services for free and we should all do what we can to conserve and protect them.</td>
<td>Redcar &amp; Cleveland Borough Council</td>
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<td>Fix the leaking YW waste water outfall at Jacksons Bay.</td>
<td>Resident</td>
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<td>The Skelton Beck catchment can affect the bathing water quality at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. Northumbrian Water Ltd is due to install sewerage improvement works by 2016 that will achieve the statutory minimum ‘sufficient’ bathing water quality. But other sources of bacterial quality are predicted to prevent Saltburn reaching ‘good’ quality in wetter years.</td>
<td>Environment Agency</td>
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| **Coastal Communities**  | A range of land management and community actions can help reduce these other sources of bacterial contamination. Would you consider supporting such actions in your Heritage Coast action plan?  
A similar situation may exist for other bathing waters adjacent to coastal streams in Yorkshire.  
Expand the ‘Waves of Waste’ programme.  
Roll out the establishment of a network of settlement plates at local ports and harbours to monitor non-native and invasive non-native marine species.  
Expand the Fishing for Litter Scheme.  
Work with the Environment Agency on programmes to improve beach quality.                                                                                                    | Yorkshire Wildlife Trust |
|                          | The Club is anxious about the impact of climate change, for example through increased coastal erosion and through changes in distribution of species sensitive to temperature. The management plan needs to be aware of the threat from invasives. Not just terrestrial animals and plants, but also fungi and marine organisms. The Club is also anxious about the impact of industrial developments, of which polyhalite, gas extraction and fracking are the most obvious. These are likely to result in the construction of additional housing, roads and other infrastructure, and increased human pressure on the coast. Management of the coast should also ensure that visitors have a positive experience, while being gently steered away from environmentally sensitive sites.  
Seek local advice/needs.  
Avoid attracting more traffic. Provide toilets for walkers and responsible visitors.  
Encourage visitors to new locations and make use of facilities already available. This will reduce pressure on the hot spots and could encourage more tourism based activities and create new opportunities within these locations.                                                                                     | Whitby Naturalists Club |
|                          | The Yorkshire East/Sarah Woolven team is working on the possibility of developing a coastal phone app which could highlight natural features, wildlife, and possibly link to commercial interests along the coastal path.                                                                                     | Natural England        |
|                          | We should all be ambassadors who by their very actions, hopefully boost tourism and show visitors from around the country or even further afield just what our region has to offer.                                                                                     | Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council |
|                          | Make better use of an upgraded Cinder Track as a commuter route and safe route to school numerous schools along the route, but especially Northstead and Gladstone Road in Scarborough.                                                                                  | Groundwork Trust       |
|                          | Bus services are very important for residents and visitors. The recent cut to the service to Ravenscar has been bad for both. However, the change to the No 4/5 service from Whitby, which now follows the coast to Saltburn has been good for both, and has been well used.  
Visitors require toilets, and the money saving measures that have forced closure of some public toilets is regrettable. The remaining ones need to be kept open!  
The Cleveland Way and Cinder Track are superb facilities, much appreciated by visitors and residents.                                                                                                                                                     | Resident               |
## Heritage Coast Objective

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<th>Coastal Economy</th>
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<td>Develop a nature tourism programme.</td>
<td>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td>Develop a Fisheries Local Action Group to tap into European Marine Fisheries Fund.</td>
<td>Groundwork Trust</td>
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<td>Link practical conservation work with training e.g. apprenticeships. Improve recreational infrastructure to support tourism jobs, plus greater and more focused marketing.</td>
<td>Saltburn Trust</td>
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<td>The only point I want to make comes under the Cash for the Coast: I suggest the new potash mine near Whitby will be vital for the local economy/jobs.</td>
<td>Redcar &amp; Cleveland Borough Council</td>
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<td>Our coastline environment is an important reason why people visit the area and our beaches play a large part in this. We simply need to keep developing partnerships and sustaining forward thinking management and promotion of our coastline and everything it has to offer.</td>
<td>NYMNPA</td>
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<td>Upgrade the quality of the Cinder Track to multi-user easy access trail. Support for small and new businesses at coastal locations. Joined up approach to promotion of amenities and natural offer. Use of social media to encourage visits. Unique attractions for tourists. Diversification of businesses. Marketing the brand of local produce. Nature Tourism business seems to be on the increase – tap into this.</td>
<td>Doncaster Museums</td>
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<td>Again, consider utilising your rich paleontological history/resources. I am not stating ‘selling fossils’ etc. but potentially building on this.</td>
<td>Burniston resident</td>
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<td>Unfortunately, resources for conservation and public services are reducing, and likely to continue to do so. A lot of work is already being done by volunteers, with NYMNP, NT, and other groups. There is also a wealth of wildlife knowledge and monitoring carried out by groups and individuals, including the YNU and local naturalists groups, Vice County Recorders, BTO, Seawatch, Butterfly Conservation and many more. Public bodies, like the NYMNPA, SBC and NYCC need to co-ordinate and support this effort and expertise, and apply for any available funding to support projects that help protect and improve this wonderful coastline.</td>
<td>Wendy English, Whitby Naturalists Club</td>
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## Other Thoughts

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<td></td>
<td>Develop effective collaborative local partnerships to co-ordinate all of the above activities. YWT are keen to support wider collaboration in taking forward management plans and development proposals for future work within this area.</td>
<td>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cinder Track is massively important but needs massive investment.</td>
<td>Groundwork Trust</td>
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<td>More publicity concerning the Heritage Coast, perhaps some leaflets in those racks you see in hotels etc. Also do you realise how difficult it is to find the Coastal Forum website? Whilst reviewing the Scarborough Borough Council Local Plan, I realised that they had referred to the Heritage Coast, but had included no maps. I searched for details, went on the Natural England website, but found nothing. SBC responded to a query with a link to the Coastal Forum website, where I found the maps. Could you ask your web host to upgrade the links?</td>
<td>Burniston resident</td>
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<td>Consider something similar to what the Charmouth Heritage Coast have done.</td>
<td>Doncaster Museums</td>
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Map 6

- Heritage Coast Boundary
- National Trust Holdings
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- National Park Boundary
- Cleveland Way
- Public Rights of Way

Scale 1:25,000

North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast

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Ordnance Survey 100021930