HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ACTION PLAN

ARCHAEO-ENVIRONMENT LTD FOR THE LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIP

February 2010

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Hawthorn Dene (left),
Summary

This document presents an Historic Environment Action Plan for the area of the East Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau between the River Tyne and the River Tees and broadly defined by Natural England’s identified National Character Area 15. A number of specific activities are proposed in order to begin implementation of the plan over the period 2010 to 2015 and beyond. The actions and projects identified are designed to support the stated aims of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership both within an initial 3 year phase anticipated to be supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and also significantly beyond this as the Limestone Landscapes Partnership continues to take forward what has from the outset been seen as ...a long-term partnership making a positive difference to the environment of the Magnesian Limestone Area.

The Magnesian Limestone has a special character all of its own, found in its landscape and especially in its history and people. That character forged over thousands of years will, as is the nature of things continue to change and evolve over time, there is however a need to take action to make the communities of the area aware and proud of the unique place they live and their heritage, and then equip them to conserve those things which make it special and from which they can take inspiration for the future.
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Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank a significant number of people past and present who have contributed to this report either through their direct involvement, or by past effort and enthusiasm in exploring, researching, celebrating and conserving the rich heritage of the Magnesian Limestone area.

In particular thanks go to the members of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership and to Natural England in the guise of Tony Devos and Ingo Schüder, to Sue Mullinger and Ken Bradshaw of Durham County Council for managing the project and to David Mason (Durham County Council), Robin Daniels (Tees Archaeology), Jennifer Morrison (Tyne & Wear Specialist Conservation Team) and Rob Young (English Heritage) for providing the specialist sub-group to steer the work.

Help, information and comments were gratefully received from a wide professional audience and in no particular order these were Niall Benson (Durham Heritage Coast), Deborah Anderson, Julie Hawthorn, Lee White, Ged Lawson, Elaine Hogg and Martin Lowe (Durham County Council), Peter Rowe (Tees Archaeology), Dave Macleod (English Heritage), Phil Abramson (Defence Estates), Rob Collins (Portable Antiquities Scheme), Harry Beamish (National Trust) and Sarah Semple (Department of Archaeology, Durham University). Lucy Routledge (South Tyneside Council), Sarah Scarr and Peter Graves (Hartlepool Borough Council), Mike Lowe and Keith Hamilton(Sunderland City Council).

A further large debt of gratitude is extended to the many individuals, societies and community groups across the Limestone Landscapes who helpfully offered opinions, suggestions and information. It would be unfair to specifically mention some at the risk of omitting others and the authors thanks is extended to all of them.
1.0 Introduction

The historic environment is a broad term used to describe all those things which we have inherited from past and which mark humankind’s influence and manipulation of the natural world. It is however those very factors of the natural world, geology and ecology, which have in turn shaped the human occupation of an area through access to water, farmland and minerals to exploit for fuel, buildings and manufacture. The Limestone Landscapes are therefore unique in their character, being a dish made of rare and special ingredients of place and people, to a recipe long in the making.

This report focuses on the historic environment, but should be seen as one of three closely related action plans which also includes Bio-Diversity and Geo-Diversity, for without an understanding of how these three factors have worked together over centuries then there will be no understanding of how the unique qualities of the area have been created and can be conserved. The work of the Limestone Landscape Partnership is key to promoting conservation and education combining these three elements and allow the area to develop to the advantage of its communities in a distinctive and sustainable way.

This report is based upon material produced in two previous studies commissioned by the Limestone Landscapes Partnership and written by the same author; The ‘Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment Audit’ (Archaeo-Environment/Hammond, 2009), and the ‘Limestone Landscapes Historic Buildings & Structures Inventory’ (Archaeo-Environment/Hammond, 2010). These contain extensive information on the archaeology, historic buildings, historic landscape character and cultural heritage of the Limestone Landscapes area and should be read in conjunction with this Action Plan.

The action plan presents a number of projects which it is hoped will achieve a variety of aims both by themselves and when integrated with proposals from other disciplines.

The Action Plan is presented as a number of broader thematic initiatives and specific stand alone projects. In effect several of these will overlap and indeed will be mutually compatible with projects proposed under the geo and bio-diversity studies running parallel with this. The project list is not exhaustive, nor is it tied solely to the initial 3 year funded HLF landscape partnership. Projects are however clearly marked as to priority and likely funding source. Similarly the plan includes suggestions for stakeholders and partners to take forward each of the actions, but this is in no way intended to be exclusive or to indicate any commitment at this stage.

It is anticipated, indeed hoped for, that other ideas will come forward during the life of this plan either as new ideas or as developments of projects proposed here once communities become motivated and involved. This is particularly likely through the ‘village atlas’ initiative. Forthcoming proposals and ideas should be assessed, encouraged and supported by the Partnership.
2.0 **Aims and methodology**

As with any project a brief was issued on behalf of the Limestone Landscapes Partnership to direct the work. The two principal tasks are identified below at 2.1.1 and 2.1.2. Again as with any project the means of delivering these successfully evolved during the work and the final ‘method’ and process of consultation is described at 3.0

2.1 **Principal Tasks:**

The project brief set out two principal tasks as follows:

2.1.1 Firstly, the production of a Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment Action Plan, based on the proceedings of a workshop for Historic Environment Stakeholders in the area to take place on 11 November 2009, and the recently commissioned Historic buildings and Structures Inventory and Works programme.

The provision of a presentation and appropriate materials at the workshop which will guide and inform stakeholders in the identification of suitable projects to be delivered over the next 5 years. Projects should fit with the following objectives;

- Look at ways in which to conserve and restore historic environment assets.
- Identify ways in which to increase access to and knowledge of the historic environment assets.
- Identify ways in which to increase community participation in the recording, protection, understanding and enjoyment of their local historic environment.
- Identify opportunities for developing training and skills relevant to preserving and improving knowledge of the historic environment.

The successful undertaking of this was to be informed by consultation with an identified but not exhaustive list of partners and stakeholders.

2.1.2 Secondly, the provision of a final report on the proceedings of the workshop, to be provided as A4 format (5 copies) and on CD as a web compatible resource that includes the following outputs:

- A table including objectives, actions and suggested lead and partners.
- Outline details of individual proposed projects and programmes.

2.2 The key to the production of the Action Plan was seen as good factual data supplemented and focused through community, public and stakeholder consultation. The factual data was provided by the two earlier studies and the consultation is described at 3.0 below.
3.0 Community Groups, Contacts and Stakeholders

Consultations for this Action Plan were undertaken through a staged process. Firstly as part of the Historic Environment Audit (2009), a database was compiled of societies, clubs and community groups with an interest in heritage. These were identified through a literature and web search augmented by the author’s personal knowledge of the area and recommendations provided by the Limestone Landscape Task group. Over 40 local Historical and Archaeological Societies including several metal detecting clubs were identified. In addition to community groups on the database, the consultation process also involved conservation officers and archaeological officers in all 5 planning authorities; English Heritage and the National Trust; The archaeology department of Durham University; The North East England History Institute and Leicester University who had previously undertaken work on the community identity of the Durham Coalfield.

These stakeholders were all added to the Limestone Landscapes Partnership database so that in addition to historic environment issues they could in future receive newsletters and invitations to partnership initiatives. A full up to date list of names is held on the partnership database, Appendix 1 of this report contains a short list of groups know of and corresponded with at the time of writing this report.

Consultation with this identified group of stakeholders, both community and professional, was then largely undertaken through written contact (email and letter) followed up by further correspondence and telephone conversations. Short presentations with Q&A opportunities were provided to the A.A.S.D.N and the Pride in Easington Group. Informal consultations were also held with passers by and members of the public on an ad hoc basis when the consultants were undertaking fieldwork for this report and its sister publications the Historic Environment Audit and the Historic Buildings study. There appears to be no easier way to engage the public in a conversation about valued historic buildings than to stand in the street with a ‘loaded and pointed’ camera!

The same database of interested parties was also contacted as part of the Local Historic Buildings Study. Groups were posted or emailed a colour A4 leaflet and nomination forms and asked to identify heritage features, buildings or designed open spaces that they particularly valued in their locality but which currently had no protection or profile. To encourage entries a press release was issued by DCC/Natural England and the well known regional architectural historian, author and TV presenter John Grundy provided quotes and support. Further details are contained in the Historic buildings Report (Archaeo-Environment 2010).

An illustrated presentation was also made to the Limestone Landscapes Partnership event in Sunderland on 11th of November 2010, where a poster display and powerpoint also allowed delegates to stop and chat about issues and projects particular to themselves.

The results of this correspondence and consultation have been fed into the recommendations of this Action Plan.
4.0 Meeting the Objectives

4.1 The Action Plan; projects and initiatives.

The project brief required the action plan to identify outputs which addressed the following key objectives.

- Look at ways in which to conserve and restore historic environment assets.
- Identify ways in which to increase access to and knowledge of the historic environment assets.
- Identify ways in which to increase community participation in the recording, protection, understanding and enjoyment of their local historic environment.
- Identify opportunities for developing training and skills relevant to preserving and improving knowledge of the historic environment.

4.2 The projects identified if developed to their full potential, each provide the opportunity to contribute to all four objectives in varying measure. The Action Plan does not specifically attach a single objective to each project but expects that in the development of each scheme the opportunity will be taken to ensure all four objectives are met. Further to this it is strongly suggested that in assessment of new projects and initiatives the four objectives are used as key criteria.

4.3 Integration & Project Planning.

Key to the success of Limestone landscapes is the ability for projects to be holistic and integrated to include not only as is the subject of this document historic environment, but also landscape, geological and ecological awareness. The final choice of projects to go forward from each of the three commissioned plans (Historic environment, geo and bio-diversity) should be subject to a final round of review by subject matter experts if not the plan authors themselves to ensure each project is well integrated, not inadvertently detrimental to another discipline and does not miss on any opportunities for presenting an holistic appreciation and understanding of the site or area.

4.4 Partners

Partners are key to the success of the projects identified herein and those identified in the Action Plan table should not be seen as already having committed or indeed be the only possible partners for that project. The project team should always look to include new partners as opportunities arise as well as fostering those identified.
5.0 **The Action Plan.**

The Historic Environment Action Plan is provided in tabulated form on the following pages. It identifies a number of projects and initiatives to fulfil the 4 key objectives described in section 4.0. Several of these are specific projects for which Limestone Landscapes should be the principal delivery mechanism or lead agency, several others are where Limestone Landscapes should be a supporting partner, while several others are strategic aims where Limestone Landscapes should lobby and negotiate for action through existing delivery mechanisms such as local authorities.

In addition to the tabulated Action Plan, a separate file of ideas and suggestions, some very detailed, others only outline which was received or developed during the writing of this Action Plan has been passed to the Limestone Landscapes Officer to help inform further work and future delivery.

Further detail on most of the sites can be found in the two associated reports *The ‘Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment Audit’* (Archeo-Environment/Hammond, 2009), and the ‘*Limestone Landscapes Historic Buildings & Structures Inventory*’ (Archeo-Environment/Hammond, 2010)

5.1 **Action Plan Key.**

The column headings of the following table are largely self explanatory, but the following note provides detail and clarification.

**Ref No:** Reference number for this project used throughout this report with the prefix LLHE (Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment)

**Title:** Project title, explanatory and hopefully engaging and intriguing!

**Synopsis:** brief explanation of project

**Tasks & Stages:** Individual identified stages, tasks or elements of the project

**Costs:** An estimate of the likely costs associated with the project.

- These reflect a commercial cost should the project be tendered and delivered largely by a consultant or contractor.
- They do not include VAT.
- Contributions in kind or matched funding might be expected in many cases, this is not specifically identified but maybe assumed to be a minimum of 10% in most cases through time in kind alone.
- Some costs cannot be estimated without further detailed survey work

**Funding Source:** Suggestions for funding likely to be applicable to this project. Also specifically noting if this should be a part of the HLF landscape partnership funding

- **HLF:** intended to be funded and achieved through the 3 year HLF funded landscape partnership.
- **Partnership:** intended to be funded though the partnership either directly by use of monies in the planned trust fund or by supporting partner members in their own fund raising activities.
• **Strategic** - to be achieved by the LL partnership getting statutory bodies and agencies to focus their own capital and revenue money on specific identified LL objectives

• **LL Team** - tasks the LL core staff can take on when appointed

**Partners:** Identified partners and stakeholders who either could or should be involved or approached to participate in the project because of responsibilities, expressed interest or possession of resources required to assist the project.

**Local Societies:** The project provides an ideal opportunity to both get communities and individuals interested in their own heritage, and a means of developing the many existing archaeology and heritage groups. It is strongly advocated that archaeological fieldwork in particular is channelled through the principal existing societies both to ensure continuity and quality and as a means of attracting additional and hopefully younger members into these groups to ensure their continued development and success.

The principal local societies and Trusts covering more than a single village are as follows:

- The Soc Ants; Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle Upon Tyne.
- Teesside Archaeology Society.
- NAG; the Northern Archaeology Group.
- The Arbeia Society
- NEEVAG; The North East of England Vernacular Architecture Group.
- DCLHS; Durham County Local History Society.
- NECT; North East Civic trust

Contact details for each of these were collated as part of the Historic Environment Audit and are contained in the Limestone Landscapes Partnership database.

**Timescale:** This project plan presents projects which are designed to help the Limestone Landscapes Partnership achieve its aims and objectives over a 10 year period. The identified projects are placed into three categories.

- **Years 1-3** - Time specific and should be delivered as part of HLF Landscape Partnership Project

- **Years 1-5** - Projects ideally taken forward, at least in planning and preparatory work, for delivery in the period after the HLF Landscape funded projects are completed.

- **Years 1-10** – longer term objectives to be worked upon and delivered by throughout the plan period and in any event by year 10.

**Priority:** while all of the identified projects have significant value, they have been colour coded to identify a priority 1, 2, 3, with 1 being the highest. The priority rating is based on a number of factors including where urgent action is required to safeguard a heritage asset, where a project should be undertaken as soon as possible to allow the development of further works, where a project will have significant and fast impact in taking forward the key objectives identified in section 4.0.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Synopsis</th>
<th>Tasks and Stages</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Permian Way</td>
<td>Long distance footpath running from north-east to south west taking in</td>
<td>1. Survey route.</td>
<td>£2K</td>
<td>HLF</td>
<td>LPAs</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>many of the areas historic highlights. This project will/should be</td>
<td>2. Integrate with geo and bio-diversity aspirations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LL Core Team</td>
<td>LL Partnership Heritage groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>jointly developed with geo and bio-diversity interests to provide a</td>
<td>3. Relate to existing and promoted paths/routes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LL core Team &amp; Rights of Way officers</td>
<td>ONE Tourist Team</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>full appreciation of the area.</td>
<td>4. Create any permissive paths required.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>Durham County Local History Society</td>
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<td>A coastal path already exists and in addition the two paths joining</td>
<td>5. Improve path sections/styles/gates</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
<td>A.A.S.D.N</td>
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<td>at the northern end of the route, one or more east west trails should</td>
<td>6. Provide signage</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>be developed also.</td>
<td>7. Provide guide book or leaflets.</td>
<td>£10K</td>
<td>HLF</td>
<td>Other local societies along route</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>8. Promote accommodation and local services along the route.</td>
<td>£20K</td>
<td>Tourism bodies</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Heritage At Risk</td>
<td>The Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment Audit of June 2009 identified</td>
<td>1. Produce a Heritage At Risk Register for the area working with EH data and</td>
<td>£20K</td>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>EH</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>issues of heritage at risk using available data from English Heritage.</td>
<td>including annual ‘returns’ from LPA conservation/archaeological officers and</td>
<td>£20K</td>
<td>LPA</td>
<td>LPA conservation officers</td>
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<td>Several of the buildings and monuments identified are considered as</td>
<td>input from the LL Partnership.</td>
<td>£20K</td>
<td>LL Partnership Heritage Groups</td>
<td>ONE Tourist Team</td>
<td></td>
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<td>specific projects below.</td>
<td>2. Update annually</td>
<td>£20K per annum</td>
<td>HLF then</td>
<td>Durham County Local History Society</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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<td>3. Support action with criteria driven grant aid.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>A.A.S.D.N</td>
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<td>4. Engage with Highways authorities to identify and maintain traditional</td>
<td>£20K</td>
<td>Strategic</td>
<td>LPA Highways authorities</td>
<td>1-5</td>
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<td>road features such as metal finger posts and milestones as essential</td>
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<td>elements of the areas historic character.</td>
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<td>5. Conserve and where possible find new uses for ‘at risk’ heritage on the</td>
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<td>register. In particular restore one building as a flagship for the LL</td>
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<td>project and to demonstrate use of local materials.</td>
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<td>Suggested buildings;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Old Hetton Smithy</td>
<td>£20K</td>
<td>HLF</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Old Cassop Cartshed</td>
<td>£20K</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Kelloe Bank Limekilns</td>
<td>£50K</td>
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<td>ID.</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Hastings Hill; major prehistoric ritual site</td>
<td>There is currently no public awareness or interpretation of this major prehistoric 'buried' landscape, which is a scheduled ancient monument and which lies largely under arable fields and is likely to be suffering from plough damage. A PROW runs along the north edge. The adjacent hilltop with its barrow and limestone quarry is worthy of interpretation in its own right and provides 360° views of the area and the 'buried landscape'. Again the hilltop has no formal access but is used extensively by the public on an informal basis.</td>
<td>1. Provide agreed access with interpretation to the hilltop barrow site and viewing platform. Tie in with SCC proposed Barnes Park footpath extension. 2. Undertake geo-physical survey, aerial photographic transcriptions, field-walking and evaluation excavation to confirm condition of the buried archaeological remains with local society input. 3. If survival of archaeological features is high, then discuss taking land out of arable and returning to grassland with hedgerow/boundary restoration of notable cultivation terraces between hill and A19.</td>
<td>£10K</td>
<td>HLF</td>
<td>Lambton Estates/Sunderland City Council/ English Heritage Conservation Fund/ HLF, HLF/EH Capacity Building Grant</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The Hidden Prehistoric; barrows, caves and palaeo-deposits</td>
<td>As might be expected much of the area's prehistoric archaeology is either partially destroyed above ground by development and modern agriculture, or as has been suggested by several authors potentially deeply hidden in concealed and difficult to access locations such as beneath glacial till in the deep sided denes of the coast or within the many caves dotted across the Magnesian limestone. This project seeks to build on the work of others to enhance our knowledge of the prehistoric period by identifying and investigating sites of high potential for understanding the areas prehistory and with subsequent education and interpretation possibilities. Hill top barrows (many now very denuded) have been identified as a key part of the areas historic character. This survey would allow informed decisions to be made on conservation and where credible restoration as prominent landscape features.</td>
<td>1. Location, survey and evaluation of all 'hill top' or ridge barrows along the coastal strip with condition assessment to update Young's survey of 1980. 2. Identification and assessment of cave sites; Desk Based Assessment and field visits 3. Identification and assessment of pre-ice-age Palaeolithic deposits; DBA and field visits 4. Undertake evaluation excavation and sampling. 5. Project to make best use and involve local history groups and societies.</td>
<td>£10K</td>
<td>HLF with EH capacity Building Grant, Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund</td>
<td>A.A.S.D.N, Sunderland Antiquarian Soc, Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, Arbeia Society, Northern Archaeology Group. DCC Archaeology, Tees Archaeology, T&amp;W Specialist Conservation Team</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
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| 5  | Copt Hill & Warden Law; Monumental Prehistoric Landscape Features | Perhaps the two most iconic prehistoric sites in the area, and in Copt Hill the oldest clearly visible man made feature in the Magnesian Limestone area. A strong friends group supported by Sunderland City Council has already done much good work at Copt Hill with public access. Warden Law has no public access or interpretation and the archaeology of the site may be under researched and at risk from plough damage. | 1. Support the ongoing work of the Friends of Copt Hill, and widen their interests to include neighbouring Warden Law.  
2. Broker agreement between Friends and Sunderland City Council about appropriate land management  
3. Undertake archaeological evaluation consisting of aerial photographic transcription, geo-physics, field walking and targeted trial trenches at Warden Law to inform management and interpretation.  
4. Further to archaeological evaluation, conserve and interpret the sites archaeological remains possibly through reversion of arable fields to pasture. | -  
-  
£15K  
Depends on 3 above | LL Core Team  
LL Core Team  
HLF  
HLS | Friends of Copt Hill, Sunderland City Council, Landowners  
Partnership/EH  
HLS  
DEFRA | 1-3  
1-3  
4-10 |
| 6  | Redworth; Shackleton Beacon Iron Age Hill Fort | Shackleton Beacon is one of only two definitive Iron-Age hillforts between Tyne and Tees. Although a scheduled ancient monument there is no public access and it is covered with unmanaged woodland and so has not been investigated archaeologically nor does it contribute its full potential to the historic landscape character. The site also has strong bio-diversity interest, the ruin of an 18th century windmill and connections with early antiquarians of the Surtees family whose former house, now Redworth Hall hotel, lies immediately adjacent to the site and there may be potential tourism/hospitality links to be developed. | 1. Undertake detailed survey and evaluation excavation of the monument to provide understanding and dating.  
2. Negotiate management agreement with owner to achieve all or some of the following;  
   • Provide permissive public access and low key interpretation.  
   • conservation of windmill/summerhouse remains,  
   • Removal of trees/restructure woodland to achieve preservation of buried archaeological deposits, and to restore the hill as a landmark feature.  
3. Undertake management works agreed at 2. | £10K  
£5K  
£10K  
£30K | HLF  
HLF  
Partnership/EH  
Forestry Grants Schemes | Land owner  
Darlington Borough Council  
Redworth Hall Hotel  
DCC Archaeology Section  
English Heritage | 1-3  
1-3  
1-3  
4-10 |
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ferryhill: Landscape scale investigation and conservation</td>
<td>An undervalued area of archaeology and historic landscape which the audit for this report together with the reporting of several new sites and finds through the portable antiquities scheme has indicated would make an ideal area for a project not focussed on one particular site or theme but a wider understanding of the historic landscape. Themes of note include late Anglo-Saxon occupation at Ferryhill, pagan Anglo-Saxon metal detector finds/possible cemetery, post medieval gardens. The area includes a working quarry and the Ferryhill Gap with its Carr lands the best such area within the LL area. These are also both important geological and biodiversity features. Significant prehistoric enclosure and ritual site at Wheel Hill, Chilton Lane.</td>
<td>1. Undertake detailed desk based assessment of project area with school &amp; community liaison through presentations and guided walks to raise interest and identify sites for further investigation. Consider achieving this through a 'Village Atlas' Project. 2. Investigation of selected sites from (1) above, to include organised metal detecting, field walking, and trial excavation. Study of buildings and built form in Ferryhill providing heritage skills and awareness of archaeological and building conservation. 3. Bio-diversity and geo-diversity partnership project looking at palaeo-botanical resource of carr lands at Ferryhill Gap/Carrs 4. Wheel Hill; Undertake geo-physical survey, aerial photography transcription, field-walking and evaluation excavation to confirm condition of the buried archaeological remains. 5. Wheel Hill; If survival of archaeological features is high, then discuss taking land out of arable and returning to grassland with hedgerow/boundary restoration of notable cultivation terraces between hill and A19. Investigate reversion to pasture for crop mark sites currently under arable.</td>
<td>£5K</td>
<td>HLF</td>
<td>DCC Archaeology Section English Heritage AP unit Ferryhill Local History Society Metal detector Clubs A.A.S.D.N N.E.E.V.A.G Local Schools Ferryhill Town Council Thrislington Quarry</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Anglo-Saxon Ecclesiastical Heritage: Jarrow-Wearmouth; WHS</td>
<td>Project supporting and working with Durham &amp; Newcastle Universities, Wearmouth-Jarrow WHS project and the Arbeia Society to investigate and explore the estates of Jarrow-Monkwearmouth Anglo-Saxon Monastery. 1. &quot;One Monastery in Two Places: Wearmouth and Jarrow in Their Landscape Context.&quot; Encourage and support community involvement and understanding of the project associated with the World Heritage site bid. 2. Support OMTP (One Monastery in Two Places) Project Officer/staff to work with communities on the former monastery land to digitise tithe maps and be part of their 'Parish Origins' project. - Similarities with Village Atlas' 3. Explore opportunities to participate and support Wearmouth-Jarrow WHS bid and engage local groups in archaeological fieldwork</td>
<td>1. £5k HLF, will attract and support partnership funds from OMTP and WHS projects 2. £8k HLF 3. £5k HLF</td>
<td>Bede's World St Tyneside Council Sunderland City Council Durham &amp; Newcastle Universities. A.A.S.D.N, Sunderland Antiquarian Soc., Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, Arbeia Society. T&amp;W Specialist Conservation Team</td>
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<td>Seaham St.Marys &amp; Headland; early Christian Heritage</td>
<td>Both church and neighbouring Early Christian cemetery have been the subject of survey and excavation by Peter Ryder, DCC and Durham Uni. Much of this still requires proper academic synthesised publication. The site continues to stimulate considerable local interest. Work by Sarah Semple of Durham Uni indicates new areas worthy of investigation within the churchyard relating to the pre-conquest church. 1. Definitive academic and popular publications on Seaham village, church and early Christian community bringing together existing wide range of material. 2. Further excavation of features identified by geophysics around the church.</td>
<td>1. £5k HLF 2. £5k HLF</td>
<td>A.A.S.D.N, Arbeia Society, East Durham Heritage Group Seaham Town Council. St.Mary's Church Seaham Hall Hotel DCC Archaeology section</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Bishop Middleham; Medieval Bishop’s residence, fishponds and deerpark</td>
<td>The earthworks of the former Bishop’s palace are a scheduled ancient monument and have a good interpretation board. The wider landscape consisting of former medieval fishponds and a deer park, still with a large part of its wall upstanding (but at risk) has little profile and is currently outside the village conservation area. Despite improved care of the site, some agricultural rubbish remains. Access is informal and not well known beyond the village.</td>
<td>1. Condition assessment of palace, deer park wall and fishponds. 2. Improved access and interpretation, to include self guided circular walk from village around the deer park perimeter via fish ponds and palace site on existing PROW. Interpretation to note other notable local finds including Roman Paterae and Iron-Age glass bead. 3. Consider partial restoration of Park Wall and Fish Ponds to include archaeological recording and palaeo-environmental sampling of ponds.</td>
<td>£1.5K  £3k  £50k</td>
<td>HLF  HLF  HLS</td>
<td>Bishop Middleham local History Society. Bishop Middleham Parish Council. English Heritage.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Old Cassop; Cassop Vale</td>
<td>Old Cassop is a small hamlet designated as a conservation area with a variety of distinctive local buildings. Its prominent setting on the Magnesian Limestone Escarpment amongst an excellent enclosure hedgerow system which contains rig and furrow and other agricultural earthwork features make it a potential exemplar of a Magnesian Limestone farming hamlet. Field system and traditional farm buildings are falling into disrepair due to changed priorities and economics of modern farming. Neighbouring Cassop Vale is a local nature reserve and contains evidence for earlier land use and quarrying, but currently has little mention of historic environment issues.</td>
<td>1. Encourage restoration of hedgerows and traditional farm buildings through getting farmer into HLS. 2. In particular undertake restoration of cart shed identified through local listing project (see also project 2). 3. Provide interpretation to encourage visitors to Cassop Vale LNR to walk on an existing PROW loop via Old Cassop. 4. Work with LNR to interpret historic features in addition to bio and geo-diversity to provide an holistic understanding of the landscape.</td>
<td>£5K plus building  £15K  £2.5K</td>
<td>HLS  HLF/HLS  Strategic</td>
<td>DEFRA. Landowner. DCC countryside. DCC Archaeology Section</td>
<td>1-10 1-3 1-3</td>
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| 11  | Garmondsway to Coxhoe; medieval land use, deserted villages and the passing of industry. | The LL project area is particularly rich in the remains of deserted medieval villages of which 8 are in whole or part scheduled ancient monuments, there is currently no specific on-site interpretation of any such site. Several such village sites have been lost in the last 50 years, some such as Grindon, ploughed away with no record, others such as Thrislington recorded in extreme detail before quarrying. Garmondsway is an exceptionally well preserved and defined site, while Coxhoe Hall and Coxhoe East House are scheduled ancient monuments. The surrounding landscape also contains non-protected but excellent examples of rig & furrow and a minor designed landscape in front of Coxhoe Hall with a particular circular plantation. | 1. Use material from well investigated DMV sites across the area to provide interpretation of Garmondsay DMV and Coxhoe Hall along existing PROWs, with leaflet/signage.  
2. Provide an opportunity for additional interpretation of Raisby Quarry with a viewing platform.  
3. Restore, interpret and manage Kelloe Bank railway bridge, and Raisby Hill 19th Century lime kilns (LL local list) as part of signed path (see also project 2).  
4. Include story behind Coxhoe Hall within interpretation; from the home of Poets, to demolition by the Coal Board. Making use of several years of research and excavation by Durham City and County Councils.  
5. Investigate restoration of Coxhoe Hall walled garden as a community allotment/garden project.  
6. Seek to conserve historic landscape features around hall including notable rig and furrow, and circular eye catcher plantation to the south.  
7. As part of consolidation/restoration of the kilns bring one pot (out of 4) back into use for demonstration lime burns to promote heritage skills and produce a 'local' saleable product for the manufacture of lime mortar. A study will be required into the viability of the project both at this site and regarding the hydraulic qualities of the Magnesian limestone to produce a quality building product. | £5K | HLF | DCC archaeology, Estates and Countryside, Raisby Quarry | 1-3 |
|     |               |          |                  | £2K   | Raisby Quarry  | Landowners | 1-3 |
|     |               |          |                  | £30K  | HLF/DCC/Raisby Quarry | English Heritage | 1-3 |
|     |               |          |                  | £2K   | Several grant schemes currently available for allotment schemes, including initiative by the National Trust which may provide a model/advice | | 1-10 |
|     |               |          |                  | £5K   | HLF/Raisby Quarry | Raisby Quarry, VAR lime Burning Group, North East Civic trust Heritage Skills project | 1-3 |

Priority 1, 2, 3, with 1 being the highest.
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| 12 | Ludworth Tower; medieval fortified tower, village and water mill earthworks | One of only two extant medieval fortifications in the LL area and a scheduled ancient monument (& listed building). The Site is a major landscape feature in addition to being an historic monument. Clearly built of Magnesian Limestone with local sandstone quoins and dressings. The tower also has close associations with earthwork remains of the probable medieval village of Ludworth and water mill on the opposite (south) side of the road alongside the Shadforth Beck. Ludworth Village is a post medieval colliery village but has demonstrated a clear interest in its heritage with an LHI award. | 1. Condition assessment and conservation management statement for tower to ensure long term maintenance by DCC Estates.  
2. Undertake survey, conservation and access/interpretation to earthwork remains alongside Shadforth Beck.  
3. Consider land purchase of land by beck for dual archaeological/ecological value.  
4. Restoration of historic hedge banks around the Tower. | £2.5K  
£10K  
£10K  
£2K | DCC Estates  
HLF  
HLF  
HLS | DCC Estates.  
Ludworth Community Association  
English Heritage  
DCC Archaeology  
Durham Wildlife trust | 1-3 |
| 13 | Dalden Tower and Dalton-le-Dale Church; medieval secular and ecclesiastic power | Dalden Tower is one of only two medieval fortifications in the LL area. It was excavated in the 1980’s by the late Denis Coggins of the Bowes Museum, who completed considerable research but never produced a finished report or publication. The archive including an important assemblage of 16-17th century imported pottery is held at the Bowes Museum.  
St. Andrew’s church a short walk away at Dalton-le-Dale has Anglo-Saxon origins, sitting within a circular churchyard and having built into its largely 12th century fabric an Anglo-Saxon 8-9th century cross and later sundial. Dalton-le-Dale formed part of the estates of Jarrow-Monkwearmouth in AD 930. | 1. Condition assessment and conservation management statement for Dalden Tower to ensure long term maintenance by DCC estates.  
2. Remove or reduce wall and tree height between tower and road to re-establish prominence in the landscape.  
3. Provide new interpretation and signed walking route between Tower and church providing an opportunity to present the dual centres of medieval power as part of a wider landscape.  
4. Reassess the excavation archive held by the Bowes Museum and publish. | £2K  
£5K  
£5K  
£5K | DCC Estates  
DCC Estates/HLF  
HLF  
English Heritage | DCC.  
English Heritage  
English Heritage.  
Council for British Archaeology, Bowes Museum | 1-3  
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<td>14</td>
<td>Elwick Village; Village Atlas</td>
<td>Elwick is a village of some considerable antiquity with pre Norman Conquest origins including Anglo-Saxon sculptured stones built into the 12th century church of St. Peter. The village has a number of listed buildings largely of 18th and 19th century date. The Rector of the village in 1661 was John Cosin who after the Restoration became Bishop of Durham and of considerable fame for his church restoration and distinctive carved wood work. To the south of the village is a fine preserved tower windmill. The surrounding area is rich in archaeological remains including a recent find of a substantial Bronze-Age hoard to the west.</td>
<td>1. Provide specialist help to work with the people of Elwick to produce a Village Atlas. The Village Atlas is an adaptable process which will teach people how to research and interpret information from primary and secondary sources to upstanding physical remains by bringing together all the known historical information on the village and supplementing this with some field survey. The finished product is a publication which can then be used to inform people about the village, help guide planning matters and identify further projects on themes or sites which have stimulated the interest of the community and which can be developed with support from the LL Partnership.</td>
<td>£8K</td>
<td>HLF</td>
<td>Tees Archaeology, Elwick School, Elwick Parish Council</td>
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| 15  | Village Atlas Programme | Village Atlas programme to follow on from Elwick (project 14 above)   | 1. Several villages in the LL area have produced parish plans or village design statements to cover a range of topics about their local environment. Similarly there are a number of villages who have through lottery funding produced booklets or studies on the history of their village. These are all to varying formats and quality and scope.  
2. The Village Atlas format as successfully developed by the Northumberland National Park allows communities to investigate their heritage (and indeed any other environmental issue) and then propose further work based on their own needs and aspirations while being supported by professional specialists.  
3. The village atlas initiative has the ability to meet all 4 stated objectives of the project as described in section 4.0.  
4. 3 Village Atlas Projects to be supported by LL HLF landscape Partnership funding.  
5. Ensure any documents produced complement and integrate with planning policies and other documents such as conservation area appraisals. | £24K  | HLF           | Numerous depending on which villages are chosen | 2-3      |
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| 16 | St Mary’s Monk Hesledon; A lost Church? Early Christian heritage and agricultural change | Monk Hesledon is a small rural hamlet between Hartlepool and Peterlee and about 3KM from the coast. It contains the earthwork remains of a shrunken medieval village and is now composed of a single large farm and a scatter of houses. On the south side of the hamlet adjoining the deep sided and wooded Hesleden Dene is the site of Monk Hesledon Church, sadly demolished in the 1960’s. The Dene is one of a number which Hartlepool Borough Council are leading a project on to improve access and interpretation. | 1. Condition assessment and conservation management statement for Churchyard to ensure long term maintenance by DCC estates.  
2. New improved access and interpretation.  
4. Possibility of a community archaeological excavation on the site of the demolished church; consider inviting Time Team.  
5. Tie in with access to the coastal denes project being run by Hartlepool Borough Council | £1K | DCC Estates | DCC Archaeology & Conservation Teams. Tees Archaeology Society A.A.S.D.N Hartlepool Borough Council | 1-2-3-10 |
| 17 | Westerton Hill: High point and observatory | Westerton is a characterful Limestone Landscape village and has the privilege of being the East Durham Magnesian Limestone’s highest point above sea level. Upon this is built the 18th century observatory of Thomas Wright (1711–1786) a scientist and renaissance man of international repute. The tower although a listed building (Grade II) is in poor condition and should be considered as ‘at risk’. There is no access to the tower (the door is walled up) and there is very limited interpretation. | 1. Prepare costed conservation management plan and scheme of works for the tower  
2. Initiate repair works to include internal access and new stair/viewing platform (for occasional open day use)  
3. Provide improved on-site interpretation.  
4. Site will be a key point on the Permian Way (project 1) | £5K | HLF | HLF | 1-3 |
| 18 | Hawthorn Dene & Beacon Hill | Hawthorn Dene leading from the village of Hawthorn (conservation area) down to the beach at Hawthorn Hive is a singular high quality landscape containing features of a number of historic periods. Extension of the area to include the National Trust estate of Beacon Hill to the south enhances this opportunity considerably. It provides from existing PROW’s a number of opportunities to tell the story of the history of the coast from prehistoric times to the present day within a broader understanding of bio and geo-diversity. | 1. Self guided trail leaflets with subtle marker posts to provide a walk through time explaining the history of the coast and heritage features along the route from prehistoric hunter-gatherer communities through medieval and later agriculture by quarries, limekilns, mills, designed landscapes and pleasure gardens of the 18/19th centuries and World War II coastal defence.  
2. Consolidate iconic limekiln at mouth of Hawthorn Dene (south side)  
3. Maintain renown snowdrop plantings of dene | £5K | HLF | DCC Archaeology National Trust Durham Wildlife Trust | 1-3 |
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| 19  | Castle Eden Dene | Today a National Nature Reserve, but in the late 18th and 19th centuries together with 'The Castle' (listed building Grade II*) and estate village and church, this landscape was at the cutting edge of fashion as a gothic revival house and picturesque landscape. The Castle and its immediate surroundings have additional historical significance as the site of a medieval village and also the location of a notable Anglo-Saxon find the Castle Eden Claw Beaker, a 5th century glass vessel from the Rhineland dug up in 1775 as part of a pagan Anglian burial and now in the British Museum. | 1. Improve existing interpretation to provide visitors with understanding of the historic landscape and the cultural movements of the 18th century Gothick and picturesque in complementary way with bio and geo-diversity interests.  
2. Review Conservation Management Plan for the Dene and ensure this has a balanced profile of interests and consideration of the historic environment. | £5K     | Note not eligible for HLF landscape partnership funding | Natural England  
DCC Archaeology  
English Heritage  
Northumbria Gardens Trust | 1-5      |
| 20  | Windlestone Hall & Park | Windlestone Hall and Park is one of the few significant large country houses and designed landscapes within the LL study area. The house is Grade II* listed, and the Park is included on the English Heritage register of Historic Parks and gardens. Windlestone Hall has close associations with the Eden family and in particular Sir Anthony Eden, former Prime Minister. The house, a former school is now disused and is for sale by its current owner Durham County Council. The condition of the house and Clock tower/stable in particular are causing concern and have been placed on the Buildings At Risk Register. | 1. Ensure Buildings At Risk issues are addressed for the main hall, and that any new proposed development conforms to planning documents.  
2. Identify ownership and promote rescue package for Palladian gatehouse currently ‘at risk’  
3. Secure permissive foot path access through the park on a route based upon 19th century intentions of experiencing the designed landscape along by the lakes.  
4. Investigate lake restoration, commission study to confirm costs  
5. Produce management plan for the historic parkland as a separate but related objective to the house and curtilage buildings. | £5K     | Note not eligible for HLF landscape partnership funding  
£2K     | Separate HLF application or HLS scheme  
£3K     | Landowners  
Natural England  
LL Core Team  
DCC Archaeology  
English Heritage  
Northumbria Gardens Trust | 1-10     |
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<td>21</td>
<td>Fulwell: Windmill/lime kilns/ quarry/ World War I acoustical Mirror.</td>
<td>Fulwell although on the northern urban fringe of Sunderland has a combination of post medieval industrial sites second to none in one small area. It is also been highlighted as a geo-diversity site. Sunderland City Council have a master-plan for the area for which costs are estimated at up to £1 million. Limestone Landscapes should be a partner to this scheme and contribute negotiated funding to specific aspects, in particular the Lime Kilns and the sound mirror. Identification of firm costs will depend on undertaking item 1.</td>
<td>1. Prepare conservation management plans and schemes of repair for Sir Hedworth Williamson limekilns and the World War I acoustic mirror to ensure future safety and maintenance. 2. Undertake required consolidation works to lime-kilns and sound mirror. 3. Self guided interpretative trail beginning and ending at Fulwell Wind Mill to present an understanding of the areas characteristic post medieval industrial past, and help support visitor numbers to the Mill. 4. Work with Sunderland City Council to achieve above as part of SCC master-plan exercise</td>
<td>£5-10K  Needs study at 1.  £5K  -</td>
<td>Sunderland City/English Heritage  Sunderland City/HLF  HLF  LL Core Team</td>
<td>Sunderland City Council  South Tyneside Council.  NECT  Northumbrian Water  T&amp;W Specialist Conservation Team  Northumbrian Water</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Cleadon Hills. Windmill, Cleadon and other Water pumping stations</td>
<td>Cleadon Hills is an area of Magnesian limestone grass land already with good access and in the care of the local authority. It is a designated conservation area and has a character area appraisal as well as providing far reaching views of several other historic features. It contains a number of historic landscape features and structures in particular it contains an early 19th century tower windmill and close views of the Italianate chimney of the former Cleadon Water pumping station, built for the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company to a design by Thomas Hawksley and opened in 1863. The pumping station is one of a chain running down the coast as far as Hesleden and together they are a key characteristic of the coastal Magnesian Limestone historic landscape. The Ryhope building is now preserved as a museum and run by a trust although still owned by Northumbrian Water.</td>
<td>1. Assist implementation of the management plan for the conservation area. 2. In particular secure the landmark windmill, and water pumping station chimneys future. 3. Update interpretation to provide a more holistic understanding of the landscape. 4. Work with LPA to use windmill and surrounding listed Magnesian Limestone wall as Heritage Skills venue for use of lime mortar for pointing 5. Provide interpretation on the 19th C coastal water pumping stations from the Ryhope site now open as a museum. Include a self guided motor trail. Liaise with local authorities and EH over ‘at risk’ examples at Cleadon and Daldon.</td>
<td>£2K  £2.5K  £5K  £5K  £5K</td>
<td>LL Core Team  HLF  HLF/NECT  HLF/Northumbrian Water  HLF/Northumbrian Water</td>
<td>South Tyneside Council.  NECT  Local builders wanting to learn how to work with lime  T&amp;W Specialist Conservation Team  Northumbrian Water</td>
<td>1-10-1-3-3-2</td>
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## Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment Action Plan

**Quarrington Hill: colliery, quarries and cemetery**

Quarrington Hill is a former mining community which sits on the western edge of the Magnesian Limestone escarpment. It overlooks the site of the former Crowtrees Colliery, now a local nature reserve but still retaining spoil tips and many structures from the colliery which had closed by 1900. It provides some of the oldest surviving upstanding structures of the East Durham Coalfield.

On the north side of the site is Cold Knuckles Quarry of interest for its history of occupation and mineral extraction but also a highlighted site for geological interpretation. The path along the ridge leads past the cemetery of the now demolished church of St. Pauls. The cemetery has been nominated for the LL local list.

The Crowtrees Heritage Group have already had a successful Your Heritage grant from HLF and are well positioned and motivated to take forward further informed work.

1. Interpretation regarding the colliery history of the site to complement bio and geo-diversity interests.
2. Selective removal of hawthorn scrub to reveal industrial features and allow clearer interpretation of the site.
3. Investigation and securing of capped pit shaft to allow safe public access.
5. Self guided trail material and subtle way marking to show layout and evolution of former colliery and associated railways.
6. Promote a living graveyard scheme for the cemetery to include conservation of memorials and allow Magnesian Limestone flora.

**Tasks and Stages**

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<td>23</td>
<td>Quarrington Hill: colliery, quarries and cemetery</td>
<td>Quarrington Hill is a former mining community which sits on the western edge of the Magnesian Limestone escarpment. It overlooks the site of the former Crowtrees Colliery, now a local nature reserve but still retaining spoil tips and many structures from the colliery which had closed by 1900. It provides some of the oldest surviving upstanding structures of the East Durham Coalfield. On the north side of the site is Cold Knuckles Quarry of interest for its history of occupation and mineral extraction but also a highlighted site for geological interpretation. The path along the ridge leads past the cemetery of the now demolished church of St. Pauls. The cemetery has been nominated for the LL local list. The Crowtrees Heritage Group have already had a successful Your Heritage grant from HLF and are well positioned and motivated to take forward further informed work.</td>
<td>1. Interpretation regarding the colliery history of the site to complement bio and geo-diversity interests. 2. Selective removal of hawthorn scrub to reveal industrial features and allow clearer interpretation of the site. 3. Investigation and securing of capped pit shaft to allow safe public access. 4. Conservation of ‘The Castle’, the large monumental winding engine foundation block. 5. Self guided trail material and subtle way marking to show layout and evolution of former colliery and associated railways. 6. Promote a living graveyard scheme for the cemetery to include conservation of memorials and allow Magnesian Limestone flora.</td>
<td>£5K</td>
<td>£5K</td>
<td>£2K, £2K, £2K, £2K, £2K</td>
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**Haswell Plough Engine House & Colliery**

Haswell Plough engine house is a scheduled ancient monument and perhaps the singular most dramatic remaining structure associated with the deep mining industry of the 19th century in the LL area. Looking more like a medieval fortified tower the structure is made from local Magnesian Limestone and represents the singular technological breakthrough of using steam beam engines to pump out deep mine water and so exploit the East Durham coal field.

The monument suffers from being lost in a sea of grass and hidden behind a recent plantation of trees, with no explanation or physical relationship to the former village.

1. Confirm ownership and on-going maintenance arrangements to safeguard this iconic structure.
2. Improve signage to site from main road and visibility within the landscape.
3. Improve interpretation to provide a better idea of the now lost colliery buildings and context of the engine house.

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<td>24</td>
<td>Haswell Plough Engine House &amp; Colliery</td>
<td>Haswell Plough engine house is a scheduled ancient monument and perhaps the singular most dramatic remaining structure associated with the deep mining industry of the 19th century in the LL area. Looking more like a medieval fortified tower the structure is made from local Magnesian Limestone and represents the singular technological breakthrough of using steam beam engines to pump out deep mine water and so exploit the East Durham coal field. The monument suffers from being lost in a sea of grass and hidden behind a recent plantation of trees, with no explanation or physical relationship to the former village.</td>
<td>1. Confirm ownership and on-going maintenance arrangements to safeguard this iconic structure. 2. Improve signage to site from main road and visibility within the landscape. 3. Improve interpretation to provide a better idea of the now lost colliery buildings and context of the engine house.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LL Core team</td>
<td>Landowner, English Heritage, DCC Archaeology</td>
<td>1</td>
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| 25 | **Marsden: quarrying and limekilns**                                           | Marsden limekilns are a scheduled ancient monument and situated dramatically facing the coast north of Whitburn. Together with their neighbouring and associated quarries they form arguably the most dramatic large scale evidence for historic limestone extraction in the LL area. The kilns are on the English Heritage Buildings At Risk Register, which notes a need for urgent repair and that recording and a scheme of conservation have been drawn up with South Tyneside Council, the estimated costs of consolidation are £500K | 1. Support efforts to conserve the site and remove from Buildings At Risk Register by liaising with South Tyneside council on consolidation scheme.  
2. LL to contribute grant aid towards larger funding package for consolidation.  
3. Develop access and interpretation depending on health and safety issues, include ‘Marsden Rattler’ railway remains.  
4. Tie in closely with geo-diversity interpretation.  
5. Promote involvement of National Trust as Souter Light House and the Leas NT property is immediately adjacent. Following consolidation secure endowment and gift site to the NT | - | HLF  
English Heritage  
South Tyneside | South Tyneside Council, English Heritage, T&W Specialist Conservation Team, National Trust | 1-5 |
| 26 | **Middridge & Shildon. The essence of Limestone Landscapes Railways, quarrying and medieval villages** | Middridge quarry has been identified as a key site for Geo-Diversity. The quarry lies adjacent to the track bed of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (the world’s first public passenger line) and a short walk from the National Rail Museum at Shildon. To the north lie Middridge Village and Grange both classic examples of Limestone Landscapes medieval rural settlement. | 1. Provide a footpath link alongside the S&DR from the NMR to Middridge Quarry and link into a circular walk and interpretation with geo-diversity interest which loops round to the north via Middridge.  
2. The walk would also form the starting point of *The Permian Way* (project 1 above) | £10K | HLF | Landowner, DCC Rights of Way, Locomotion National Railway Museum. | 1-3 |
| 27 | **Penshaw Hill; a celebration of radicalism and worms**                        | Penshaw Hill has two major claims to fame, firstly as a site of a major scene from the medieval folklore epic *the Lambton Wym*, secondly and more obviously as the site of the monument to John Lambton, liberal politician and 1st Earl of Durham, often called ‘radical Jack’ due to his overtly liberal politics. The site attracts considerable visitor numbers already and is an ideal icon and interpretation vehicle for the Limestone Landscapes with some additional work. The hill also has extensive quarries and as a landmark feature is one of the most visible expressions of the Magnesian Limestone escarpment. | 1. Topographic survey and interpretation of the hill to clearly identify quarry workings and any older features (there has been speculation that it was an Iron-Age hill fort.  
2. Improved interpretation regarding radicalism, folklore and the inspiration for the monument the Theseum in ancient Athens.  
3. Consider repairs to the staircase hidden in one of the columns to provide safe access to the roof viewing platform on specific open days.  
4. Redesign of lighting scheme to improve appearance and reduce energy costs.  
5. Forms an important location on the proposed *Permian Way* route (project 1) | £3K  
£3K  
£15K  
£20K | HLF/NT | National Trust, Sunderland City Council  
Sunderland Football Club (Penshaw forms part of their badge) | 1-3 |
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| 28  | **A Defended Land; 19th & 20th century Defences; Various sites including Trow Point and Frenchman’s Point Battery and the Heugh Battery at Hartlepool** | Much of the area, especially along the coast has an involving and interesting history of anti-invasion defence. This has left many physical features such as pill boxes, gun batteries and trench systems. An accurate record has been made of these through the defence of Britain project. Many are in poor condition, on private land or spread out along larger expanses of coast and so difficult to interpret. There is however a concentration of sites north of Whitburn which could be conserved for interpretation, and wider appreciation could be achieved through a motor & walks route. | 1. Produce motor/walk leaflet and short guide to provide access and interpretation to the defended land of the Limestone landscapes.  
2. Work with the Heugh Battery trust at Hartlepool to provide a display covering the wider coast and the Heugh battery in context.  
3. Condition survey of military remains at Trow Point/Frenchman’s and necessary repair works for health and safety. | £5K   | HLF           | HLF, Heugh Batterey Trust (Hartlepool), South Tyneside Council (Trow Point/Frenchmans, Cleadon Hill trenches), National Trust (Hawthorn Pill box and practice trenches) | 2-3     |
| 29  | **Popular publications on the NCA’s archaeology and heritage.** | There are no available popular publications which provide an holistic overview of the historic environment and heritage of the LL area. Several areas (principally larger towns) have a number of local history publications such as the VCH volume for Sunderland, or collections of local historical photographs. More academic articles and publications are available but these such as Miket are now several years out of date. A range of new Limestone Landscapes themed publications will provide education and promote involvement, while crucially helping to establish Limestone Landscape community identity | 1. Popular but academically sound fully illustrated colour publication covering the archaeology, history, historic landscape and architecture of East Durham Magnesian Limestone. The publication to cover the built heritage of buildings, archaeological sites and landscapes and also the cultural heritage in particular agriculture, mining, quarrying and coastal communities.  
2. Produce an accompanying volume on the Industrial archaeology of East Durham to complement the existing publication by Andy Guy on West Durham for the Mineral Valleys Project.  
3. Start a series of ‘Limestone Histories’, small well illustrated booklets on each village as outcomes from projects such as the ‘village atlas’. Hart village is suggested as the local community has already undertaken considerable ground work. Costs would pay for an editor, design work and publishing.  
4. Costs to the right include authors fees, design, indexing, reproduction fees printing and distribution for 1000 copies, subsequent print runs would be at a simple printing/distribution fee. | £30K  | HLF           | County Durham Books, Tees Archaeology, A.A.S.D.N. and the DCLHS, all provide publishing opportunities for works such as these | 1-2     |
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<td>30</td>
<td>Review &amp; refresh existing interpretation of the historic environment</td>
<td>There is already a considerable amount of heritage interpretation covering the area. This is of variable quality and in some cases either now out of print (leaflets), or illegible due to time or vandalism.</td>
<td>1. Without wishing to stamp a universal LL house style on all interpretation across the area provide a style guide to assist in quality and legibility of production and link this with the LL themes. As with popular publications this will be a significant part of establishing an identity for the Limestone Landscapes in people’s minds.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>LL Core Team</td>
<td>LPA interpretation officers</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Conservation Areas.</td>
<td>An up to date Conservation Character Area Appraisal and management plan is essential for all conservation areas across the LL area if villages are to maintain their unique character while being allowed to develop as thriving communities. Currently several village conservation areas do not have a CACA.</td>
<td>1. Prepare CACA’s for all conservation areas currently without appraisals. 2. Refresh all existing CACAs over 5 years old. 3. Ensure CACAs have management plans and take steps for Article 4 directions in partnership with LPAs 4. When undertaking or reviewing CACAs take note of the Limestone Landscapes Historic building Inventory and include buildings/types of buildings local communities have identified as important and essential to the character of the area. For instance at Easington extend area east to include distinctive rows of Durham Aged Miners homes and Poor Law Union offices.</td>
<td>£3-5K for each appraisal. Or by LPA staff.</td>
<td>Strategic LPAs</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Informing the future with the past. Local Character and design guidance on conservation of traditional and historic buildings across the NCA.</td>
<td>Only certain settlements designated as conservation areas have appraisals which describe just what it is in the blend of materials, building styles and settlement layout that creates the distinctive local character of the LL area’s buildings and villages.</td>
<td>1. Produce a simple and copiously illustrated design guide for the LL area, wide distribution and adoption will inform and educate communities of the area, developers, builders and planners and raise the standard of new build and the care and maintenance of existing traditional buildings. 2. The guide should also contain information on how traditional buildings can be sensitively upgraded in terms of energy efficiency.</td>
<td>£10K</td>
<td>HLF LPAs</td>
<td>English Heritage SPAB (Society for protection of Ancient buildings) North East Civic Trust (Heritage Skills Initiative) National Trust</td>
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| 33  | Study in partnership with Geo-diversity interests to identify stone used in Local historic buildings. | Currently there is little published evidence for the source quarries of much of the LL areas building stone.  
To aid with restoration of old buildings, and ensure new build fits in with the areas character it is important that sources of stone are identified and quarry supplies maintained.  
Raise awareness of historic quarrying and materials amongst school children. | 1. Petrological analysis of firmly dated buildings and historic structures to identify quarry source material and identify regional diversity of stone use within the LL area.  
2. Improved published study of building conservation and chronology/history of quarrying.  
3. Work with quarry operators to ensure local building stone is commercially available.  
4. Expand the ‘Going Underground’ school-quarry arts project run by Tees Valley Arts | £5K   | HLF            | BGS, Quarry operators | 1-3       |
| 34  | Conservation of traditional buildings; Lime Burning and Lime mortars         | Traditionally lime was burnt in the area to produce material for use in mortars for the building industry, and to sweeten land for agricultural improvement.  
Currently there are no producers of burnt lime products in the area, and as the Heritage Skills Initiative run by the North East Civic Trust has highlighted there are few builders with the knowledge or skill of using traditional lime mortars.  
Lime mortars are becoming increasingly favoured once more in both restoration & maintenance work, but also in some new build as they are more flexible and have a lower carbon footprint per equivalent weight than Portland Cement. | 1. Work with NE Heritage Skills Initiative to provide three training days in general conservation maintenance for homeowners/communities.  
2. Work with NE Heritage Skills Initiative to provide three more in depth training sessions for local builders and contractors in conservation materials and methods.  
3. Consider repairing or rebuilding a traditional lime kiln in which to hold lime burning sessions as a dramatic focal point for local stone and traditional skills (see project 11-7 above).  
4. Commission a study on the hydraulic qualities of the Magnesian limestone to ensure it would produce a high quality commercially viable product. | £9K   | HLF            | LPA, English Heritage | 1-2       | £9K | HLF                      | SPAB (Society for protection of Ancient buildings) | 1-2       | £30K | HLF/quarry company | North East Civic Trust (Heritage Skills Initiative) | 1-3       | £2K | HLF/English heritage | National Trust | 1       |
# Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment Action Plan

## Support for community archaeological excavations on identified research themes.

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| 35  | Support for community archaeological excavations on identified research themes. | There have been a number of community archaeological excavations in the LL area in the past which have provided opportunities for community members to dig, perhaps one of the most immediate, exciting and rewarding ways to experience the past. Opportunities for excavation and field work should be directed through existing and established societies to promote standards and viable membership. | 1. Opportunities for excavation and the learning of archaeological techniques from field walking to surveying should be made available to the communities of the LL area either as part of other projects listed in this plan or with specific aims identified in the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (2006), rather than individual solely excavation based initiatives.  
2. Make fieldwork and excavation projects listed in this plan widely known of and direct participation through established societies to encourage membership  
3. Hold three training days on methods of archaeological and historic building investigation and recording for the public and communities of the Limestone Landscapes. | -     | -             | LPA archaeologists, English Heritage, Council for British Archaeology | 1-2     |

## Awareness and adoption; care in the community for historic monuments and buildings!

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<td>36</td>
<td>Awareness and adoption; care in the community for historic monuments and buildings!</td>
<td>Many archaeological sites, ruins and historic buildings remain relatively unknown and uncared for by their communities and owners. This is often due to ignorance regarding their presence or value, rather than deliberate neglect. A sense of ownership of heritage needs to be developed above but not conflicting with laws of private property, to encourage involvement and care with the historic environment.</td>
<td>1. From awareness raising work in projects such as the Village Atlas (10 above), encourage communities through ‘Friends’ groups or local schools to ‘adopt’ a local monument and provide it with some degree of care. This could include minimal work such as occasional litter picking, grass cutting or removal of woody growth, to more major tasks which would require specialist support and funding. Provide small funds for basic tools and support.</td>
<td>£3K (pa)</td>
<td>HLF</td>
<td>LPA archaeologists, Parish Councils, heritage groups</td>
<td>1-10</td>
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## The elusive Mesolithic; further research into identifying well preserved deposits of the earliest prehistoric times

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| 37  | The elusive Mesolithic; further research into identifying well preserved deposits of the earliest prehistoric times | The deep sided denes of the coast have produced significant collections of prehistoric flint tools, and been identified as containing the few sites in the area where Palaeolithic remains may be found in pre-Ice-Age compacted soils. Little if any modern research has taken place into these sites since the first half of the 20th century. Such a research project would provide an ideal opportunity for collaboration with geologists. | 1. Undertake a desk based survey followed by site evaluation and coring to identify the best preserved deposits likely to contain Palaeolithic or Mesolithic in-situ deposits.  
2. If possible adopt the methodology used by the North-East Yorkshire Mesolithic Project run by Tees Archaeology and North York Moors National Park.  
3. Provide interpretation of such sites and use in a wider context to explain environmental change, rising sea levels etc. | £5K   | English Heritage | LPA Archaeologists, local heritage groups, A.A.A.S.D.N, Soc Ants, Tees Archaeology Society | 1-3     |
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| 38  | Greater Access to Museum & artefact Collections             | There are significant museum collections with material from the LL area in South Shields, Sunderland and Hartlepool, all close to where the items were found and so accessible to the LL area communities. Much more could be done to improve access to artefacts held further afield such as The Bowes Museum or even the British Museum through temporary loans and displays in the LL area. Touching or having close contact with artefacts from the past is a special way of experiencing heritage and should be more widely available to the communities of the LL area. | 1. Reinvigorate heritage centre at Seaton Holme with an LL Heritage display.  
2. Work with Durham Learning Resources and T&W Museum Service /Great North Museum to provide LL Historic Environment and Geology handling packs and promote to schools across the LL area. | £5K    | HLF            | Durham Learning Resources, Tyne and Wear Museums, Sunderland Museum, Hartlepool Museum, Bowes Museum, MLAC                      | 1-3      |
| 39  | The immediate past; family, community and photographic memories | Many of the local heritage groups across the LL area have been founded or have a strong interest in collecting photographs and memories, often regarding their coal mining heritage. As a focus for this many mining disasters have some form of physical memorial on the site of former pits or in village centres. A considerable amount of information is available digitally on the areas coal mining heritage through the Durham Mining Museum. Large collections exist in the hands of societies, communities and individuals. | 1. Provide advice and facilities to help community groups and individuals digitise and catalogue historic photographs and images.  
2. Digitise and include these collections on the web through existing sites such as Tomorrow’s History or Durham Mining Museum, or via the Beamish Archive. | £5K    | HLF            | Tyne and Wear Museums, MLAC                                                                                                   | 1-10     |
| 40  | Memorials                                                  | In addition to many examples with protection as listed buildings, there are also a significant number of official and private mining memorials and mementos such as old pit head wheels and chaldrons. | 1. Compile a full listing of historic mining and war memorials with condition information. Work with the North East War Memorials project, and the Durham Mining Museum and local communities to ensure listings are comprehensive  
2. Ensure these are added to HERs to provide planning protection.  
3. If required add to LL Heritage At Risk Register (project 2).  
4. Provide guidance and grant aid for restoration. | £5K    | HLF/Partnership | Local community heritage groups, LPA HERs, LPA conservation officers, North East War memorials project, Durham Mining Museum, DCLHS. | 1-3      |
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| 41  | Miners Housing and welfare    | Social housing and miners welfare buildings are key components of the built character of the area. In particular the housing provided by the Durham Aged Miners Homes Association is of high quality and worthy of at least local listing. There are however pressure on these buildings to meet modern standards of performance and access which are increasingly leading to their demolition or unsympathetic refurbishment. | 1. Undertake study into miners social housing and welfare buildings and identify best examples to inform future planning and conservation.  
2. Work with Durham Aged Miners Housing Association to explore a conservation lead approach to upgrading and maintenance to maintain character.                                                                                                                        | £15K  | English Heritage, Partnership | English Heritage, LPA Conservation Officers, Durham Aged Miners Housing Association | 1-3      |
| 42  | Lost in a sea of rig & furrow  | The transcription of aerial photographs by the ALSF and RCZA projects has made it clear that the LL project area is particularly rich in rig & furrow, the grassed over remains of earlier arable cultivation. This may be from a variety of dates from medieval Ox ploughing to Victorian steam ploughs.  
The enhancement work for this report has also noted that at the core of many of these field systems sit 19th century planned farmsteads of the age of agricultural improvement with 'u' plan buildings and courtyards. Although it records extent and direction, sadly the AP transcription work does not record the width of the rig, a major diagnostic factor in dating it to medieval or post medieval periods. | 1. Confirm survival and preserve surviving rig & furrow as a major element of historic landscape character.  
2. Undertake a study of rig and furrow to provide a typology and dating guide and a management plan which can be used to inform and target HLS.  
3. Work with bio-diversity interests to protect ancient rig & furrow as land least disturbed or improved.                                                                                                                                  | £5K   | HLF                            | English Heritage, LPA archaeologists, Durham Wildlife Trust, DEFRA | 1-10     |
6.0 **Priorities and Costs.**

The costs identified in the Action Plan are for guidance only, and for many schemes more detailed schedules of work will need to be drawn up and surveys undertaken, especially for building restoration. They should therefore be seen as for guidance only.

Similarly for priorities, the final choice and priority of identified works should take note of the priorities assigned, but depending on opportunity, willing landowners etc, the identified priorities herein should not prevent a lower grade project ‘leap-frogging a project identified as a higher priority. Many projects are however phased and later stages cannot be undertaken without the necessary preparatory work identified. Not all projects need to be taken forward in the entirety described, as several are composed of individual elements which could stand on their own if required.

As the priorities are set at present the costs are of the following magnitudes;

**Priority 1**  c.£600K  
**Priority 2**  c. £200K  
**Priority 3**  c.£125K  

It should be noted that if heritage at risk buildings were to be totally funded by the project the costs would be significantly higher and the above prices are largely reliant on small scale building restoration and contributions to larger projects such as Marsden Lime Kilns.
Bibliography and references

This Action Plan is based upon two previously commissioned reports by Archaeo-Environment, listed below. The reader will find a full listing of source material relating to the Limestone Landscapes within these two earlier documents.

‘Limestone Landscapes Historic Environment Audit (2009). Archaeo-Environment/Hammond,

Appendix 1; List of local community and specialist contacts consulted with.

A full up to date list of contacts identified during the course of this work has been passed on to the Limestone Landscapes Partnership for inclusion in the Partnership mailing database. A short listing is provided here to demonstrate the wide nature of groups. Contact details are not provided both as theses tend to date very quickly, and also to provide privacy for individuals.

**Durham County Local History Society.**  
**Aycliffe Village Local History Society.**  
**Arbeia Society.**  
**The Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham & Northumberland.**  
**Bishop Middleham Local History Society.**  
**Bowburn Local History Society.**  
**Cassop History Society.**  
**Cleadon Village History Society.**  
**Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society.**  
**The Friends of Copt Hill**  
**Crowtrees Heritage Group.**  
**East Durham Heritage.**  
**The Fulwell Society.**  
**Friends of Fulwell Windmill.**  
**Grindon Heritage Society.**  
**Hart Village Millennium Steering Committee.**  
**Haswell History Group.**  
**Herrington Heritage.**  
**Friends of Houghton Hillside Cemetery.**  
**Houghton and District Local History Group.**  
**Friends of Hylton Dene.**  
**Ludworth Community Association (History Subgroup).**  
**Murton Heritage Society.**  
**North East England Vernacular Architecture Group (NEEVAG).**  
**Northern Archaeology Group.**  
**Pride in Easington Group.**  
**Ryhope Engines Museum.**  
**Sedgefield Family History Society.**  
**Sedgefield Local History Group.**  
**Silksworth Heritage Group.**  
**Shotton Colliery History Group.**  
**Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle Upon Tyne.**  
**Story of Seaham Group.**  
**Sunderland Civic Society.**  
**Sunderland Antiquarian Society.**  
**Friends of Sunderland Museums.**  
**Teesside Archaeology Society.**  
**Thorpe Thewles Heritage Group.**  
**Tunstall Hills Protection Group.**  
**West Rainton and Leamside Local History Group.**  
**Wheatley Hill History Club.**  
**Whitburn Local History Group.**

In addition to the groups above a number of professional bodies with an interest in the heritage and historic environment of the East Durham Magnesian Limestone were identified and either helpfully contributed on an informal basis or were provided with opportunities to contribute as follows.

**Durham CC**
Darlington Borough Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
South Tyneside Council
Sunderland City Council
Tyne & Wear Specialist Conservation Team
English Heritage
North of England Civic Trust
The National Trust
Lord Crewe Charity
Department of Archaeology, University of Durham
NEEHII (North East England History Institute)
Teesside University
Sunderland University
Newcastle University
Leicester University