



Revitalising Redesdale: Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP-Part 1)

July 2017

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Richard Baker
 Susan Chapman
 Tim Crump, Wildlight
 Emily Fotheringham
 John Hartstone
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Written by Lydia Speakman
 Project Development Manager
 Revitalising Redesdale Partnership

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Executive Summary

“The jewel in Redesdale’s crown is its history, for this is the valley which is richer in story and ballad than any other in England”. B Charlton (2007)

The Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership aims to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of Redesdale embodied in its natural environment, heritage and cultural traditions whilst adopting approaches which are relevant to the changing values and needs of the 21st Century.

Redesdale is a remote upland area of west Northumberland which adjoins the Anglo-Scottish border at Carter Bar. As a frontier and strategic corridor, Redesdale has been shaped by centuries of conflict since Roman times. This is Border Reiver country where allegiances were to family rather than country or crown. The valley’s history shaped the landscape and its people, resulting in a modern day sense of wilderness and leaving a rich, but increasingly threatened legacy of natural, built and cultural heritage.

The Revitalising Redesdale Project area covers the entire Rede catchment from where the River Rede rises at Carter Bar on the Anglo-Scottish border to its confluence with the North Tyne.

To achieve our vision the Partnership will deliver a £2.8 million programme of 12 inter-linking projects from 2018-2022 to deliver a lasting legacy that will seek to reinforce the special character and identity of Redesdale and its communities. Our programme will:

- Deliver improvements to habitats across Redesdale to enhance wider habitat connectivity and enhance its resilience to external pressures, including climate change.
- Create a pool of trained volunteers living within the valley or the surrounding area, who will be engaged and interested in continuing to be involved in conserving and enhancing the heritage of the valley.
- Leave historic monuments and archaeological sites in a better condition and have management plans in place to maintain their condition.
- Instigate ecological, archaeological and history research projects which will ensure that important sites in the valley have been recorded on regional databases to protect them in the future.
- Provide new interpretative material and develop promoted walking routes around village hubs to encourage more visitors and local people to explore Redesdale and its heritage for themselves.
- Develop Redesdale as a visitor destination and stop-off point on the way to and from Scotland.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Don't give yourself the trouble to send my letters to this place, for tis almost impossible to receive 'em without sending 16 miles to fetch 'em...The principal farm houses are 5 or 6 miles apart. The whole country looks like a desert.”

Dr Dodgson, Rector of Elsdon (1760)

Redesdale is a remote upland area of west Northumberland which adjoins the Anglo-Scottish border at Carter Bar. As a frontier and strategic corridor, Redesdale has been shaped by centuries of conflict dating back to Roman times. This is Border Reiver country where allegiances were to family rather than country or crown. The valley's history shaped the landscape and its people resulting in a modern day sense of wilderness and leaving a rich, but increasingly threatened legacy of built, natural and cultural heritage.

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The vision for Redesdale

Revitalising Redesdale will:

- Empower the local communities to better understand, conserve and enhance a landscape and natural environment forged by centuries of conflict.
- Celebrate the unique character of the landscape, its biodiversity and its culture, while seeking to build the future resilience of its heritage and identity.
- Address the threats to Redesdale's increasingly fragile natural, historic and cultural heritage, which have been heightened by a declining resident population and economic decline.
- Ensure the local ownership and involvement of projects and schemes developed by the partnership.

The Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership

The Border Uplands Partnership was created in September 2010 and covered a large swathe of west Northumberland ranging from the Scottish Border at Carter Bar down through Kielder Reservoir and the North Tyne valley. The focus of this Partnership was on landscape-scale conservation with a strong focus on biodiversity through the development and enhancement of ecological



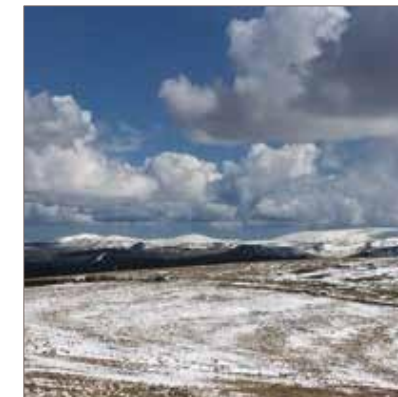
networks. This group identified that there were particular challenges and threats within Redesdale, an area that was often overlooked due to a combination of its remoteness, and political boundaries whilst at the same time, offered a distinctive sense of place shaped by its history as well as its natural heritage.

In 2014, it was decided that a Landscape Partnership approach would be the most effective way of bringing together local community representation alongside key public sector and voluntary bodies to develop a broader more comprehensive programme; one that went beyond focusing on biodiversity priorities and adopted a more holistic approach. It was clear from the development work that had been undertaken through the Border Uplands Partnership that new investment was also required if a significant step-change was to be achieved, to make a real difference to both the overall condition of Redesdale's natural and cultural heritage, but also in securing wider engagement and awareness of what the valley has to offer.

A Phase 1 Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a Landscape Partnership Scheme was submitted in May 2015 and was approved by Heritage Lottery in October 2015 to be further developed by the Revitalising Redesdale Partnership. This Landscape Conservation Action Plan has been developed by the Revitalising Redesdale Partnership as a manifesto for the landscape of Redesdale, its people, communities and visitors and presents a vision and integrated programme of what we will achieve by 2022 to secure a lasting positive legacy.

The Landscape Conservation Action Plan is structured into three parts:

- **Part 1** This document outlines the story of Revitalising Redesdale, the Partnership's visions and aims, the landscape character, what will be delivered to protect enhance and celebrate that character, how it will be delivered, threats, risks and the legacy that Revitalising Redesdale will create.
- **Part 2** Provides more detailed 20 non-technical summaries of the project activity
- **Part 3** Full project plans - working documents for each project detailing key actions and planned outputs.



2. THE REVITALISING REDESDALE PARTNERSHIP ITS SCOPE, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

"It is a land where history and geography collide- where people's lives can be seen written into the landscape."

Interpretation Strategy for Revitalising Redesdale (2016)

Introduction

This section of the LCAP describes the extent of the scheme area, an overview of the Partnership, and the vision, aims and objectives which have been developed to shape and inform the programme of activities for Revitalising Redesdale.

Location and boundary of the project area

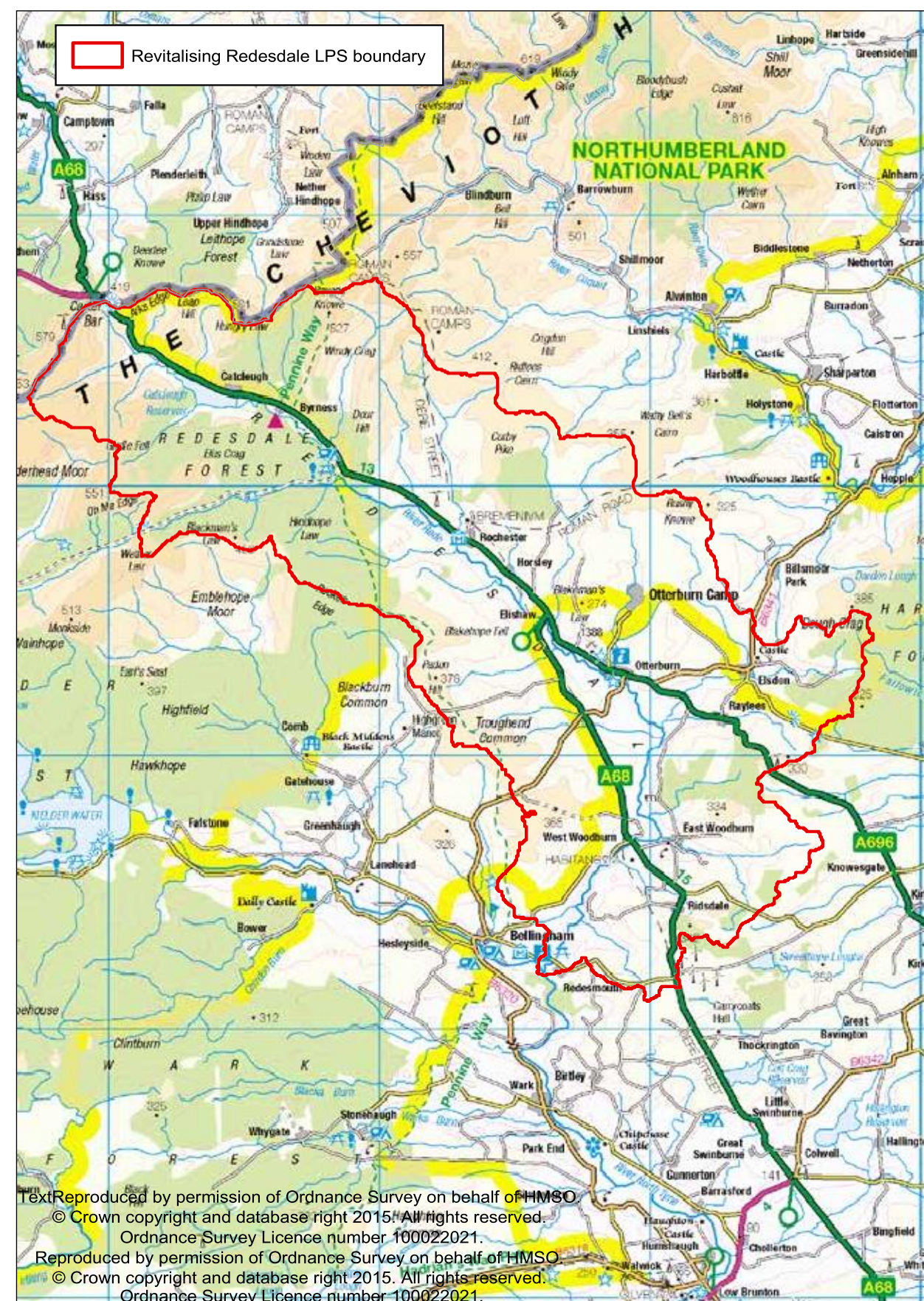
Redesdale lies in the middle of the frontier between England and Scotland in the remote upland area of west Northumberland.

The project area is a contiguous landform, with the River Rede at its heart. It is a coherent landscape of 347km² extending from the Scottish border at Carter Bar to the North Tyne confluence at Redesmouth. The 60km long River Rede and surrounding valley is intersected with a series of streams and tributaries providing variety and a more intimate scale to a landscape whose overall character is of sweeping, remote moorland.

Redesdale's topography makes the valley a natural crossing point over the southern Cheviots between the more fertile valleys of Tynedale and Wansbeck, and the fertile Teviot valley within the Scottish Borders. For centuries, Redesdale has been a strategic corridor across the Scottish Border and centuries of conflict have sculpted a landscape now pitted with the remains of Roman temporary camps, roads and forts, Anglo-Scottish sites and the bastles (fortified farm houses), which in turn have shaped a distinctive culture and sense of identity in the people who live here.

While the project area is larger than the average Landscape Partnership scheme of 200km², the river and its catchment gives the valley its distinctive identity which means that reducing the overall area of the project would be detrimental to the overall aims of the project. To ensure, however, that additional investment within the valley delivers optimum benefits, the Partnership has focused its programme of activities across key hubs in the valley linked to the main settlements.

The Revitalising Redesdale Board reviewed the boundary in Spring 2017 and confirmed that the boundary of the catchment was the correct boundary for the project. The Board clarified that this would not be a harsh boundary and that where sites straddled the boundary, the projects would support site integrity rather than a rigid approach.



Our vision for Redesdale

Revitalising Redesdale will:

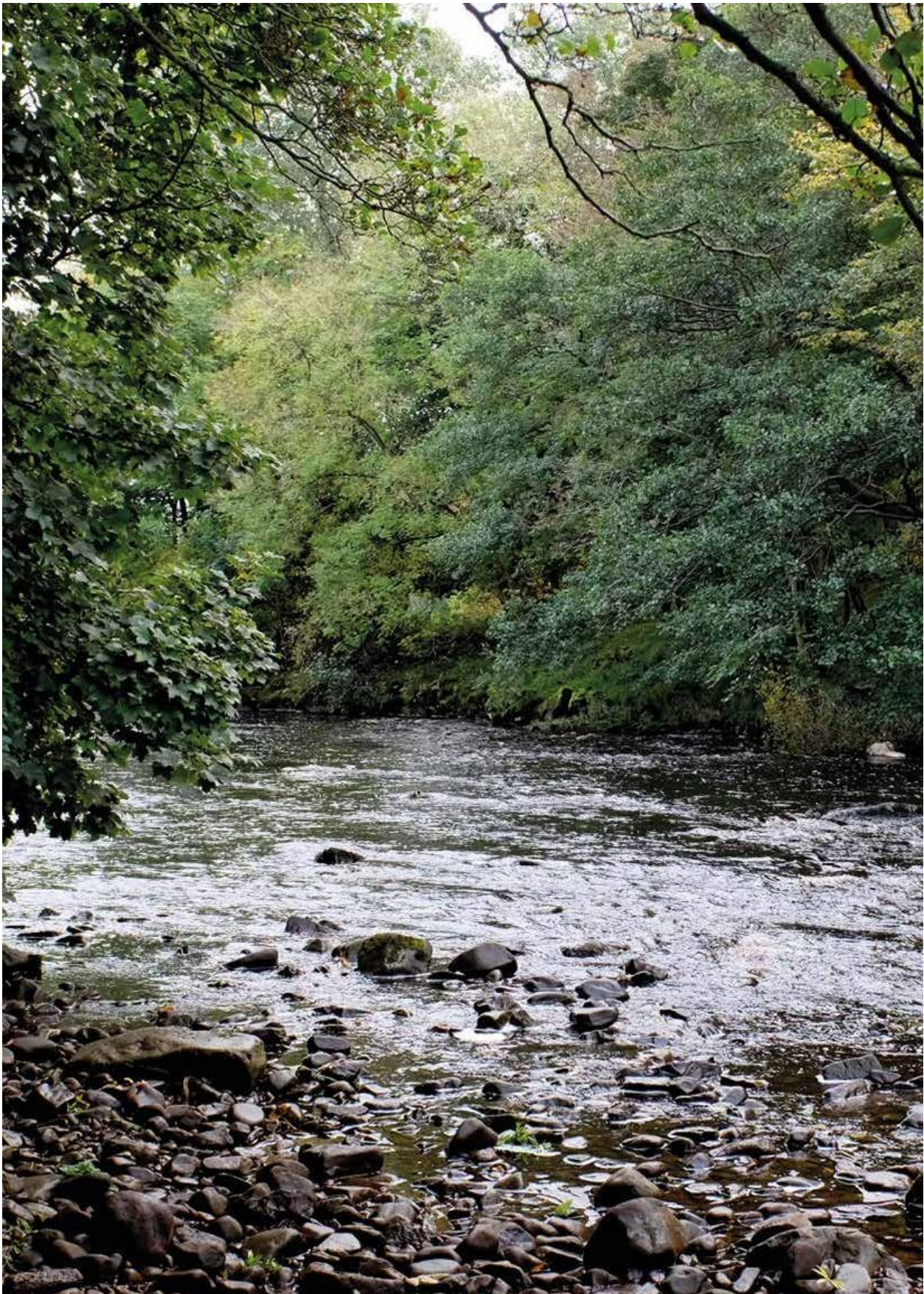
- Empower the local communities to better understand, conserve and enhance a landscape and natural environment forged by centuries of conflict.
- Celebrate the unique character of the landscape, its biodiversity and its culture while seeking to build the future resilience of its heritage and identity.
- Address the threats to Redesdale's increasingly fragile natural, historic and cultural heritage, which have been heightened by a declining resident population and economic decline.
- Ensure the local ownership and involvement of projects and schemes developed by the partnership.

Aims and Objectives

The integrated programme of activities detailed in Section 7 has been developed by the Revitalising Redesdale Partnership to:

- 1 Raise the profile of Redesdale for visitors and local residents by delivering activities which raise the awareness and promote greater understanding of the valley's unique landscape and heritage;
- 2 Enhance the resilience of Redesdale's heritage to future threats through interventions which improve its overall condition and adaptability to future change;
- 3 Identify and record Redesdale's undiscovered and unrecorded natural heritage, archaeological remains and wider cultural heritage through a programme of activities which engage the wider community in both their collection and interpretation;
- 4 Maximise the opportunities to develop skills across a wide range of disciplines and levels in each of the projects being developed;
- 5 Recognise the unique wilderness qualities of Redesdale, which make the valley well placed to offer physical and mental renewal;
- 6 Identify ways in which the overall programme of activity can help contribute to the future viability of businesses within the valley;
- 7 Celebrate Redesdale's landscape and heritage in ways which engender greater ownership, pride and engagement in its future to protect the legacy of Revitalising Redesdale.

The table below shows how Revitalising Redesdale's seven aims and objectives correspond and deliver on HLF's required nine outcomes.



Your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit							
More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage							
Negative environmental impacts will be reduced							
People will have volunteered time							
People will have learnt about heritage							
People will have developed skills							
Heritage identified/recorded							
Heritage in better condition							
Heritage will be better managed							
	1 Profile	2 Resilience	3 Identify & record	4 Skills	5 Mental & Physical Renewal	6 Business viability	7 Celebrate heritage

The Revitalising Redesdale Partnership

The Partnership consists of the following 16 organisations: Natural England, Northumberland National Park Authority, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (Ministry of Defence), Tyne Rivers Trust, the Battlefields Trust, Northumberland County Council, Keilder Water & Forest Park Development Trust, Go Volunteer-Newcastle Students' Union, the Redesdale Society, Otterburn Parish Council, Rochester with Byrness Parish Council, Corsenside Parish Council and Elsdon Parish Council. All of these organisations have a representative on the Revitalising Redesdale Steering Group; the Steering Group is currently chaired by Natural England and signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding which provides a framework for the Partnership (see Appendix 1).

In addition, the Partnership maintains close links with a range of other organisations who will be involved in the delivery of a range of projects these include: Northumberland College, Historic England and the Universities of Northumbria and Newcastle. The Partnership will continue to work with a range of organisations across the region as it moves into the delivery phase.

The preparation of the LCAP

To produce this LCAP and the project plans, several hundred people, organisations and partners have been consulted between 2014 and 2017 these are detailed in section 6 of the LCAP. A significant number of those consultations were with the local community and visitors to the area to ensure that the programme focuses on those landscape and heritage assets that matter to them.

Projects were initially identified in the first round of the Landscape Partnership development phase through the Revitalising Redesdale Partnership that sought to build on and broaden the Border Uplands Action Plan. This phase saw extensive consultation with key partners, community groups and wider community. Representatives from three of the four parish councils in the Valley joined the new Board, together with representation from the Redesdale Society (which focuses on local history) and the Battlefields Trust. The ideas developed from this consultation were incorporated into the first round bid presented to HLF in May 2015.

During the initial stage of the second development phase, which began in April 2016, these ideas were reviewed and a number of pieces of work undertaken to look at the individual feasibility of some of projects. These studies have helped to improve the Partnership's knowledge and understanding of some of the key



heritage assets and identified the costs of the work required and recommended maintenance following restoration. These studies included:

- River Rede Improvement Plan
- Grassland Peatland Study
- Condition Survey and Management Plan for Ridsdale Ironworks
- Audience Development Plan for Redesdale
- Interpretative Strategy for Redesdale
- An assessment of walking and cycling routes in Redesdale
- A pre-feasibility study for an archaeological investigation of the site of the battle of Otterburn.

A long list of projects was first developed and presented to the Board in November 2016 and gradually refined over the following months at subsequent Board meetings. Each of the projects has been developed on behalf of the Partnership by the Project Development Officer, working closely with a lead partner. Projects were selected for ongoing development from this list based on the following criteria:

- Deliver significant conservation benefits to key natural or cultural heritage assets
- Deliver HLF outcomes
- Meet the aims and objectives of Revitalising Redesdale
- Demonstrate support and interest from the local community
- Bring significant match-funding or in-kind support that will help secure a sustainable legacy for the project.

Community Consultation

During phase 1 of the bid development the partners sought to actively engage the local community so as to involve them in identifying issues and potential projects. The project has maintained close links with the four parish councils throughout the development of the bid: Corsenside, Otterburn, Elsdon and Rochester with Byrness as well as with local groups such as the Redesdale Society. A public consultation event was held in March 2015 at the Redesdale Arms Hotel, which included a special session for the farming/landowning community: over 50 people attended. A number of reoccurring themes were expressed:

- Interest in history and recognition for better management and interpretation of the historic environment
- Economic and social decline in Redesdale and a desire to address this long term
- The sense of dereliction in the valley caused by the closure of key businesses and the number of poorly maintained boundary features
- Wish to encourage visitors to stop and stay in Redesdale and to support local businesses and events
- A desire for greater access to heritage features and the provision of circular routes for walking, cycling and riding
- Keenness to create volunteering opportunities and links to education.

In the development phase of the bid, the project team has continued to have regular pieces in Rede Valley News and the Church magazine, keeping people up to date with developments and inviting feedback. A Facebook page (www.facebook.com/revitalisingredesdale) has been created and statistics show that this has been very successful in attracting local followers. In January 2017, a website was launched www.revitalisingredesdale.org.uk. This has been designed to provide details of the projects under development and inviting comment.

During the summer and autumn of 2016, Revitalising Redesdale attended a range of events and shows in the valley: family fun day in Otterburn (July), Elsdon Show (August), Leek and Vegetable Show (September) and Upper Redesdale Show (September). These events were used to canvas people's views about what they valued about Redesdale using large maps of the valley and individual parishes. The sites that people identified, and the comments they wrote on the flags pinned to the maps, were all captured as evidence of places the Partnership should focus its efforts. Children were also asked to participate by placing coloured stickers on maps to show the places they thought were: a good place to paddle or skim stones, see wildlife, a nice view, meet my friends, and play hide and seek. In September 2016, an event was held with the Otterburn RTC Youth group and the young people were asked to draw maps of where they lived showing the places and things which were important to them. Alongside their own homes, they drew their favourite trees, streams and historic sites including Elsdon church and Ridsdale engine house. During the autumn, the Partnership also held a community photographic competition #MyRedesdale as another mechanism of finding out what people valued in the landscape. The competition generated over 40 entries and achieved media coverage in local newspapers and on BBC Look North.

In March 2017, the Partnership created a poster which was distributed across Redesdale, with large versions erected in local village halls. The poster detailed the projects under development and invited the local community to comment. Additional information about all the projects was also made available on the website. Comments received were all supportive of the programme, with particular interest expressed in projects which supported community archaeology and more local walking opportunities.

Changes between Phase 1 and Phase 2

The Phase 1 bid included an ambitious programme of activity and the work of the development stage to prepare this LCAP has been to significantly focus down this programme into to an achievable series of projects which deliver the spirit of the original bid. Key changes are as follows:

- A reduction in the amount of habitat created or restored. During the development phase, detailed surveys were undertaken of the river, grassland and peatland sites assessments made of what could be achieved that would deliver significant benefits within the budget of the project.
- The work to conserve heritage at risk is focused on two main sites, Rochester and Ridsdale. Other funding sources may be sought during the lifetime of the Revitalising Redesdale HLF-funded programme to protect a number of the smaller sites, including the milestones along the A68.
- An interactive web-based community history resource for Redesdale will replace the village atlases planned for West Woodburn and Otterburn with the intention of creating something more accessible to a wider audience and be applicable to the entire valley.
- There is a greater focus on interpretation and use of the arts to engage audiences.
- Projects to create Wi-Fi hotspots, small scale electricity generation, and visitor pay-back schemes have not been developed for this bid, as they do not sit easily with the wider aims of the HLF.

Our approach

Hubs

While Redesdale has a strong overall identity, its size means that there is real benefit in focusing some activity around each of the key settlements to provide a bespoke offer that recognises different opportunities and character



of the villages. Revitalising Redesdale wants to make each of the villages an individual gateway that will provide local people and visitors with a choice of walks of varying length to local natural and cultural heritage sites linked to their landscape setting. The focus around individual villages will also be used to deliver habitat improvements - particularly through the creation of species-rich grassland providing wild flower interest - and to build engagement and interest through a programme to collect, record and collate information on the biodiversity, archaeology and cultural history of each community using a series of web-based parish maps.

Other initiatives such as the development of ecological networks linked to habitat enhancement or creation - for example along the River Rede - will take a valley based approach, as will initiatives to celebrate the wider landscape of the area using a network of art and interpretative installations around key viewpoints in the valley.

Supporting local businesses

One of the key challenges for Redesdale is to encourage visitors to spend more time in the valley both to appreciate its heritage and landscape, but also to spend money in cafés, pubs and shops to support the local economy. Very few of Redesdale's heritage attractions are likely to hold people for more than half an hour; therefore, finding ways for people to extend their visit is a key priority for Revitalising Redesdale. Often a site or a habitat is better understood and appreciated within a wider landscape context. Interpretation will therefore encourage visitors to explore the local area around a site: for example, a trail around Bremenium Roman fort will be promoted that tells the story of Dere Street, Roman marching camps and surrounding Roman-British settlements. Events will also be used to encourage people to stay longer in the valley to learn more about its heritage and get actively involved in conservation activities.

Whereever possible Revitalising Redesdale will aim to procure services and supplies from local business within Redesdale or the surrounding area while still adhering to HLF guidance on procurement.

Building strong relationship with the wider area

While the focus of Revitalising Redesdale will be on the immediate Rede valley, the Partnership recognises the value of close-collaboration with other initiatives in the surrounding area. Northumberland National Park Authority is a member of the Revitalising Redesdale Partnership and there are opportunities to work with the National Park Authority, particularly through links with The Sill National

Landscape Discovery Centre, to develop and promote Redesdale at a regional and national level. Alongside joint activities which develop landscape-wide interpretation, there are also opportunities focused on traditional and in demand rural skills, archaeological investigations, public access plus celebrating and protecting Dark Skies.

Revitalising Redesdale will also seek to continue our collaboration with the Kielder Water & Forest Park Development Trust. The Forest Drive provides a direct link across from the top of Redesdale to the village of Kielder, through the Redesdale Forest which is also part of the Kielder Trust area. The HLF Living Wild project at Kielder, which is seeking to strengthen nature-based tourism within the Forest, provides some obvious strong linkages for collaboration around events and for training of ambassadors. It is hoped that links might be made to the HLF-funded Restoring Ratty project, which hopes to extend water vole reintroduction on the Blakehopeburn. The Kielder Trust also has a very active arts programme and there could be real benefits in extending the focus of art installations around Kielder Water into Redesdale.

Skills

The Revitalising Redesdale Programme provides a wide range of opportunities for skills development ranging from informal opportunities for adult learning and family fun days to more structured approaches to provide work-experience, and the potential for accreditation for formal qualifications. During the lifetime of the Partnership, it is intended that two six-month graduate internships on different aspects of the programme will be offered. Working in partnership with Northumberland College, we will seek to offer practical experience for students working on a range of Level 3 qualifications, including environmental management, horticulture and construction. We are therefore including a commitment in our full individual project plans for many of the contracts that are being prepared to include a requirement to provide a short-term placement for a suitably qualified student

We are also working with Northumbria and Newcastle University to offer students high quality experience in undertaking ecological and archaeological surveys which are typically required for future career development but are often not available through the formal degree programme.

Health and well-being agenda

The remoteness of Redesdale and the benefits this offers for supporting individuals with a variety of challenges - from mental health, and physical

challenges to social and economic disadvantage - has been recognised in the Rupert's Wood project run by Go-Volunteer part of Newcastle University's Student Union. Offering a programme of environmental education, conservation activities and a forest school, Rupert's Wood have provided an important resource for a wide variety of groups within Tyneside as well as providing opportunities for volunteering for students. Revitalising Redesdale will work with Go-Volunteer and a range of other voluntary organisations to deliver a programme of activity in the wider valley, including health walks, bush craft, conservation work and fishing using Redesdale's particular wilderness qualities.



3. A PORTRAIT OF REDESDALE, ITS LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

*“He’ll sing Redewater’s muirlands wild
Where whirring heath-cocks flee’
Where limpid wells and heather bells
Delight the sportsman’s e’e.” Robert Roxby (1809)*

Overview

Landscape is often used as a term to refer to the visual appearance of the land, including its shape, form and colour. However, landscape is not purely a visual phenomenon; its character relies on a range of other dimensions, including geology, topography, soils, ecology, archaeology, landscape history, land use, architecture and cultural associations.


Redesdale has a very distinctive character which has been shaped by its history; this section of the LCAP explores this in greater detail.


Border Moors and Forests National Character Area (NCA)

National Character Areas (NCAs) profiles were prepared by Natural England to make environmental evidence and information easily available to a wider audience. They were significantly revised in 2014. NCAs divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries.

Redesdale falls within the Border Moors and Forest NCA, which describes the area as an upland landscape of sweeping moorlands and coniferous forest, with extensive views and dark skies. The upland farmed landscape is of scattered farm steads, mainly enclosed by wire fences and drystone walls with small copses of broadleaved woodland. Throughout the catchment is a network of small streams and burns flowing through narrow gorges and crags, forming enclosed and often hidden valleys. Human activity is more obvious in the lower Rede Valley, which is more settled and enclosed in character in contrast to the open landscapes of the moors. The majority of the main settlements are located along the A68, the main transport corridor, and are principally built in the vernacular style using local sandstone and slate roofs. Tree cover is sparse and largely focused around copses and settlements.

The Landscape Assessment prepared for Tynedale District and Northumberland National Park highlights a series of landscape character types which have a similar pattern of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, settlement and field pattern. The three main landscape character types within Redesdale help provide an important context to understanding the valley and its appearance. A similar landscape assessment was also prepared for the Otterburn Ranges, which provide similar profiles to the main landscape types but use slightly different terminology and more detailed assessment. The key main landscape character types are detailed in the table below:

Landscape Character Type	Key Characteristics	Where it can be found
<p>Rolling Uplands</p> <p>(OTA: Moorland rim, incised valleys and moorland plateau)</p>	<p>Broad open large scale moorland plateau</p> <p>Simple smooth land form often featureless with high degree of uniformity</p> <p>Extensive areas of semi-natural vegetation including matrix of heather, matt-grass moorland, raised bogs or mires and patches of bracken</p> <p>Sparse settlement including isolated farmsteads</p> <p>Drained by a network of burns that have eroded deep but not visually prominent ravines</p> <p>Sparse tree cover- occasional coniferous shelterbelts and clumps with limited areas of semi-natural woodland along burns</p> <p>Uniformity of land cover broken in places by in-bye pastures associated with farm steads</p>	<p>Otterburn Plateau</p> 

<p>Moorland Forestry Mosaic</p>	<p>Simple, expansive upland landscape, generally above 250 metre above sea level.</p> <p>Distinctive flat-topped ridgelines and outcrops which act as visual landmarks in an otherwise largely uniform and inward looking landscape e.g. Carter Fell</p> <p>Gently rolling topography incised by burns that are often concealed by plantations</p> <p>Mosaic of large-scale coniferous plantations, open grass and heather moorlands and mires with limited areas of in-bye pastures</p> <p>Enclosed landscape - significant areas with limited outward views</p> <p>A dynamic landscape with ongoing felling and restocking</p> <p>Some broadleaf woodlands and woodland edges that soften the plantation character</p> <p>A generally uninhabited landscape, with only occasional farmsteads and forestry settlements</p> <p>Reservoirs that create expansive views across open water, in contrast to the enclosed character of the surrounding woodlands</p>	<p>Redesdale Forest</p> 
<p>Rolling upland valleys</p>	<p>Broad valleys with convex valley sides</p> <p>Tributary burns, often well wooded, carving incised valleys into the hillsides</p> <p>Clearly defined floodplains and mixed farmland on valley floors</p> <p>Consistent pattern of textured pastures divided by stone walls on valley sides with open moorland above.</p> <p>Meandering river sometimes marked by alders, but not generally prominent landscape feature</p> <p>Steep wooded bluffs flanking edges of the floodplain</p> <p>Shelterbelts and clumps of pine or mixed woodland on lower slopes and occasionally on valley floors</p> <p>Historic sandstone villages and dispersed farmsteads on lower slopes</p>	<p>Otterburn and Elsdon Valley Woodburn valleys</p> 

Geology

The rocks which form the stepped sides of the Rede Valley, north of Byrness, date back from the Silurian period (400 million years ago) when they were formed from thick ocean sediments. There are andesite outcrops at the head of a valley and a whinstone dyke. However, the majority of the area is made up of layers of sedimentary limestone, sandstone, shale and coal that were deposited during the Carboniferous period. There is very little surface limestone within the valley, but one important site is the area of sloping, well-jointed pavement of Carboniferous limestone which forms part of the Mill and Whiskershiel Burn SSSI where the underlying geology has created calcareous mire flush and fen vegetation communities. Cottonshope Head Quarry SSSI, located above Rochester is the only good exposure of Lower Carboniferous lava flows in North-East England and is important because it provides critical evidence on the role of volcanic activity in the development of the Northumberland Basin during the Carboniferous Period.

The coal seams in this part of Northumberland are also relatively modest but there was sufficient coal to support a small drift mine in Elsdon that was active until the 1970s. The iron-rich rocks around Ridsdale are also renowned for their rich fossil fauna and are protected as a SSSI (Redsdale ironstone quarries).

During the quaternary period (around 2.6 million years ago), the underlying rocks of Redesdale - as in the rest of Northumberland - were heavily influenced by the effects of glaciation, with the bedrock being covered with glacial till. This till is generally thin and sandy on the upland plateaux, but thicker and heavier on lower ground and in the dales, this has created a landscape of large scale rolling plateau with expanses of sweeping moorland. The relatively high rainfall in these upland areas, combined with low temperatures, is sufficient to promote extensive peat and blanket bog accumulation. The Redesdale catchment contains around 7,034 hectares of peatland, with a significant area found on the Whitelee National Nature Reserve (over 1,262 hectares) on the Otterburn Training Area and on the eastern edge of the valley around Troughend Common.

The River Rede is a morphologically varied water course crossing predominantly lower Carboniferous sandstone and limestone overlain by extensive deposits of glacial and fluvio-glacial material. The river has eroded a watercourse and valley bottom of sections of step pool, pool rapid, pool riffle and plane bed interspersed with bedrock influenced by step-pool reaches. With average annual rainfall of around 950 mm, the River Rede is a largely flashy river and this means the water course often changes as banks are eroded and sediment is deposited elsewhere. The River Rede has, however, been heavily modified in some sections



through bed lowering, straightening and dredging. This has impacted on the natural river processes and has affected the ecology of the river.

Biodiversity

The nature of Redesdale's topography and soils has meant that the land has not been farmed intensively, to the benefit of biodiversity. In addition, the presence of the Otterburn Military Training Area, which covers a significant part of Redesdale, has meant that the land has not been subjected to the same level of improvement seen in many other upland areas.

Much of Redesdale is covered in a mosaic of rushy pasture, consisting of acid and neutral wet and dry semi improved grassland that is grazed by cattle and sheep at varying densities throughout the year within enclosed marginal farmland. The wetter areas are an important habitat for breeding waders, such as curlew and lapwing. There are a few isolated hay meadows and other areas of species-rich grassland linked with traditional low-intensity agriculture. Such areas contain a wide range of grasses and flowering plants such as yellow rattle, betony and melancholy thistle. These grasslands are also an important habitat for birds.

A key habitat feature of Redesdale is blanket bogs and mires that are of national significance - such as the Otterburn Mires SSSIs, a series of sites scattered across the Otterburn Training Area. Key species on these bogs include cotton grass, sphagnum and bog asphodel. The fells around Carter Bar and Whitelee are also home to a herd of feral goats, regarded as a species of conservation importance in England. The absence of grouse moorland in Redesdale has also enabled birds of prey to flourish with Redesdale; it is one of the few places where it is possible to see hen harriers as well as buzzards, merlins and peregrines. Broadleaf woodland is primarily confined to the sides of the River Rede and its tributaries within incised cleughs but there are also areas of ancient semi-natural woodland such as Tod Law Wood, near Rochester, which contains oaks, birch and alder; remnants of the ancient Royal hunting forest of Redesdale. The conifer plantations in Redesdale provide one of the last areas in England for red squirrels. A comprehensive bat survey has not been carried out in the valley but there are records of pipistrelles, brown long-eared, whiskered/Brandt's and Natterer's bats using trees as well as buildings and structures including farm houses and bridges. The valley is also an important site for a range of reptiles and amphibians, with significant populations of adders and Common Toads.

The River Rede, together with the River North Tyne, is one of the only places in England supporting a significant population of fresh water pearl mussel, some



of which are over a hundred years old. Current monitoring of fresh water pearl mussels indicates that the population is failing to breed and is in severe decline. There are a number of theories about why this is happening, including excess sediment in the river and issues with diffuse pollution. The river also supports populations of migratory Atlantic salmon and brown trout essential to the early life (glochidial/ larval) stage of the fresh water pearl mussel. Kingfisher, dipper and heron can all be found along the River Rede. Otters, another European protected species, are widespread on the River Rede and most tributaries.

History

Large parts of the project area are completely unexplored from an archaeological perspective. However, despite this under-recording, there are over 800 archaeological sites and buildings in the Historic Environment Record for Redesdale, many of which are poorly understood. This rich heritage includes structures and buildings which are visually striking and sources of great local pride to local people and curiosities for visitors.

The earliest known evidence of people in Redesdale dates from Neolithic times (4000-2500BC), where people hunted, fished and gathered. In the Late Neolithic era this system was gradually replaced by domestication of animals and the introduction of agriculture. The burial cairn at Bellshiel Law on the Otterburn Ranges dates from this period. There are numerous Bronze Age (2500-800 BC) burial cairns within the valley, including the site known as "The Three Kings" in the heart of Redesdale Forest. The person or persons who died were cremated and their remains placed in a small stone-lined grave surrounded by four enormous standing stones, one of which fell down many years ago. While not as widespread as in some parts of Northumberland, there are a number of areas where Neolithic and Bronze Age rock art can be found, such as at Tod Crag near Ottercops. Redesdale also contains a number of Iron Age (800BC-79 AD) farmsteads and forts. Three forts are close to Otterburn of which the most spectacular is Colwell Hill Fort, complete with multiple ditches and earth ramparts.

Roman

Redesdale has a particularly rich Roman heritage; when for almost four centuries it played an important role in patrolling the Roman frontier zone of the northern edge of the Empire. Dere Street, which runs partly along the A68 before continuing through what is now the Otterburn Military Training Area, was the main route from which the Roman army moved north under the command of Agricola. A Roman milestone can still be seen near West Woodburn. This



northerly stretch of Dere Street, with the Otterburn Military Training Area, contains one of the most extraordinary concentration of Roman temporary camps that can be seen anywhere in the Roman Empire. There are fourteen known permanent or temporary camps and two minor forts in the area, as well as the larger forts of Bremenium at High Rochester and Habitancum at Risingham. Habitancum now lies as grass covered mounds, but once housed 1,000 cavalry and infantry. Significant sections of the perimeter wall of Bremenium remain including its impressive west gateway. Closer to Rochester, there is a Roman cemetery at Petty Knowe with over fifty graves. Roman gravestones can be found on display at Horsley church and at Elsdon church. Elsewhere, the Romans left their mark on the landscape with large tracts of cord rig fields and a number of Romano-British settlements such as those at Woolaw and Rattenraw, linked by ancient trackways. It is believed that these settlements and others, which are native in character, co-existed with the Roman military presence, though further work would help us to better understand the relationship between the two.

Medieval

Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, there was a consolidation of Norman control followed by a century of relative peace and prosperity and then three centuries of Anglo-Scottish and internal conflict. Given Redesdale's position on the frontier between Scotland and England, this meant that the valley-like much of the rest of Northumberland - became a relatively lawless wasteland in a period when other parts of England's landscape were significantly shaped by medieval settlement patterns. Redesdale was part of the land granted to the Umfraville family by William the Conqueror, having previously been part of a Royal Hunting forest. Redesdale became a Liberty in which the King's authority was wielded by his nominee, the Lord of Redesdale, Robert de Umfraville, who was required to keep the area free from wolves and enemies. The Umfravilles were responsible for the erection in c1080 of the one of the finest examples of a motte and bailey castle in England at Elsdon. While the Umfravilles later re-located to Harbottle in Coquetdale, Elsdon remained an important medieval settlement and later became lay on intersection of drove roads linking Northumberland to Scotland, and hosting a weekly market and annual fair. The medieval rig and furrow open field systems can still be seen around Elsdon, as well as the remains of summer 'shielings' or pastures.

Edward I's failed attempt to conquer Scotland in 1296 stimulated a period of fighting between the two countries that was to last until the union of the two Crowns in 1603. In the ensuing wars and border skirmishes, Redesdale-like many other Border valleys was ravaged by opposing armies, as well as local

feuds between powerful families. One of these Border engagements was fought in Redesdale in 1388, the battle of Otterburn, which is commemorated in what is probably the oldest folk ballad in the country "The Battle of Otterburn." The battle was fought by moonlight between Harry Percy (Hotspur) and James, the Earl of Douglas. Douglas was killed but the Scots were victorious and Hotspur was taken prisoner. Contemporary accounts of the battle suggest that over 1,000 English were killed, some of whom - it is claimed - are buried on the site of Elsdon church.

The constant raiding and skirmishes during the Middle Ages in west Northumberland caused significant poverty and suffering amongst local people, who were also impacted by a deteriorating climate (a Little Ice Age, that lasted five to six centuries) and the Black Death. These factors led to the abandonment and shrinking of many villages. There are a number of deserted medieval villages and associated rig and furrow that are prominent landscape features in the valley e.g. Evistones and Hudspeth.

In an attempt to impose law and order on the troubled borderlands, in the mid-15th century the area was divided into three pairs of opposing Marches (East, Middle and West) each under the supervision of a Warden. Regular meetings were held between the Wardens on an agreed day to settle disputes. Redesdale lay in the English Middle March, and was to see one of the most violent disputes of the era. At a meeting arranged at Redeswire (close to Carter Bar) in July 1575 between Sir John Forster Warden of the Middle March and his Scottish equivalent Sir John Carmichel, Keeper of Liddesdale, several English were killed in a skirmish which erupted during the meeting. The Redeswire Frey, celebrated in a ballad, is important; for though it was the last Border skirmish between the Scots and English, it helped to continue the feuds that underpinned the culture of Border reiving.

During this period, wealthier families built defensible hall houses or pele towers, such as the pele tower in Elsdon. Towards the end of the 16th century, bastle houses (fortified farm houses) were constructed usually within 30km of the Anglo-Scottish border. Built to a similar blue print, bastles provided stabling on the ground floor for animals and living quarters upstairs accessed by a moveable ladder. Many of the bastle houses survive today but have been modified, such as the bastle at High Rochester. Others, meanwhile stand as iconic ruins in the landscape, including those at Shittleheugh and Low Cleugh. Although the feuding and reviving diminished after the Union, it took many centuries for the Borders to recover their peace and prosperity.

Early Modern and the Industrial Revolution

By the end of the 18th century, large areas of common land were being enclosed as a result of Parliamentary Enclosure Acts, including large areas of moorland within Redesdale, with commoners being awarded parcels of land into what had previously been traditional shielding grounds. In the upland area the preferred method of enclosure was dry stone walls but, in the more sheltered parts valley, hedgerows. A particular feature of Redesdale, seen particularly around Elsdon is many of the walls have large sod-cast dykes or banks around them. The move to enclosure saw the switch towards an almost exclusively grazing regime, with the end of oats and barley production leading to the closure of the Valley's 13 flour mills and further dwindling of the population as demand for farm labourers reduced. Since the 19th century, farmers have sought to improve the quality of rough grazing for sheep and suckler cows through increasing drainage, burning, manuring and liming the land, which in turn have changed the character and appearance of the landscape. A key landscape feature of the valley is sheep stells and other scattered enclosed in areas of open moorland.

Redesdale was not untouched by the Industrial Revolution; the growing use of lime on fields saw the construction of limekilns across the valley and, today there are still the impressive remains of former limekilns above Carter Pike and at Greenchesters. From 1838 to 1848, iron ore was mined, smelted and cast in the village of Ridsdale. When the iron was exhausted, the works were bought by the famous Tyneside industrialist and armament manufacturer William Armstrong who continued to smelt iron for use in his factories. Iron from Ridsdale was used in the construction of Newcastle's High level bridge. The iron works closed in 1879. During the 19th century, the woollen mill at Otterburn began specialising in rugs, becoming famous for its pram rugs. Production moved to West Yorkshire in the 1970s, but Otterburn rugs are still sold based on the old patterns.

The construction of the turnpike road in 1776 up to Carter Bar and into Scotland increased the movement of people through the valley. Otterburn became an important staging post for the London to Edinburgh passenger mail coaches. The development of the Border Counties railway and the Wansbeck branch line in 1865 led to the decline of the coaching routes with the stations at Reedsmouth, Woodburn and Knowesgate (just outside the valley).

Twentieth Century

Catcleugh Reservoir, at the head of Redesdale, was completed in 1905 to supply water to Tyneside. The lake was built between 1894-1905, and was excavated by an army of 600 labourers using picks and shovels, who lived in temporary



wooden cabins. The reservoir had a major impact on the landscape and holds up to 10,478 litres of water. The dam, outlet and the spillway are impressive architectural features. One of the workers' wooden cabins has been preserved and is open several days a year. Close by, the 18th century church of St Francis contains a stunning memorial window to those who lost their lives during the construction of the reservoir.

Military training began in Redesdale in 1911 at Redesdale Camp when land was sold to the War Office by Lord Redesdale and expanded during the Second World War. After the War, Otterburn was developed as a permanent site for military training and remains second to Salisbury Plain in its importance to the British Army, being used by around 40,000 troops per year. There are numerous remains of historical military structures, including one of the best examples of First World War trenches and Eastern European tanks that were imported onto the Ranges during the height of the Cold War, as well as more modern structures including a fort and rail line.

Redesdale also played an important role in World War II with the construction of a radar station at Mount Gilbert adjacent to the A696 at Ottercops. There were eventually eleven masts at Ottercops, which formed part of the Chain Home radar system, and a variety of supporting buildings and defensive structures. After the War, the site was demolished and today only the remains of the pill boxes can be seen. The Ottercops site did play an important role in the War, being the first radar station to pick up the plane flown by Rudolph Hess in May 1941, after Hess landed in Scotland in an attempt to open up negotiations with the British government. Oral history accounts of those who worked on the site have been collected by the Bellingham branch of the WEA.

In 1919, the Forestry Commission was established to ensure that the nation never ran short of timber. It began the planting of Kielder Forest in 1926. Kielder Forest now covers an area of 50,000 hectares. It is one of the largest forests in Europe, and includes Redesdale Forest at the top of the valley. In 1950, the village of Byrness was constructed to provide accommodation for forestry workers and their families.

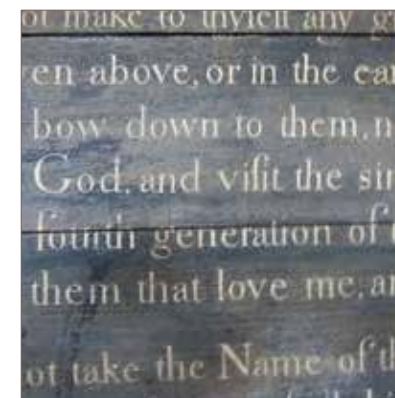
A cultural landscape

Alongside historic buildings and archaeological sites, there are wider cultural traditions and stories - heritage that have helped shape Redesdale and its communities. Key themes include the area's religious traditions, the Border Ballads, famous murder cases and prominent local families such as the Mitfords, and others associated with the Reiving period.

- **St Cuthbert.** Like many places in Northumberland, there are strong associations with St Cuthbert. Legend tells that St Cuthbert's coffin rested briefly in Elsdon and in Corsenside in AD 875, during the monks' wanderings around Northumbria after they fled Lindisfarne because of Viking attacks. A Church dedicated to St Cuthbert has been constructed on both sites. The current St Cuthbert Church in Elsdon dates mainly from the 14th century, but earlier structures have been incorporated into the building indicating a much earlier foundation. St Cuthbert's Church at Corsenside dates from Norman times. In recent years, a pilgrimage route has been established by the local churches linking the two churches of St Cuthbert with that of St Cuthbert in Bellingham and the nearby St Cuthbert's (Cuddy's Well). This 13-mile route is walked at the beginning of September to celebrate St Cuthbert's birthday.
- **Non-conformity.** Despite the existence of the two ancient churches in Redesdale, the valley has a long tradition of non-conformity. Following the Restoration and the Act of Uniformity in 1662, there were many Presbyterians who did not feel comfortable worshipping according to the strictures laid down in the Common Prayer Book. Many of these Presbyterians sought refuge in the Borders and held secret meetings on lonely hillsides. Alexander Peden (1626-1686) was one of the fugitive preachers who preached in Redesdale favouring the hill now called Padon Hill which overlooks Otterburn and the Rede Valley. The distinctive monument on Padon Hill, nick named the Pepperpot, was constructed in the 19th century to commemorate the Golden Wedding of Sir Charles and Louisa Bell. Birdhopecraig is probably one of the oldest non-conformist meeting houses in Northumberland and almost certainly pre-dates 1720. Redesdale's remoteness also benefited fugitive Catholics, and there still exists a priest's hole in the tower house at Corsenside.
- **The Border ballads.** There remained an important part of the area's oral tradition passed down by hill shepherds and their families and record the feuds and forays of the Border Reivers. The greater availability of the printed word in the 18th century saw the decline of the Ballads. It was thanks to Sir Walter Scott and his interest in Border history, that these were recorded and written down.
- **Winters' Gibbet.** A replica gallows stands on the edge of the valley at the top of Battle Hill, by Steng Cross, an old boundary stone. The gibbet commemorates the hanging of William Winter and his accomplices, Jane and Eleanor Clark, who murdered an old woman, Margaret Crozier of Raw Bastle. For many years, local villagers used to make a pilgrimage up the

site, believing that chips of wood from the original gallows would cure tooth ache.

- **Lord Redesdale and the Mitford sisters.** The Mitford family have enjoyed a long association with Northumberland. Sir John Mitford bought the Redesdale estate in the 1790s and was created Lord Redesdale in 1802 and lived in at Birdhopecraig Hall, a shooting lodge high above the River Rede. The fourth Lord Redesdale, David, a well-known eccentric who mostly resided in Oxfordshire, is probably best known as the father of the Mitford girls - Nancy, Pamela, Diana, Jessica, Unity and Deborah. Five of the Mitford girls achieved fame in different ways and were all regular visitors to Redesdale. Nancy was a famous novelist, Diana wed the fascist leader Oswald Mosley, Unity was an ardent Nazi-sympathiser, Jessica was a communist, writer and civil rights activist and Deborah wed the eleventh Duke of Devonshire and made her home at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. There are various memorials to the Mitford family at Horsley church. The current Lord Redesdale, Rupert, inherited the title and estate in 1991.
- **Border Reiver Surnames.** The English Middle March consisted primarily of Redesdale and Tynedale. The principal towns were Bellingham, Hexham, Haydon Bridge and Corbridge in Tynedale. The Middle March included Alnwick with its massive castle, Harbottle with a castle strategically placed to defend against the Scots and Otterburn in Redesdale. The main names of the Border Reivers in Tynedale were Charlton, Milburn, Fenwick, Hunter, Robson, Ridley, Heron and Ogle; in Redesdale, prominent were Hall, Hedley and Potts. Many people with these surnames still live in the valley and there is considerable interest from those living elsewhere who come back to trace their family history. All of the graves within Redesdale have been catalogued and are available on computer data bases at Bellingham Heritage Centre.



4. THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT OF REDESDALE'S LANDSCAPE AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS.

"Not only have its windswept moors and wide horizons witnessed some of the most bloody and dramatic events in history, but its high hills and secret valleys support a wealth of wildlife and its people are close knit, independent and resourceful."

Major John Keenan quoted in Otterburn Training Area: the first 100 years - Then and Now (2004).

Introduction

Policies and approaches to protect and enhance Northumberland's natural, historic and cultural assets are detailed in Northumberland County Council's Core Strategy, which provides an overarching framework for the wider management of Redesdale's landscape in tandem with the Northumberland National Park Management Plan. Northumberland's core strategy has been prepared to take account of key policies for landscape, biodiversity and heritage, including the European Landscape Convention, European Water Framework Directive, Heritage 2020 and the 2011 White Paper "Natural Choice".

In assessing the significance of Redesdale's natural and cultural heritage, this section of the LCAP reports formal designations and also reflects the views of local people captured at a series of community events during the summer of 2016. Using maps covering the whole of Redesdale and individual parishes, people were asked to mark and describe places that were important to them, using small flags on cocktail sticks. A mapping activity with the local Youth group and photographic competition (#MyRedesdale) also provided important evidence of sites and places that both local people and visitors value.

Landscape designations and policies

Northumberland National Park

Designated in 1956, Northumberland National Park is the northern most National Park in England. It covers an area of more than 1,030 km² between the Scottish border in the north to just south of Hadrian's Wall what is known for its wild open spaces, dark skies and sense of tranquility. Fifty-six percent of Redesdale falls within Northumberland National Park which covers about a quarter of the county of Northumberland. The Management Plan for Northumberland National Park provides the framework for the delivery of the National Park statutory purposes and duty. The current Management Plan covers the period 2016-21 and is reviewed on a five-year cycle. The National Park Authority is also



the planning authority for the National Park and is responsible for the policies and programme used to guide planning and development.

The Northumberland National Park Authority is a key partner of Revitalising Redesdale with many of its staff actively involved in helping to develop the projects and the programme of activity being developed for Redesdale. The National Park is guided by its principles set out in the Management Plan to ensure that “Northumberland National Park will be a truly welcoming and distinctive place, easily accessible to all. Its inspiring and changing landscapes, characterised by open spaces, tranquillity, diverse habitats, geology and rich cultural heritage, will be widely recognised and valued. The living, working landscape will contribute positively to the well-being of the thriving and vibrant communities in and around the Park”. These principles are also embodied within the approach to Revitalising Redesdale.

The landscape of Redesdale, and in particular key viewpoints, were mentioned at all the community events that Revitalising Redesdale attended. Sites mentioned included: Ottercops, Monkridge Fell, Carter Bar, Carrick Heights and Gallow Knowe. Landscape features such as waterfalls and woodland was also mentioned and featured heavily in entries for the photographic competition, alongside many of the most iconic view points in the valley.

The River Rede

The River Rede is classed as of “good ecological status”, although some of its tributaries are of “moderate ecological status”. The River Rede is managed as part of the wider Northumbria River Basin catchment management plan, the basin extends 9,000km² from the Scottish borders to Stockton on Tees. The plan is designed to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing benefits provided by the water environment. The plan specifically highlights the need to fund significant improvements to the River Rede to support its fresh water pearl mussel population. There are also proposals to reduce sediment and improve water quality in forest streams impacted by commercial forest, which include waterways such as Blakehopeburn in the upper part of the catchment. The Tyne Forest Streams Project (a partnership between Tyne Rivers Trust, Environment Agency and Forestry Commission) is already addressing the impacts of forestry in the valley.

Public consultation in both phase 1 and phase 2 of the development of the bid identified the value that local people place on the river environment both as a place to see wildlife and a place for local walks. The river and its tributaries around East and West Woodburn were particularly valued for their local walks and for places to paddle.



Northumberland International Dark Sky Park

The vast majority of Redesdale falls within the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park which was unveiled in December 2013. At 572 square miles (1,483 square kilometres), it is also Europe's largest area of protected night sky. Due to its pristine skies it was awarded gold tier designation by the International Dark Sky Association, making it officially the best place in England for people to go to see sights such as the Milky Way, meteorite showers and the Aurora.

A number of local businesses, such as the Redesdale Arms, are offering dark skies weekends with local astronomers and many accommodation providers are reporting that they are often fully booked over winter weekends with visitors wanting to experience the dark skies for themselves. Exterior lights in Elsdon have recently been replaced with lights that conform to the International Dark Association which minimize light spill and there are plans for lights in other parts of Redesdale to be upgraded. All the parish councils in Redesdale have shown their commitment to developing resources for visitors and locals to enjoy the dark skies by supporting the Kielder Partnership to install dark skies interpretation panels throughout the valley.

Otterburn Training Area (OTA)

Otterburn Training Area is one of the UK's strategic military training areas providing military training facilities for most in-service weapon systems, including aircraft. The area is used primarily by UK forces, but occasionally hosts foreign NATO forces. OTA extends to 23,500 hectares from Redesdale across to Coquetdale; around 50% of the area is within Redesdale. Land use at OTA is plan led via an Integrated Rural Management Plan. Otterburn Training Area (OTA) provides the UK's principal artillery range with the largest impact area in the country. It is used for training for around 300 days per year and a high percentage of those using the Training Area are destined for front-line combat shortly after. Otterburn Camp has capacity for 1,310 personnel and can therefore accommodate two major units at any one time. The role of OTA is to provide training facilities for dismounted infantry providing soldiers in a realistic training environment with representative conditions. The Ranges are also used to train artillery regiments with the Artillery Systems 90 (AS90, a self-propelled 155mm gun and the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS). One of the major benefits for military of the Otterburn Ranges is that the airspace above the Training Area is controlled by the MOD, allowing use by both fixed and rotary wing aircraft in direct fire and transport roles.



Local people are broadly very supportive of the military presence in the valley and have recognised the social and economic value that has resulted. However, civilian employment on the Camp has fallen in recent years. A couple of the maps produced by members of the local youth club depicting what they cared about around their homes included drawings of army helicopters.

Land Ownership within the Valley

The largest landowner in the valley is the MoD. Other large landowners in the valley are Northumbria Water, the Forestry Commission, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Northumberland Estates and Lord Redesdale; many of these larger landlords have tenant farmers on their land. It is estimated that there are at least 50 tenant farmers within Redesdale. A significant proportion of these are in Entry Level Stewardship, which is designed to encourage farmers to instigate simple yet effective environmental management measures, including creating buffer strips, protecting and managing sites of archaeological or historic interest and reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers. A smaller proportion of farmers are in the Higher Level Scheme which includes options for habitat enhancement and creation, including grip blocking and measures to enhance hay meadows. As agreements have come to an end from 2016 many HLS schemes are being converted into the new Countryside Stewardship agreements; significant parts of Redesdale are ineligible for the higher tier, as holdings have to be classed as environmentally significant sites (usually having some form of designation).

Stewardship will continue to have a significant role working with farmers to enhance Redesdale's natural environment but there are a range of measures that Stewardship cannot fund, including a range of management interventions at the grassland SSSI at Mill and Whiskershiel Burn. Funding through Stewardship is also becoming increasingly restricted, and growing uncertainty following the Brexit vote means that some farmers are unwilling to enter into new agreements.

Natural Heritage Designations and policies

Border Uplands Nature Improvement Area (NIA)

The Border Uplands NIA is identified by Northumberland County Council in their Core Strategy. The Border Uplands NIA covers an area of approximately 100,000 hectares in west Northumberland, with just over half in the Northumberland National Park, and includes Redesdale. The focus of the Border Uplands NIA is to improve ecological networks through enhanced management and expansion of a number of moorland related habitat types that are the subjects of their own Biodiversity Action Plans. The NIA will also look to enhance and improve the condition of designated site as part of key stepping stones within the wider network.

There are a number of international, national and local designated sites in the valley valued for their biodiversity and geodiversity; these are listed in the table below, which also show their overall condition when they were last surveyed by Natural England:

Designation	Detail	Condition
1 Special Area of Conservation	The Border Mires, Kielder to Butterburn SAC	Favourable
1 National Nature Reserve	Whitelee National Nature Reserve	Unfavourable recovering
7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Otterburn Mires - blanket mires	25% unfavourable recovering - 75% favourable
	Mill and Whiskershiel Burns (calcareous grassland and flushes)	65% favourable, 35% unfavourable no change/ declining
	Cottonhope Head Quarry (geological - Lower Carboniferous lava flows)	Favourable
	Redesdale Ironstone Quarries (geological)	Favourable
	Durtrees Burn Grassland unimproved species-rich upland (Northern) hay meadows - Part of the North Pennine Dales Meadows SAC	52% favourable, 48% unfavourable recovering
	Kielderhead and Embleton Moors	58% favourable, 42% unfavourable recovering
	Simonside Hills (partial)	Unfavourable recovering
15 Local Wildlife Sites	Byrness Ridsdale Quarries Tod Law Wood Durtrees Burn Chattlehope Crag Catcleugh Reservoir Echo and Saughty Crag Lumsdon Law Quarry Ottercops Burn and Mosses Linnheads lake and lises Burn Closter Cleugh Mill and Whiskershiel Burn The Wanneys and Aid Moss Green Rigg Moss Canker Cleugh Upper Cottonhope Burn	

A management plan for the Whitelee Moor NNR was prepared in 2010, which sets out the following objectives:

- Maintain or restore favourable condition to the important habitats.
- Maintain or increase populations of important plants and animals.
- Recreate characteristic upland habitats, particularly blanket bog, upland heath, new native woodland establishment, black & red grouse, breeding raptors and waders.

Alongside the on-going programme of day-to-day management, a number of actions are listed in the management plan which have not been progressed due to the lack of funding, but which are compatible with the aspirations been developed by the wider Revitalising Redesdale Partnership. These include:

- To improve habitat along the River Rede.
- Improvements to the access at Cater Bar to allow disabled visitors to gain access to the view point at approximately NT 694 067.
- Promotion of an out-and-back route along the existing right of way to view points in easy distance of Carter Bar car park.
- Promotion of circular routes around sections of the site with way-markers (small white posts) and traditional interpretation boards in strategic locations, including developing the existing short circular route currently exists around the British Romano settlement, close to Catcleugh Reservoir.

There is a very strong appreciation of Redesdale wildlife among both local people and visitors to the area. At community events, responses of what was valued often focused on particular species and where they could be found. Species mentioned included red squirrels, short-eared owls, feral goats, adders, hen harriers and fresh water pearl mussels. Places for bird watching, finding fossils and hay meadows were also identified.

Historic Designations and policies

Heritage 2020 sets out a framework that aims to demonstrate how partnership working can add value and lead to the delivery of outcomes which will enhance the understanding, protection and enjoyment of the historic environment in England. This will be done through five themes: discovery, identification and understanding; constructive conservation and sustainable management; public engagement; capacity building; and advocacy. The Revitalising Redesdale partners are developing their approach to Redesdale's heritage through this framework. Of particular relevance is the National Park's commitment to develop further understanding of the cultural heritage of the area, which Revitalising

Redesdale will seek to extend across the entire valley by:

- Providing the research and understanding of the National Park's historic environment by supporting local archaeology and history groups, Universities, contractors and individuals to draw upon published research.
- Supporting and promoting community-based archaeology and heritage activities.
- Working with research institutions, universities and experts to record, promote and develop new forms of expressing the traditional cultural heritage of Northumberland including dialect, literature, art and music.

The MOD also has a strong commitment to the historic environment. The OTA contains one of the greatest concentrations of archaeological and historic remains in the North of England, ranging from the Neolithic Era (3000 BC) to the Modern Era (1850 to present). Many of these are afforded national status under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979: there are currently 76 Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the OTA. Highly Sensitive Areas have been identified as part of the Archaeology and Historic Environment Management Plan and used to inform military activity to prevent or minimise impacts on historic sites.

Despite the significant under-recording of the historic environment within Redesdale, there are a significant number of sites in the Historic Environment Record for Redesdale:

Designation	Site
Heritage at Risk (Scheduled Monuments, Battlefields, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings)	Ridsdale Ironworks Roman British farmstead-Troughend, Otterburn
Historic Environment Record	800 sites are listed in the HER, 74 are scheduled monuments
Registered battlefield site	Battle of Otterburn site

Historic sites were the most frequently mentioned during the summer community consultation events and included prominent sites such as Ridsdale ironworks, the Roman fort at High Rochester and Elsdon's motte and bailey to the less well-known including the railway arches at Chesterhope, the bastle at Shittleheugh and the lime kilns at High Rochester. Sites associated with local stories were also highlighted such as those linked to the murder of Elizabeth Crozier, local village shows and memories of evacuees during the Second World War.

Significant sites:

The following sites have been identified by the Redesdale Partnership as having particular significance and importance to the local community and beyond.

Elsdon Church (NY936 932) and the wider village

St Cuthbert's Church is situated in the middle of Elsdon's village green and is a Grade I listed building. The Church is said to have been located on one of the temporary resting places of St Cuthbert's body used by the monks after they left Lindisfarne. The original building was probably of timber and roofed with rushes and whilst there are some Norman remains, the majority of the church dates from the 14th century. In the 17th century, a bell-turret was added and further improvements were made in the 19th century with a chancel roof and clear leaded windows. Close to the entrance, it is still possible to see the grooves where 'the wild men of Redesdale' sharpened their swords. Equally evocative is the three horse skulls found in the spire which tops the belfry during the 1837 restoration, one of which has been clearly pole-axed. Inside the church is a stone Celtic coffin lid and inscribed Roman stones. During the 19th century, a number of skeletons were found buried under the north wall of the church, and it is thought that this might be a mass grave for those who lost their lives at the Battle of Otterburn.

On the village green is the Pinfold used for holding the cattle which had strayed from their owner's land or the common land. There, they were penned until the requisite fine for their release was paid. The picturesque village of Elsdon also contains a fine 15th century pele tower (grade I listed) and Norman motte and bailey which has been described in other sections of the LCAP.

Corsenside Church (NY890 892)

The tiny church of St Cuthbert is situated down a rough track on an isolated hillside overlooking the river Rede. The church contains a Norman chancel arch but is largely 12th century with bellcote and south door that was added in 1735. The nave windows were altered in the mid-19th century, with installation of sash windows. The church is a Grade II listed building and contains a number of interesting monuments including a Tudor way-marker, medieval grave slabs and copy of the Ten Commandments inscribed on large timber panels. It is said to have been built on the spot that the monks rested whilst carrying St Cuthbert's body when they fled Lindisfarne. Whilst used occasionally in summer for church services, members of the community have sought to establish the picturesque graveyard which contains many old gravestones as an area for wild flowers. They are keen to begin a community-scything project to improve its management.



Ridsdale Ironworks (NY 909 844)

The former Ridsdale Ironworks is protected as a scheduled monument (List No: 1006420). It includes the ruins of the former engine house, earthwork remains of coke ovens and ore-roasting kilns, waste heaps and tubways. To the south of these are large quarry pits and to the east of the A68 are the now-dry banks of a reservoir which once supplied water to the boilers of the blowing engines. The scheduled site does not include the former furnace, which has been converted into a local residence, and is protected as a listed building. The shell of the blowing engine house, along with less exposed buildings to the north Furnace House and an adjacent, heavily adapted range, both formerly tapping or casting houses - are the only structural remains of the works still standing. The Blowing Engine House is the most prominent structural survival of the ironworks. It was constructed in 1839-40 to hold two steam-powered beam engines which provided the air blast for three blast furnaces lying downslope to the north. The engine house would have housed two beam blowing engines side by side with the rocking arms of the engines pivoting on 'bob' or 'lever' beams set up transversely across the building. The Statement of Significance prepared for the Ridsdale Ironworks concludes that the importance of the site is due to the preservation of a wide range of components which is of considerable significance at Ridsdale along with the standing shell of the engine house, which is unique in the region and provides an iconic landscape feature.

Bremenium Roman Fort (NY 832 982)

Bremenium was one of five Roman outpost stations beyond Hadrian's Wall and, for two centuries, the northernmost fort in the Roman Empire. It is one of the best-preserved archaeological sites within Northumberland National Park. The complete circuit of the Roman rampart which encompasses the settlement of High Rochester, is accessible including the west gate and an interval tower. The fort also sits within a landscape rich in archaeological remains including marching camps along Dere Street and the remarkable Petty Knowes Roman cemetery a short way to the south-east. Together, they form a unique archaeological assemblage. The area of the Roman fort of Bremenium including its rampart and most (but not all) of the defensive ditches around the perimeter is a Scheduled Monument (List entry no 1006610). This designation imparts legal protection to the site and denotes that it is of national significance. Sections of the standing wall and gateways are protected by listed building status, as are the Bastle and Rose Cottage (also a former 16th century bastle).



Whitelee Moor National Nature Reserve (NT 700 040)

The 1500 hectare Whitelee Moor was bought by Northumberland Wildlife Trust in 1999 with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Whitelee NNR is one of Britain's most important upland nature reserves. It is of European conservation importance due to its active blanket bog and heather heaths. The blanket bog is home to a variety of plants including sphagnum moss, cloudberry, bog asphodel and cotton grass. On the lower slopes, the heather moorland is home to birds such as red grouse, and birds of prey including merlin, buzzard, peregrine falcon and hen harrier. One of the moor's most striking insects is the day-flying northern egg moth and butterflies such as ringlet, small heath and green-veined white are seen in summer. Skylark, stonechat and meadow pipit are common across the reserve while on the high ground, dunlin and golden plover arrive in spring to breed. The River Rede and its tributaries add to the habitat diversity, otters can often be seen hunting along its banks. Adder and common lizard are common here as well as palmate newts in the small pools along the burn. A herd of feral goats can sometimes be seen on the border with Kielderhead. There are interesting flush areas with plants such as early marsh orchid. High up the Bateinghope Burn, near Buzzard Crag, are two sets of limekilns, which burned limestone from a nearby quarry and mine.

The implementation of the NNR's management plan has seen some former drainage channels dammed to make sure the bog stays wet, but significant areas of the Reserve still require further work including grip blocking, gully profiling and stone dams construction. Over 35 hectares of new woodland has been planted, largely birch, rowan, willow and hazel. Some aspen has also been incorporated in the scheme while small amounts of ash and oak have been put in more sheltered spots. Whitelee is grazed by a tenant farmer, as it has been for hundreds of years, with levels of sheep and cattle carefully controlled.



Otterburn Registered Battlefield Site (NY 877 936)

This is the site of the Battle of Otterburn which was fought on 19th August 1388. The battlefield is bounded by the River Rede to the south, mostly by the Otter Burn to the east, by the dead ground beyond the Cross Plantation to the north, and the top of Holt Wood to the west. The site of the battlefield is marked by Percy's Cross, where the Earl of Douglas fell in battle. The cross was later moved during the construction of the turnpike road. The Cross itself is a combination of the original socket of the cross and part of a kitchen lintel from Otterburn Hall. The battlefield remains agricultural but it has been altered in character since the 14th century. The open land is now fully enclosed and the land to the south of the road (A696) has been drained. The woods on the fringes of the battlefield are 19th century in origin.

The Battle of Otterburn brought an end to the uneasy truce that had existed between the Scots and the English since the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346. In 1383 both sides prepared for a renewal of hostilities: the English king, Richard II, demanded the outstanding ransom payment plus the return of 'English' land in Scotland while the Scottish king, Robert II, began to fortify his castles and entered into an agreement with France that would provide troops and equipment in the event of war. Following minor Border raids the Scots sought to take advantage of the fragile political situation in England and in the summer of 1388 launched a three-pronged attack against the English; in Ireland, the West March and the East March. The attack in the east was led by Earl Douglas with a force of some 6,000 troops which advanced as far as Durham, burning as they came. The son of the Earl of Northumberland, Henry 'Hotspur' Percy was despatched by his father to Newcastle, to intercept the Scots' route home. In the skirmishing around the walls of Newcastle the silk pennon on Percy's lance was captured by Douglas. Tradition states that Percy vowed to recapture the pennon and Douglas in true chivalric mode agreed to allow him the chance to do so. It is supposedly for this reason that Percy pursued the retreating Scots as they headed north-west from the inconclusive encounter at Newcastle, and why Douglas halted at Otterburn to await him.

On the 19th August the Scots were camped about a mile to the west of Otterburn after attempting unsuccessfully to take the castle. The arrival of Percy's forces in the early evening took them by surprise. Despite this, the battle of Otterburn was a Scottish victory, though not a resounding one as their leader James, Earl Douglas was killed. Despite being captured Henry Hotspur's reputation as a heroic leader was secured; his ransom was paid largely from the public purse.



5. CURRENT AND POTENTIAL THREATS AND RISKS TO REDESDALE'S HERITAGE

"God send the land deliverance Frae every reaving, riding Scot; We'll sune hae neither cow nor ewe, We'll sune hae neither staig nor stot."

Ballad of Hobbie Noble (first published in 1802)

Introduction

This section of the LCAP explores what is happening to the heritage of Redesdale, and what might be expected over coming decades, and the extent that these threats might dilute the distinctiveness of the area and weaken its landscape character. Some of the challenges are at the macro level and will impact heritage at a UK level and beyond, but some of the threats and risks are particular to Redesdale. Understanding these threats will help partners plan and address these issues to support the long term resilience and sustainability of Redesdale's heritage.

Macro challenges and risks

Climate change

Climate change projections for the North East suggest that there will be drier summers with higher temperatures and warmer wetter winters. A climate change vulnerability map for the catchment highlights habitats which would be particularly vulnerable to climate change due to either habitat fragmentation, poor condition of habitat, or the nature of the habitats and ability to adapt to change. Climate change will also bring much greater incidence of extreme weather events. Potential impacts include the following:

- Raised risk of river flooding leading to erosion of bank sides and increased sedimentation impacting on water quality requirements of fresh water pearl mussel.
- Drier and warmer summers increasing soil moisture deficits which will impact on the condition of blanket bogs, especially around the periphery of such areas.
- Drier summers significantly reducing river flow leading to risks of eutrophication. Salmonids are particularly vulnerable to increased water temperature.
- Increased risk of wild fire.



- Changing in species assemblages, as species extend their range northwards and new species colonise Redesdale.
- Increasing incidences and severity of tree diseases and other pest outbreaks due to warmer climates; in which warmer winters will allow pathogens to extend their range. Phytophthora is already been found in Alder trees in some locations in the Rede Valley and there is a risk of Ash die-back impacting trees.
- Greater variations in soil moisture content potentially impacting on the foundations of built structures and on archaeology.

One of the best approaches to adapting to future climate change impacts will be to ensure that natural and cultural assets are in good condition and that direct negative impacts are mitigated against as much as possible. This will give sites and habitats the best possible chance to adjust to changes in temperature and precipitation. Direct impacts include diffuse pollution, bracken encroachment, and excessive grazing.

Political change

The vote in June 2016 to leave the European Union brings with it a period of change and uncertainty in regard to the legislation around environmental protection and in the support provided to farms through Countryside Stewardship. Countryside Stewardship is an important lever for the public sector in building a partnership between farmers and landowners to deliver a wide range of environmental outcomes. Farming in Redesdale is often very marginal in terms of economic viability, with stewardship payments providing an important source of income. For some, the loss of Stewardship payments may mean that they will no longer be able to farm; this may result in the creation of increasingly larger farms and reduced opportunities to encourage greater take-up of interventions that benefit the wider environment.

Socio-economic impacts

Much of Redesdale relies on agriculture, forestry and the military. In recent years, the valley has seen the loss of filling stations, shops and hotels. There are two primary schools in the valley at West Woodburn and Otterburn but Byrness lost its school ten years ago. With a small resident population and relatively low visitor numbers, the majority of businesses in Redesdale are relatively vulnerable to any further down-turn in the economy.

Local Risks

Declining visitor numbers

The A68 through the valley is the most scenic tourist route to Scotland but relatively few visitors stop off. As a result of poor signage, interpretation and orientation information, the majority of visitors are unaware of what Redesdale has to offer. Signage is often misleading, such as road signs to "Redesdale Valley"; elsewhere, interpretation panels are missing or at in a very poor state of repair such as at the Percy Cross picnic site overlooking the Battle of Otterburn site. Visitor infrastructure is minimal and declining: increasingly limited opportunities to spend time and money in the valley, thereby exacerbates the impact on local businesses.

Carter Bar has a significant 'pull' for visitors travelling the A68 and many stop at the lay-by to take photographs of the Border, stretch their legs or grab a drink from the mobile coffee van.

Deteriorating walking and cycling routes

Access infrastructure in many parts of the valley is at risk, or has been lost altogether. The permissive path to the Three Kings Standing Stones is now impassable, and plans to fell the forest within this area mean it is unlikely that the path will be reinstated soon. The river crossing at Smoutel Ford has been lost, which effectively prevents the use of the bridleway across the valley and opportunities for circular walks. A survey of walking routes undertaken on behalf of Revitalising Redesdale highlighted that many paths were overgrown or water-logged making them difficult for users. The poor state of repair of footpaths includes the Pennine Way, which is exceedingly challenging to traverse in two sections due to drainage issues. The rights of way network in Redesdale is a particularly important asset, as it provides a crucial mechanism for people to explore and experience Redesdale's landscape as well as engage with its natural and cultural heritage.

Unrecorded cultural and natural heritage

Whilst there has been significant research on the archaeological remains on the Otterburn Training Area, even within the National Park many archaeological sites and historic structures are unrecorded and are at risk without further study.

No Phase 1 Habitat Survey has been conducted for Northumberland, which would have provided a basic assessment of habitat type and its potential for conservation. While there is relatively detailed habitat and species surveys for the

section of Redesdale within Northumberland National Park, the remaining 47% of Redesdale is very poorly recorded. Some survey work has been undertaken on the Otterburn Training Area and on farms eligible for Stewardship but there is no central repository for this information to enable this data to be used by partners to support a more strategic approach to nature conservation. Recording of bird numbers and other species is undertaken on the Otterburn Ranges and within the National Park, as well as by amateur groups. Some of this is shared with the North East Record Centre (ERIC) but it is not coordinated across the valley.

Built heritage at risk

Redesdale has a number of historic monuments or buildings at risk. The Ridsdale Iron works is a scheduled monument classed as 'At Risk- Declining' on the heritage at Risk Register. A condition survey undertaken for Revitalising Redesdale highlighted that the engine house had deteriorated significantly in recent months and, in collaboration with Historic England, two sections of the building have now been scaffolded to prevent imminent collapse. Successive winters will continue to impact on the structure without consolidation. Bremenium Roman Fort has been classed as 'Vulnerable': a Condition survey prepared for the National Park in 2014 highlighted the impacts of vegetation growing in walls weakening the structure. The Romano-British farmstead at Troughend near Otterburn shows significant risks of bracken encroachment and there are concerns about the condition of the various Turnpike milestones (Grade II listed) along the A68. Other historic structures damaged and at further risk include the 19th century commemorative Battle of Otterburn stone seat at Elishaw. Further work to record archaeological sites will potentially identify further sites at risk and enable partners to secure appropriate management to avoid their disturbance or deterioration.

There are ongoing concerns about the condition of many of the local churches in the area, although recent grants from HLF have supported repairs to Elsdon Church and the installation and refurbishment of an organ at Holy Trinity Church, Horsley, Rochester.

Loss of Cultural Heritage

The Redesdale Society has identified that local place names and their meaning are being lost as people move away from the valley. Border traditions and cultures are less celebrated in England than in Scotland which further undermines the resilience of local Northumbrian culture. Local communities have also commented on the long-term potential vulnerability of local shows in the valley.



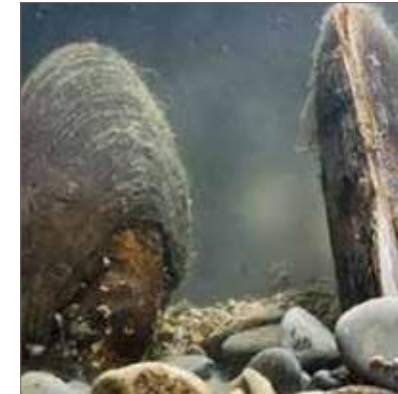
Threats to natural species

Redesdale's native species and habitats are under threat from the same land-use change that has resulted in documented declines in other parts of the country. Though Redesdale's relative isolation and low population has meant that this has been slower than in other places, there are a number of issues of particular concern:

- Fresh water pearl mussels have not successfully reproduced in the River Rede since the Second World War due to issues of water and habitat quality. Without intervention, it is estimated that the population will survive for only another ten years, before the extinction of this genetically-isolated population. Based on the Freshwater Biological Association's restoration strategy, a catchment-wide change to the land management to address the amount of nutrients and fine sediment entering the rivers is required.
- Red Squirrels are still common in Redesdale but recent monitoring that has shown that grey squirrels (the main cause of red squirrels' decline) have made incursion into the valley. Native broadleaf woodland within the valley are fragmented; connecting these across the landscape will create resilient habitats for red squirrels and many other species.
- Invertebrates, such as the small pearl-bordered fritillary (butterfly) and mountain bumblebee, have declined across Northumberland as a result of habitat fragmentation and loss in recent decades.
- Many of Northumberland raptors have declined through habitat persecution and habitat loss. Redesdale is one of the few places where hen harriers can still be found. In recent years, there has been a significant decline in sightings of black grouse. Survey work in the valley has confirmed ongoing declines in the numbers of wading birds such as lapwing and curlew.
- Redesdale is covered in extensive areas of internationally important blanket bog, but surveys have identified that moorland grips and drains continue to put this habitat at risk, and it is vulnerable to the impacts of future climate change.

Increasing military use of the Otterburn Training Area

The Otterburn Training Area has become increasingly important to the army in recent years, and is coming under pressure for greater intensification of training activities as smaller facilities across the Defence Estates are closed. This could result in the expansion of training facilities and infrastructure in the core training area and an increase in the number of active training days within the MoD's 300 days a year allocation. This will impact on the overall tranquillity



of the area. Increased usage by troops will also increase vehicular movements up and down the valley.

Maturing of Redesdale Forest

Large sections of Redesdale Forest will mature in the next decade resulting in a major felling and replanting programme which, within the short to medium term, could have a very significant impact on the landscape character of the Upper Redesdale valley.

Skills and labour shortage

Evidence presented by the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee (2008) suggests that the UK is losing the fundamental skills that enable both the amateur naturalist and professional wildlife organisations to monitor the health and well-being of our wildlife and their habitats. Employers are struggling to recruit staff with the right mix of specialist skills such as species identification, habitat survey and management and heritage interpretation. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management commented in its report 'Closing the Gap, Rebuilding Skills in the 21st Century,' (2011) that 'ecological skills in the UK are in such short supply that, if they are neglected further, they could seriously undermine our capacity to deliver the same environmental mandate that has become critical to us all.'

Historic England has also identified an increasing skills gap in the field of traditional building, where the workforce is significantly older than the rest of the construction industry. Locally, it has been difficult to recruit scaffolders and those with expertise in historic building restoration.

Local hotels and catering businesses in Redesdale have reported that it is increasingly difficult to recruit suitable staff. This is a trend confirmed by the Northumberland Tourism Business Survey, in which 22% of respondents have encountered problems recruiting staff due to the lack of skilled and qualified staff and problems in rural areas linked to availability of accommodation and public transport. The seasonality of many jobs in the tourism sector also exacerbates recruitment problems with a perceived low status for such jobs among some young people.

Small pool of volunteers

The size of Redesdale's population, at around 1,700 people, means that the pool of potential volunteers is small. The potential of available volunteers is exacerbated by the low population density, which makes it hard to provide a natural focal point for activities within the valley. A significant proportion of the 16-65 age group in Redesdale are economically active, with many people commuting considerable distances out of the area for work. This limits the amount of free time available for volunteering. Local people have commented that the majority of voluntary activity that is undertaken in Redesdale tends to come from the same cohort of people, many of whom are retired or work part-time. If Revitalising Redesdale is to be able to deliver its ambitious programme of volunteer engagement, it will be important to reach out to a much wider potential pool of volunteers from other parts of Northumberland and Tyneside. However, the distances from main centres of population may be a limiting factor to this source of volunteers. Ensuring sufficient budget is allocated to cover volunteer travel costs will be key to mitigating this risk.

6. AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

"The late Marches and borders of the two realms of England and Scotland are now the heart of the country" King James 1 (1603)

There are five key audiences for the Revitalising Redesdale programme these are:

1. Local people and those living in the surrounding area
2. Existing and potential visitors to Redesdale
3. People travelling through Redesdale
4. Specialist interest groups, including those in education
5. Army personnel

This section looks at each of these broad groups, in terms of their characteristics and size, and looks at the type of activity that will be appropriate to engage these groups in the Revitalising Redesdale programme. During the development stage, a range of community engagement activity has been undertaken which has primarily focused on the local community. The Partnership also commissioned an Audience Engagement Plan to inform our approach, which involved visitor surveys at Otterburn Mill, Carter Bar and interviews with businesses across the valley.

The Local Community

It is estimated that there are approximately 1,700 people living in Redesdale within an area covering 347 km². This is an area of very low population densities, with local residents predominately living in the following communities which stretch the length of the valley: Byrness, Rochester (& High Rochester), Otterburn, Elsdon, West Woodburn (& East Woodburn) and Ridsdale. Otterburn is the largest of the settlements.

Data from the 2011 Census, which includes the equally sparsely populated valley of North Tyne, shows that the population is ageing with 22% over 65 years old. However, the valley does support two local primary schools (age group 4-9) at Otterburn and West Woodburn, so whilst it will be important for events to attract older people, there are real opportunities to engage younger audiences and their families. There is also an active Youth Group (age group 9-14) in the valley based at Otterburn RTC Sports Centre and toddler groups. The National Park have supported a young archaeologist club that has proved popular, showing that there is real potential to engage young people in well-targeted projects.

A significant proportion of the 16-64 years old age group is economically active,



with 12% involved in agriculture and forestry. While there are a significant number of home-based/self-employed workers, there are a large number of people in the valley who commute to Tyneside, Hexham or Morpeth for work. The long hours for those involved in land-based industries, or for those commuting, does have an impact on the availability of people to participate in voluntary activities. The valley has a small pool of very active volunteers who facilitate Parish Council, Village Hall Committees, the Women's Institute, local churches, the Redesdale Society, EPIC and the Otterburn RTC Sports Centre. Local groups, despite their small size, are very effective in securing new resources for the community and implementing projects: recent examples include the Horsley Organ project, restoration of Elsdon church and erection of the Roundhouse at Rochester. In addition the valley's community has been able to support a number of shows and events through volunteer activity: these include the Upper Redesdale Show, Redefest, Elsdon Show and the Corsenside Leek and Vegetable show. There are also a wide range of smaller events and initiatives which include everything from book and film clubs, supper clubs, village tidy-ups and fund raising for a wide variety of local charities. The small pool of potential volunteers who are already very active represents a significant challenge for Revitalising Redesdale. For the programme to be successful, projects will need to closely inter-connect and add value to existing volunteer effort, focusing on what local people value and want to see happen in their community.

The valley does have an excellent track record in bringing additional volunteers into the valley to support the efforts of the local community. Examples of this include:

- **Rupert's Wood:** a partnership with students from the University of Newcastle working with disadvantaged groups to provide them with environmental fun days, linked to conservation with Redesdale.
- **Whitelee National Nature Reserve** benefits from Wildlife Trust volunteers travelling from outside the valley
- Open days at Black House, Catcleugh Reservoir is supported by National park volunteers, most of whom do not live in the valley

The Revitalising Redesdale Partnership will work with local groups and organisations to support their engagement in projects, but will also look to engage a range of groups from outside the valley to provide the additional volunteer effort that some projects will require.

Existing and potential visitors to Redesdale

There is no data on the number of current visitors to the valley, because there

are no visitor attractions which could collect this information. The best estimate from those involved in tourism businesses in the area is that at least 200,000 visitors visit Redesdale per year, many of whom will stop for a coffee break but not explore the valley. While this is a very low figure, visitor numbers are currently at a level to sustain a range of businesses including Otterburn Mill which benefits from the coach market, accommodation providers and tearooms, such as the Impromptu café in Elsdon which is a favourite with walkers and cyclists.

Visitor surveys for Northumberland Tourism, the National Park and Kielder all show that visitors to the wider area tend to be older, come to the region for its landscape and scenery and have a higher than average propensity to want to engage in activities in relatively wild areas that offer challenge such as off-road mountain biking and walking. Walking is a particularly popular activity and motivator to visit the region. Current visitors to the wider area are split equally between day and staying visitors. An important emerging pattern is the growing trend for family groups no longer made up of parents and young children, but parents and their adult children. Research undertaken as part of the Audience Development Plan identified some important trends that will be reflected in our programme development:

- Visitors are increasingly sophisticated and are looking for a quality offer which includes not only food and accommodation, but also interpretation and high quality visitor infrastructure such as signage and footpaths.
- There is a growing interest in skills tourism, with people interested in the opportunity to spend a few days acquiring new skills like conservation, surveying or participating in an archaeological excavation.
- Visitors increasingly access their information about a destination using their mobiles. This means that interpretation needs to be available not only digitally for use on computers for pre-planning a visit, but also accessible to mobile phone users in the valley. Sign-posting visitors to Wi-Fi facilities is therefore also important or using Bluetooth technology where this is not possible.
- Leisure trends in the future show the growth in short breaks and the combination of rural breaks with urban ones, suggesting it is beneficial for Redesdale to promote itself to the Newcastle city break market, given it is an hour's travel from the city centre.

People travelling through Redesdale

The main roads through Redesdale are the A696 and A68 which together provide a link from Newcastle to Jedburgh and the Scottish Borders; often regarded as

the scenic route to Edinburgh avoiding the A1. A significant number of travellers are using the road for utilitarian reasons, but a significant proportion are tourists, many of whom are not choosing to stop in Redesdale until they reach Carter Bar. The route is also very popular with motorcyclists from the UK and the Continent. As part of the preparation for the Audience Engagement Plan a survey of 105 individuals in 45 vehicles was undertaken at Carter Bar: 40% of vehicles were motorbikes, 33% cars and 27% commercial vehicles. Of those interviewed, 89.5% had left their vehicle and the main reasons for stopping were to take a photo, look around at the view, or grab some refreshments from the mobile café.

Specialist interest groups, including those in education

Redesdale has a rich natural and cultural heritage and there are many organisations who already have some association with Redesdale because of what it has to offer who could be persuaded to become more involved and engaged with valley through the implementation of a variety of projects. The types of groups Revitalising Redesdale will seek to engage with include the following:

- Naturalists, including local bird groups
- Local history societies and archaeology groups
- Walking and Cycling Clubs
- Practical Conservation groups

Revitalising Redesdale will also work in partnership with Northumberland College and Universities in the region to provide volunteer opportunities for students which link to their degree or other qualifications. This will include ecological surveying, archaeology projects and practical conservation for environmental management.

Army personnel

Around 40,000 troops use the Otterburn Military Training Area; none are permanently based on site. Tours of duty are often very short and rarely longer than a few weeks. The role of the OTA is to prepare troops who are about to join the front line. Training exercises tend to be very intensive with little free-time, and soldiers rarely have transport to enable them to leave Otterburn Camp.

Soldiers on exercise on the Ranges are briefed on their arrival about the nature of the area that they will be training in. In particular, soldiers are briefed on the importance of not disturbing archaeological sites (which are all marked with a white diamond or star) and key ecological sites and species. In 2004 (subsequently reprinted in 2012), a booklet was produced on the history of the Training Area and the way it has been used by the army illustrated with historical

photographs. Copies of this booklet are available for soldiers to look at whilst at the Camp.





It is recognised that there are limited opportunities to work with this audience, due to the nature of the training they are engaged with. It is, however, hoped that some of the interpretation developed for the Battle of Otterburn site will draw on the experience of modern day soldiers fighting in similar terrain. We will also continue discussions with the Camp Commander to consider the possibility of producing some type of leaflet designed to appeal to soldiers telling them a bit more about the area they are training in. This leaflet will be developed using focus groups of army personnel to ensure that it is targeted to appeal to its intended audience.

Who is our audience?

Our Audience Development Plan (R4C 2016) has identified four broad audiences:

- Engaged in Redesdale and its heritage: landowners and tenants, local tourism businesses, local volunteer and interest groups and members of the Revitalising Redesdale Partnership.
- Engaged in Redesdale but not its heritage: Wider resident population and visitors to Redesdale who are coming to the area for a wide variety of reasons including weddings, active sport e.g. off-road cycling, or coming out for a drive and meal.
- Not engaged but with an existing interest: This includes visitors with some knowledge of Redesdale but with the potential to be encouraged to expand their knowledge linked to a particular interest e.g. wildlife, walking or heritage. Also in this group are businesses or providers of Bed and Breakfast facilities within the valley who might be encouraged to raise their own knowledge of the area's heritage and become ambassadors for Redesdale.
- Passing travellers: People using the A68, long distance walkers and cyclists.

Potential to shift these audiences to engage with Redesdale

Audience	Unaware	Aware	Understanding	Engagement	Participation	Outcome
Engaged in Redesdale and engaged its heritage						
Engaged in Redesdale but not yet engaged its heritage						
Not yet engaged but with an existing interest						
Passing travellers						

Audience Development themes

Our Audience Development Plan has focused on six broad themes which have been incorporated into the projects which form the Revitalising Redesdale programme. These are:

1. Collaboration with surrounding initiatives such as Kielder, the Sill and Northumberland's Dark Skies.
2. Creating reasons to stay and play - improved information and interpretation, development of circular walks and other things to do.
3. Heritage hosting - helping to equip local communities to become more confident advocates of their local heritage and share that knowledge with others.
4. Redesdale Revitalises - using the natural environment to promote well-being and as a vehicle to get people interested in the landscape and its heritage.
5. Redesdale Discovery days - events tailored at particular interest groups from across the region to raise the profile of Redesdale. This approach will also be used for 'harder to reach groups' through the Friends of Rupert's Wood.
6. Stay Longer Next Time - Initiatives to make passing travellers aware of what is on offer and capturing their interest to come back and explore through targeted interpretation at lay-bys, signage and art installations.



7. DELIVERING OUR VISION: PROJECT THEMES, SUMMARIES AND HLF OUTCOMES

“Life in Redesdale has moved with the times but remained firmly rooted in its rich heritage. People were farming the valley 5000 years ago and their 21st century descendants maintain the same traditions, albeit aided by quad bikes and ultrasound pregnancy scanners for sheep. In Roman times soldiers of the Imperial Empire trained here, today the tunics have given way to the Khaki and camouflage of NATO troops.”

Beryl Charlton ‘Story of Redesdale’ (2007)

The Vision

Revitalising Redesdale will:

- Empower the local communities to better explore, conserve and enhance a landscape and natural environment forged by centuries of conflict;
- Celebrate the unique character of the landscape, its biodiversity and its culture, while seeking to build the future resilience of its heritage and identity;
- Address the threats to Redesdale’s increasingly fragile natural, historic and cultural heritage, which have been heightened by a declining resident population and economic decline;
- Ensure the local ownership and involvement of projects and schemes developed by the partnership.

Delivering our vision

Our programme has been developed to deliver our vision and to reflect the views of local people as we have developed the bid.

- Empower and explore: A large number of our projects have a strong empowering theme to provide local people and those who care about Redesdale with the opportunity to learn more about the valley’s heritage and get involved in its conservation. This will include surveying and researching to uncover new aspects of its wildlife, archaeological remains or cultural traditions. Projects like those focused on the Otterburn Battlefield site, Lost Redesdale and Rediscovering Natural Redesdale will give participants the chance to work alongside professional archaeologists, historians and ecologists to learn new skills. An important part of the legacy of this programme will be to empower communities through skills training to continue to be engaged in research and surveying of Redesdale’s heritage, long after the HLF funded programme is completed.



Our projects also aims to help visitors and local people get a better understanding of Redesdale as a landscape rather than a series of individual sites by encouraging exploration. Using village hubs, we will develop routes that highlight the centuries old role of the Rede Valley, as a strategic corridor. Our walks will use the network of ancient routes dating back to Roman times, including the old drovers' roads and 18th century turnpike roads, which together criss-crossed the River Rede over elegant stone bridges and old fords. Our events programmes will be designed to unearth the hidden and encourage individuals to discover Redesdale for themselves.

- **Conserve:** A number of our projects will conserve heritage under threat, such as the Engine House at Ridsdale, Bremenium at High Rochester and areas of peatland and hay meadow. Our projects will provide training and skills to volunteers and students to address the conservation skills deficit. All our conservation based projects will also seek to enhance sites either by improving the setting of particular structures or creating new habitat to enhance biodiversity.
- **Celebrate:** Sharing stories of Redesdale is a key part of celebrating the valley's heritage and engaging with a wider audience. All our projects have a strong interpretative element and our web-based virtual community museum will be an important mechanism for local people to shape that interpretation. The project has sought to identify more unusual ways to celebrate Redesdale's landscapes and plans such as the use of art installations at a number of key view points across the valley to encourage more people to get out and explore the area. We will also have community engagement activities linked to photo-journalism and sound recording.

The strong pull of Carter Bar and the Scottish Border means that many visitors drive through Redesdale and are unaware of its heritage and what the valley has to offer. This is compounded by poor signage and limited and often out-of-date interpretation. Our projects aim to engage and stimulate interest in Redesdale's heritage through the development of high quality interpretation and art work, supported by good quality visitor signage and orientation. This will be designed to attract passing travellers and deepen the experience of those already visiting the valley.

- **Resilience:** Redesdale's landscape and heritage is at risk from a whole range of different pressures, from the benign neglect of being a remote area on the western fringes of Northumberland to the challenges of projected climate change or on-going economic decline. Restoring and enhancing heritage assets into favourable condition status and militating against direct



negative impacts such as diffuse pollution or excessive grazing, is a key driver for many of our projects. Projects to restore peatland and reduce diffuse pollution and excessive sediment on the River Rede are effective mechanisms to build in the long term resilience of Redesdale's natural environment assets to global pressures, such as climate change which are beyond the control of the Revitalising Redesdale Partners. Plans to increase riparian planting along the Rede and measures to deal with localised soil erosion along the banks will also lessen the impacts of the river ecology of extreme weather events (heat waves, flash floods) which are projected to increase with climate change.

One of the most effective approaches to strengthen resilience and the future capacity of the natural environment for adaptation is to build and develop ecological networks across and beyond the valley to connect areas of high biodiversity value or core sites (such as SSSIs and National Nature Reserves). Many of the valley's species are threatened by habitat fragmentation, including invertebrates, pollinators and the iconic red squirrel. The project to improve the condition of the River Rede and the project Reflowering Redesdale is part of this approach to strengthen ecological networks.

Supporting local business: Our development of hubs through our interpretive project is designed to encourage visitors to plan their visits to the valley around one of the main settlements and, in doing so, encourage them to make use of local shops, cafés and pubs. The development of a choice of walks from these hubs is also designed to encourage visitors to stay longer in Redesdale and support local businesses. In delivering our projects, we have avoided the use of framework contracts to ensure that there is plenty of opportunity to use local suppliers and contractors.

- **Ownership:** Our community consultation emphasised that local people wanted projects that both conserve and enhanced the valley's heritage, and are also fun. Our events programme will be aligned to project delivery and designed to offer a wide range of different types of activities to appeal to audiences of all ages. Our events will encourage wider engagement in project delivery through volunteering. All our projects which have a community engagement focus have been designed to be flexible enough to be shaped by those who get involved in its delivery, to ensure that they are genuinely owned by the community and those who care about the valley.

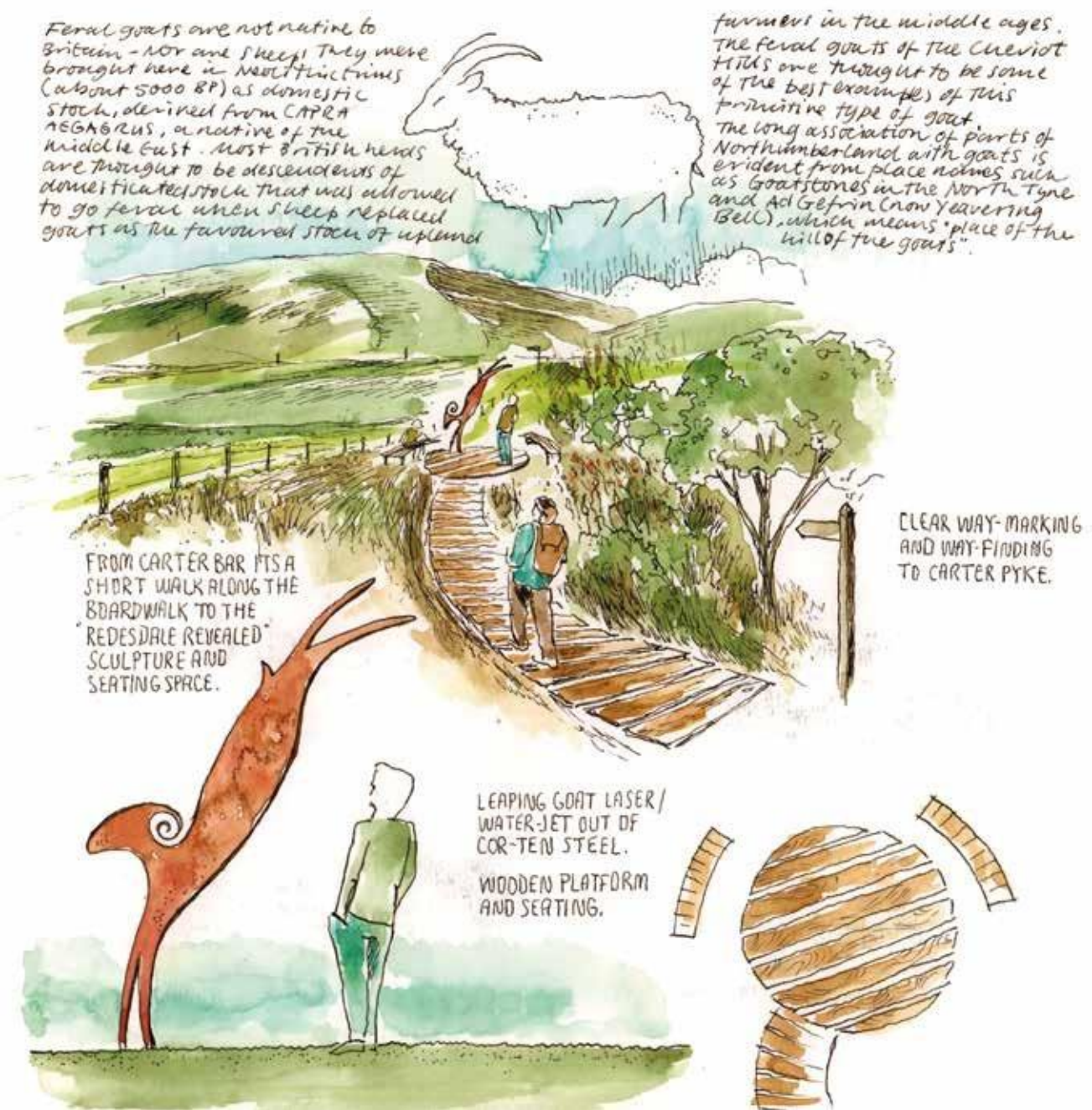


Our projects

The Revitalising Redesdale Programme will deliver 12 broad projects, of which a number contain sub projects.

1	Conflict in the landscape: Battle of Otterburn
2	Heritage at risk: Bremenium and Ridsdale Iron works
3	Lost Redesdale: Community history and archaeology project
4	Rediscovering Natural Redesdale: Ecological recording
5	River Rede improvements
6	Restoration and creation of wildlife habitats: Restoring peatland and Reflowering Redesdale
7	Redesdale's biodiversity hot spots: Whitelee NNR and Mill and Whiskershiel Burn
8	Otterburn Life on the ranges: Otterburn Military Training Area
9	Sharing Redesdale's stories
10	Walk and Cycle Redesdale: Exploring Redesdale by foot and bike
11	Redesdale Revitalises
12	Community Heritage Fund

The table below provides a summary of the projects, their key outputs and lead partner, as well as which member of the Revitalising Redesdale team will oversee and support delivery. More details of each of the projects can be found in Part 2 of the LCAP Non-technical Summaries and full detailed project plans can be found in Part 3 of the LCAP.



Artist impression of potential boardwalk and sculptural elements at Carter Bar.

Revitalising Redesdale Programme break down by Project

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS	LEAD PARTNER/S AND RR TEAM MEMBER
1. Conflict in the landscape - the Battle of Otterburn	Research to identify the location of the battle with landscape and battlefield archaeologists and bring new ways to tell the exciting story of the only medieval British battle fought by moonlight.	<p>Community history project to look at the original sources and what we can learn about the battle of Otterburn, supporting by new interpretation at the site, schools education pack and material on RR website.</p> <p>Major rejuvenation of picnic site at Percy Cross with high quality interpretation and app about the battle of Otterburn.</p> <p>Promoted walk around Otterburn to place the battle within the context of Redesdale's medieval landscape.</p>	<p>Battlefields Trust & Northumberland National Park</p> <p><i>Heritage & Engagement Officer</i></p>
2. Heritage at Risk	Repair and consolidation of two key historic sites Ridsdale Ironworks and the Roman Fort at High Rochester.	<p>Repair and consolidation of Ridsdale engine house.</p> <p>Interpretation of the wider site (panel & trail) and promoted walking route to link Ridsdale to West Woodburn hub to place ironworks in wider landscape context.</p> <p>Repair and consolidation of Bremenium and new interpretation.</p> <p>Promotion of walk to link Fort to Rochester and route to Sewingshields to tell the wider story of Roman influence on Redesdale's landscape.</p> <p>Work placements for students studying historic building conservation.</p> <p>Excavations linked to the sites.</p>	<p>Northumberland National Park</p> <p><i>Heritage & Engagement Officer</i></p>

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS	LEAD PARTNER/S AND RR TEAM MEMBER
3. Lost Redesdale - Revealing the hidden landscape	Work with volunteers from the local community to better understand and tell the landscape story of Redesdale through excavation, historical research and interpretation of the findings - focused around five different sites within the valley corresponding to different epochs. The project will involve the use of latest remote sensing techniques, LIDAR, oral history recording, collation of old photos and work on local archives.	<p>Five community research projects to include some excavations and ground surveys.</p> <p>Training sessions (run by volunteers and professional trainers) in a variety of research methods including excavation, use of LIDAR data and interpretation of historical documents.</p> <p>Investigation of LIDAR mapping for each parish.</p> <p>Creation of virtual museum for Redesdale created as a community resource for oral history, photos etc</p> <p>New interpretative materials linked to community history project to share research.</p> <p>History celebratory event (arts-based/ theatre).</p> <p>Support to FE college and local universities to offer bespoke archaeological surveying experience to support courses or work experience requirements.</p>	<p>Northumberland National Park</p> <p><i>Heritage & Engagement Officer</i></p>

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS	LEAD PARTNER/S AND RR TEAM MEMBER
4. Rediscovering Natural Redesdale	Work with volunteers from the local community and the wider area to build a large database on the habitats and species found within Redesdale to create an online wildlife atlas for Redesdale.	<p>50 recording days a year.</p> <p>5 training sessions (run by volunteers and professional trainers).</p> <p>3 events per year for group recording</p> <p>5 bio blitz events.</p> <p>Creation of online wildlife atlas for Redesdale on the Revitalising Redesdale website.</p> <p>Data provided to ERIC (North East and National Biodiversity Network).</p> <p>Support to FE college and local universities to offer bespoke ecological surveying to support courses or work experience requirements.</p>	<p>Northumberland Wildlife Trust</p> <p><i>Farming & Wildlife Officer</i></p>
5. River Rede Improvement Plan	<p>Working with landowners and farmers on a range of interventions to reduce siltation and diffuse pollution along the river to enhance wildlife, including making the river more suitable for fresh water pearl mussel by improving water quality.</p> <p>Measures to include creation of wetland, new areas of riparian planting, primarily soft engineering measures to re-naturalise the river and address structures which obstruct fish movement.</p>	<p>17 individual schemes across the identified within the catchment.</p> <p>Additional provision of water troughs for cattle, fencing-off of river to reduce access by stock, measures to address localised erosion.</p> <p>Minimum of 5 hectares of new riparian woodland.</p> <p>Minimum of 10 hectares of new or restored wetland.</p> <p>Minimum of 148 volunteer days.</p> <p>Restoration of Smoutel Ford.</p>	<p>Northumberland Wildlife Trust</p> <p><i>Farming and Wildlife Officer</i></p>

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS	LEAD PARTNER/S AND RR TEAM MEMBER
6. Restoration and creation of wildlife habitats	<p>Working closely with landowners and farmers to create and restore species rich grassland, new woodland and peatland restoration.</p> <p>The project will also support the enhancement of grassland sites in and around villages in the valley and along roadside verges.</p>	<p>40 hay meadow restored - minimum of 45 hectares.</p> <p>2.9 hectares of species rich grassland restored, on farm, around villages and along road verges.</p> <p>432 hectares of peatland restored and 44km of drains.</p> <p>2 community scything projects</p> <p>700 volunteer days.</p> <p>Opportunities to engage students working on environmental management qualifications.</p>	<p>Northumberland Wildlife Trust</p> <p><i>Farming & Wildlife Officer</i></p>
7. Ecological core areas	<p>This project will work on seeking to ensure that the core ecological sites (the majority of which are designated) are in favourable condition to secure and bolster the wider ecological network and deliver wider ecosystem services benefits.</p> <p>The project will also see to improve the actual and virtual access to these sites through access improvements and interpretation.</p>	<p>Mill and Whiskershiel Burn SSSI will be in favourable condition and its future ecological sustainability secured.</p> <p>Major restoration of peatland on Whitelee NNR.</p> <p>Enhanced access and interpretation on Whitelee at Carter Bar and west of Catcleugh reservoir.</p>	<p>Northumberland Wildlife Trust</p> <p><i>Programme Manager</i></p>

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS	LEAD PARTNER/S AND RR TEAM MEMBER
8. Life on the Ranges	To enhance the natural and historic environment of the Otterburn Range.	<p>328 hectares of peatland restoration and conifer removal.</p> <p>Removal of livestock access to water courses.</p> <p>Restoration of hay meadows (10 hectares) and native woodlands (10 hectares).</p> <p>Investigation of Burdhopecrag excavation and restoration of camp.</p> <p>Repairs to military bunkers and WWI trenches.</p> <p>Five heritage activity days.</p> <p>Maintenance and signage of permissive paths.</p>	<p>MoD</p> <p><i>Programme Manager</i></p>
9. Sharing Redesdale's stories	Arrange of new interpretation and signage to help local people and visitors to Redesdale discover and engage with Redesdale's natural and built heritage.	<p>Series of art installations/ toposcopes at key viewpoints around the valley - Blakehopenick, Corsenside Church, mouth of Rede.</p> <p>Six Dark Sky interpretative cairns.</p> <p>Development of interpretative facilities at 4 hubs (Otterburn Mill, West Woodburn, Rochester and Elsdon).</p> <p>Enhanced website to include short films of Redesdale.</p> <p>App to explore Redesdale.</p>	<p>Northumberland National Park,</p> <p>Northumberland Wildlife Trust,</p> <p>Kielder Partnership</p> <p>and</p> <p><i>Programme Manager</i></p>

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	OUTPUTS	LEAD PARTNER/S AND RR TEAM MEMBER
10. Walk Cycle Redesdale: Exploring Redesdale by foot and bike	A series of initiatives to improve existing routes for cyclists and walkers, and the promotion of these to encourage visitors and the local community to discover the landscape of Redesdale and its hidden treasures.	Improvements along two sections of the Pennine Way to create circular walks to key viewpoints in the valley. Improved signage of main cycling routes in the valley. Series of walks promoted around each village centre/hub to explore Redesdale's heritage. Development of St Cuthbert's trail with leaflet working with local community.	Northumberland National Park <i>Farming and Wildlife Officer</i>
11. Redesdale Revitalises	A project designed to use the special qualities of Redesdale - its remoteness and tranquillity - to provide spaces and experiences to support those with mental or physical disabilities, as well as disadvantaged groups using environmental education, conservation, walking and other physical activities.	480 volunteer days. 20 public education events. 14 skills development days. 32 overnight camps for disadvantaged groups. Minimum of 130 individual beneficiaries from hard to reach communities. New relationships with voluntary organisations such as MIND, Centre Point etc. Opportunities for student volunteers. Programme of health walks.	Northumberland National Park & Go Volunteer Newcastle University <i>Heritage & Engagement Officer</i>
12. Community Heritage Grant Fund	A small grants fund to support a wide range of community based projects that have a historical or cultural link, administered by the Revitalising Redesdale Board.	Fund of £50,000 established with independent group to assess bids. Grants available to support aims of Revitalising Redesdale available to local organisations. Grants awarded between £500-£2,000.	Natural England <i>Programme Manager</i>

The table below shows how the projects selected meet HLF outcomes

HLF Aims	Heritage will be better managed	Heritage in better condition	Heritage identified/recorded	People will have developed skills	People will have learnt about heritage	People will have volunteered time	Negative environmental impacts will be reduced	More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage	Your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit
Projects									
1. Conflict in the landscape: Battle of Otterburn									
2. Heritage at risk									
3. Lost Redesdale: Revealing the Hidden landscape									
4. Rediscovering Natural Redesdale									
5. River Rede Improvements									
6. Restoration and creation of wildlife habitats									
7. Protecting Redesdale's core ecological area									
8. Life on the Ranges									
9. Sharing Redesdale's stories									
10. Explore Redesdale by foot and bike									
11. Redesdale Revitalises									
12. Community Heritage grant fund									

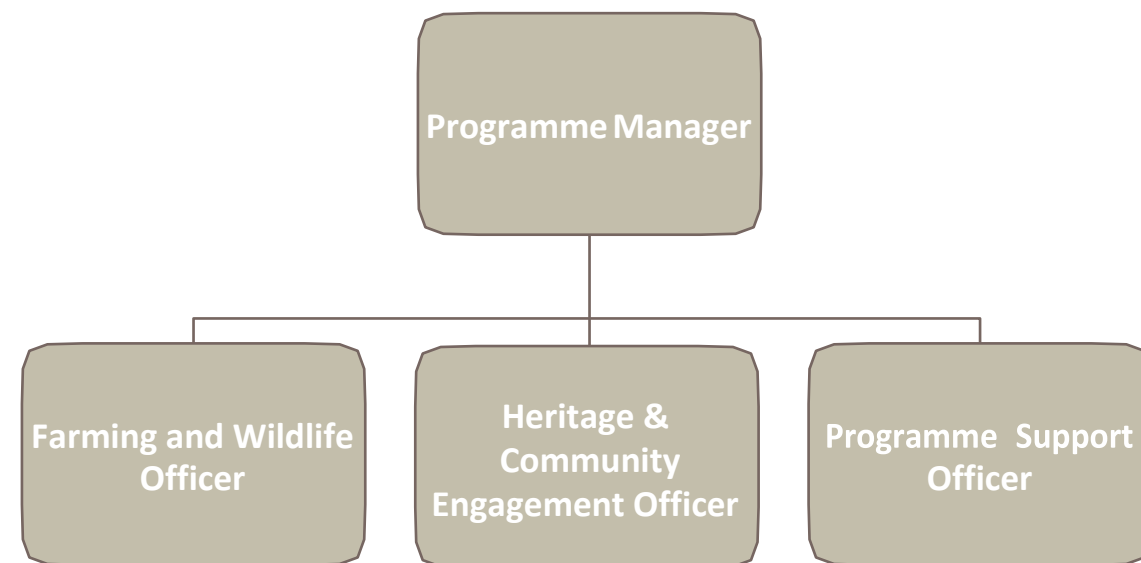
DELIVERY

“But in the finest weather, and the best seasons of the year, the eye soon finds that it has little more to rest upon than a broad and brown expanse of dreary moors, stretching away in tame uninteresting lines, till they bond the horizon in the dark three cairned summit of Thirlmoor, and on other the hills on the border of Scotland.”

Rev John Hodgson History of Northumberland (1820)

Staffing

In order to deliver the programme of projects within this LCAP, an implementation team will be appointed and hosted by Natural England and its partners. This will include a Programme Manager, Farming and Wildlife officer, Heritage & Community Engagement officer, and Programme Support officer. Draft job descriptions for these posts can be found in Appendix 2.



Programme Manager

The Programme Manager will be appointed by the Programme Management Group and employed by Natural England (the accountable body). The role will involve the responsibility of ensuring delivery of the Revitalising Redesdale Programme of work including supervising performance of the implementation team. The post holder will be a powerful advocate for the project and the valley and will identify opportunities to promote it and its aims to relevant audiences. The Programme Manager will produce progress and financial reports to the Steering Group, making recommendation for efficient delivery of the overall programme to achieve the agreed outcomes.



The role will also involve working closely with project partners, offering advice and support and day-to-day management of the project including quarterly cycles of reporting aligning to the HLF claim process. The Programme Manager will also coordinate the actions of all delivery partners (project leads), collating quarterly reports, financial claims and facilitating sub groups. The Programme Manager will also have a particular requirement to secure the legacy of Revitalising Redesdale securing additional funding for projects to help support their future sustainability.

Implementation team

The Farming and Wildlife officer will be responsible for delivering a range of projects including the development of ecological networks, the ecological recording project and improvements to rights of way. The officer will liaise closely with the Environment Agency over the delivery of the River Rede Improvement plan and take responsibility for engagement with farmers and landowners. The officer will also work closely with the MoD and Northumberland Wildlife Trust around the delivery of improvements to core ecological areas including Whitelee Moor NNR and Otterburn Ranges. This post will be hosted by Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

The Heritage and Community Engagement Officer will be responsible for leading projects on history and archaeology surveying, interpretation, communication and wider engagement linked to the delivery of the Revitalising Redesdale project. The Officer will work closely with Historic England, the Battlefields Trust and Northumberland National Park on the Otterburn battlefields project and heritage at risk projects. This post will be hosted by Northumberland National Park.

It is intended that whilst the roles of the project officers have been defined, in practice there will be a degree of flexibility across the roles responding to both the needs of the programme and the combination of skills of the appointed officers. Both posts will be available for job-share.

A part-time Programme Support Officer will be appointed to work as office manager and support the Programme Manager in reporting on project delivery outcomes and budgets. This Officer will also coordinate the volunteer programme, across the partnership. This post will be hosted by Natural England.

Governance & the Partnership Agreement

The Revitalising Redesdale Programme will be coordinated by a group of the key delivery partners: Natural England, Northumberland National Park and

Northumberland Wildlife Trust, will take on responsibility for the employment of staff, procurement, report to HLF and the legacy. Natural England will remain as the accountable body. This core group will form the new Programme Management Group chaired by Natural England. The Steering Group will comprise all of the Revitalising Redesdale partners under an independent chair, which will be sought by advertisement and appointed by the Steering Group (formally Revitalising Redesdale's Board). The Steering Group will meet less frequently than the Programme Management Group, but form a number of working groups linked to specific areas of delivery. These working groups will report to the Programme Management Group and Steering Group. Natural England as an arm's length government body is self-insured and therefore as the accountable body will take responsibility for underwriting any insurable losses to equipment during the delivery phase.

A Memorandum of Understanding which forms the partnership agreement is included in appendix 1 which has been signed by all the partners. The MOU will guide the delivery of the Revitalising Redesdale programme. A supporting MOA, (appendix 1) signed by the core partners, commits Natural England, Northumberland National Park and Northumberland Wildlife Trust to joint responsibility to meeting HLF terms and conditions for the Landscape Partnership grant.

Project delivery

Project portfolios will be established containing project plans, permissions, milestones, timelines for delivery, partner details and their responsibilities, key deliverables and elements of monitoring and evaluation that can be linked to the wider monitoring and evaluation framework. These project portfolios will be based on the full project plans found in Part 3 of the LCAP, and kept regularly updated throughout the life-time of each project.

A full risk register has been developed for the programme (see Appendix 3); individual risk registers for each project are included in the full project template in part 3 of the LCAP.

Volunteering

To achieve the most from volunteers at all levels, good coordination and management will be essential to have a centralised process for recording the effectiveness of volunteering and engendering a culture of cooperation that encourages involvement and seeks to grow the number of volunteers who will be involved in the project.

In order to deliver some of the projects there will be an annual recruitment of volunteers matched to a series of pre-agreed roles, ranging from administrative and office support to practical conservation activities, research and survey work.

Revitalising Redesdale will also work closely with partner organisations and their volunteers to ensure good cooperation. Discussions will be held to ensure partners align how they manage and monitor volunteering.

Revitalising Redesdale will adopt a supportive approach to volunteers to ensure that the enthusiasm, enjoyment and interest of volunteers are maintained. Monitoring will therefore be flexible and will be put together through guidance and feedback from volunteers, so that it is appropriate to individual projects.

Work Placements and work experience

Two paid graduate internships (lasting 6 months each) will be hosted by the Partnership to support key areas of delivery.

Alongside the paid internships within the implementation team, Revitalising Redesdale will also work with contractors and other partners to secure a wide range of opportunities for student placements and work experience from Level 2 to postgraduate level.

Communications and Engagement

Revitalising Redesdale will continue to promote the work of the partnership and raise the profile of the valley as a place to visit and explore. Engagement activities will include:

- Digital and social media communications including building a strong and supportive community via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and targeting local residents and those who are not participative on social media through printed media including local newspapers, regional magazines and parish newsletters;
- Partnership-wide celebrations which promote the whole project and deliver core messages, showcasing the natural and cultural heritage side-by-side in a landscape with an incredible story which has been shaped by history and is now a haven for some spectacular scenery and wildlife
- Project/site specific events which engage target audiences in specific parts of the project and will be focused on aspects of heritage within the landscape
- Community events which engage residents and bring visitors to our villages

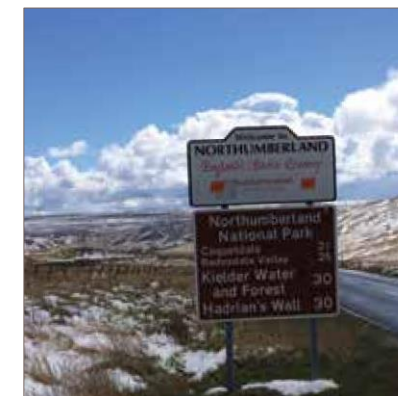


and communities, giving local people the chance to take part in activities on their doorstep, supporting local business, building a rural economy and celebrating our landscape.

Training and skills events, open to all, which will provide new experiences and build new skills in our communities and supporters so that our heritage can be celebrated and protected in the future.

Art and interpretation activities which provide a different approach to engage both residents and visitors, encourage creativity and start a conversation about heritage which will enable people to share stories and memories and pass their heritage to the next generation.

Local business engagement activities to enable local cafes, tea rooms, pubs, B&Bs etc. to support and improve the visitor offer in Redesdale, enabling them to see the value in heritage and to promote it to their guests. A detailed engagement plan is provided in Appendix 4 with a list of proposed events and activities. This aims to provide an excited and varied programme which will engage a wide range of people, deliver audience engagement themes and establish a legacy of understanding, interest and support which will sustain heritage activity in the long term.



Project costs

Project costs	£
Otterburn Battle	65,100
Rochester	46,575
Ridsdale	53,945
Lost Redesdale	85,200
Rediscovering Natural Redesdale	18,800
River Rede Improvements	521,327
Smoutel Ford & Riffles	146,900
Restoring Peat	148,382
Reflowering Redesdale	48,581
Life on the Ranges	203,100
Whitelee	130,888
Mill & Whiskershiels	37,474
Interpreting our Heritage	103,000
Interactive Website	10,000
Star Cairns	31,500
Blakehope Nick Overlook	33,826
Walk & Cycle	100,000
Pennine Way Circular Routes	53,920
Redesdale Revitalises	26,500
Community Heritage fund	50,000
Total	1,915,018

Core Costs not included in project costs	£
Programme Manager	220,345
Heritage Engagement Officer	161,406
Farming and Wildlife Officer	161,406
Finance and Admin officer	87,631
Admin support & additional fund raising	12,550
Internship	16,000
Recruitment	2,000
Staff Training	3,000
Travel & Subsistence volunteers	31,820
Travel and Subsidence for staff	30,000
Equipment and materials	10,000
Promotion and Publicity	20,000
Other costs	54,000
Professional fees	22,000
Monitoring & Evaluation	15,000
Contingency	100,000
Inflation	30,000
Total	977,158
Total Expenditure	2,892,176

The Revitalising Redesdale project has been costed at £2,892,176.

Income

The total HLF grant requested is £1,728,400. The partners are required to find match cash funding of 40% in addition to in-kind support and volunteer time. Letters confirming partners' contribution can be found in Appendix 8.

Funder	£
Natural England	250,000
MoD	203,100
Northumberland National Park	50,000
Northumberland Wildlife Trust	30,000
Environment Agency	234,986
EA (ring fenced for E Tod Holes)	18,000
Northumberland CC	50,000
National Trails	33,000
FC	8,000
TRT	1,500
Woodland Grant	178,707
Countryside Stewardship	21,000
Fund raising	85,484
HLF	1,728,400
TOTAL	2,892,176

*See Appendix 5 for an outline of which funding sources, the Partnership has applied to secure additional funding support for individual projects.

Project delivery timetable

A draft project delivery timetable is included in Appendix 6. The Partnership assumes that, if successful, permission to start will begin in January. A number of the projects will be ready for delivery by partners, even before the Revitalising Redesdale team is in place and will be implemented in tandem with staff recruitment.

9. Monitoring & Evaluation

"In spite of this being wilderness country it has a remarkable habitat diversity. Scots pine, birch and willow scrub are present, especially in the cleughs; on the plateaux, apart from the high-level moor, blanket bog are of interest, while a herd of wild goats is well established."

Geoffrey Wright, The Northumbrian Uplands (1989)

The Revitalising Redesdale Partnership is committed to monitoring and evaluation as a key tool in ensuring that we deliver the outputs and outcomes set out in the Landscape Conservation Action Plan and that we secure a sustainable legacy.

Outputs and Outcomes

Project leads for each project will be required to report on progress against HLF's nine outputs and outcomes, and five additional success indicators which have been identified by the Revitalising Redesdale Partnership listed in the table below:

The heritage landscape is better managed /in better condition as a result of Revitalising Redesdale
More volunteers are monitoring and recording Redesdale's heritage landscape which has led to a better understanding/improved data for the area
Individuals have developed skills as result of being involved with Revitalising Redesdale
More local people and visitors and a wider range of people have been actively engaged in exploring Redesdale's heritage and landscape.
Revitalising Redesdale has indirectly helped local businesses

Outputs will be measured via HLF's evaluation reporting spreadsheet to the standard HLF format and reported on in accordance with guidelines. The Programme Support Officer will be responsible for collating this information across the entire programme reporting to the Steering Group and HLF. The Steering Group will also receive exception reports if progress is not in line with expected delivery and is beyond agreed tolerances. These reports will include remedial action and a revised timescale, if required.

The Evaluation Framework

Within three months of commencing the delivery of the Revitalising Redesdale programme, a consultant will be appointed to develop and deliver an effective monitoring and evaluation framework (see brief and outline evaluation framework in Appendix 7). The monitoring and evaluation framework will be based on HLF guidance and established best practice. Bench marking and collection of monitoring data will be carried out by project coordinators and annual assimilation of results provided by the Programme support officer. Individual projects will also have their own output indicators which are detailed in the full project templates.

The mid-term evaluation in June 2020 will provide the opportunity for the project and Partnership Steering Group to review progress up to that point. This will not only examine successes but also any failures, so that appropriate lessons can be learnt for the second half of the scheme. The mid-term review will also support the production of the legacy plan for the Programme (see section 10).

Alongside a written report, a film will also be produced that will record the successes of the project and will be used as part of the project legacy. Project outcomes will be recorded through a range of evaluation techniques including interviews with participants, volunteers and partners, use of photographs and records of interaction with websites and other social media. The final evaluation report will be completed within 3 months of the end of the Programme and made available both as a report, but also in more innovative format such as an engaging leaflet as part of the project's legacy.

Sustainable Legacy

“This is one of the many places in the National Park offering a tremendous sense of space”

Walks in Reiver Country NNPA (1994)

The Legacy Plan

No legal agreements, contracts for staff, accommodation, projects or initiatives will be entered into beyond the end of the Delivery Phase. Achievable management and maintenance plans for the following 5-10 years after the completion of the programme will be created for all appropriate assets, and all the project plans will detail how legacy issues will be addressed. Organisations will be identified for a long-term legacy role for individual projects. Outline recommendations for legacy arrangements are detailed in each full project plan (Part 3 LCAP) but a full legacy plan will be developed by the project team in autumn 2020 following the mid-term evaluation report. The development of the Legacy Plan at the end of year 3 will allow any actions or resources required to embed legacy arrangements to be identified.

The partners regard HLF funding as an important kick-start to raising the profile of the valley and are committed to seeking to continue the momentum that will be achieved during the delivery phase beyond 2022. During the delivery phase of the programme, the Revitalising Redesdale staff will therefore seek to secure new funding to allow some initiatives to be continued or extended to build on the achievements of this programme. This additional funding will be added to the amount allocated to a maintenance and management fund following completion of the scheme. This fund will be managed by one of the partners, on behalf of the wider partnership.

A lasting legacy

The partners within Revitalising Redesdale have a strong track record of partnership working and delivery which will continue after the life span of this programme. Successful delivery of the scheme's aims and objectives will increase the sustainability of managing the area's landscape in the future. It will strengthen the Partnership, so that it can continue in some form to deliver the recommendations of this plan after the formal ending of the scheme.

Key legacies of the Revitalising Redesdale programme will be:

- The identity of Redesdale in terms of the landscape, its heritage and communities will be reinforced. This will provide an important platform for future work to continue to support the objectives of Revitalising Redesdale.
- Improvements to habitats across Redesdale will enhance wider habitat connectivity and enhance its resilience to external pressures, including climate change.
- There will be a pool of trained volunteers, living within the valley or the surrounding area, who will be engaged and interested in continuing to be involved in conserving and enhancing the heritage of the valley.
- Historic monuments and archaeological sites will be in a better condition and management plans will be in place to maintain their condition.
- Ecological, archaeological and history research projects will ensure that important sites in the valley have been recorded on regional databases to protect them in the future.
- New interpretative material and promoted walking routes around village hubs will encourage more visitors and local people to explore Redesdale and its heritage for themselves.
- Revitalising Redesdale will help develop Redesdale as a visitor destination and stop-off point on the way to and from Scotland.

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