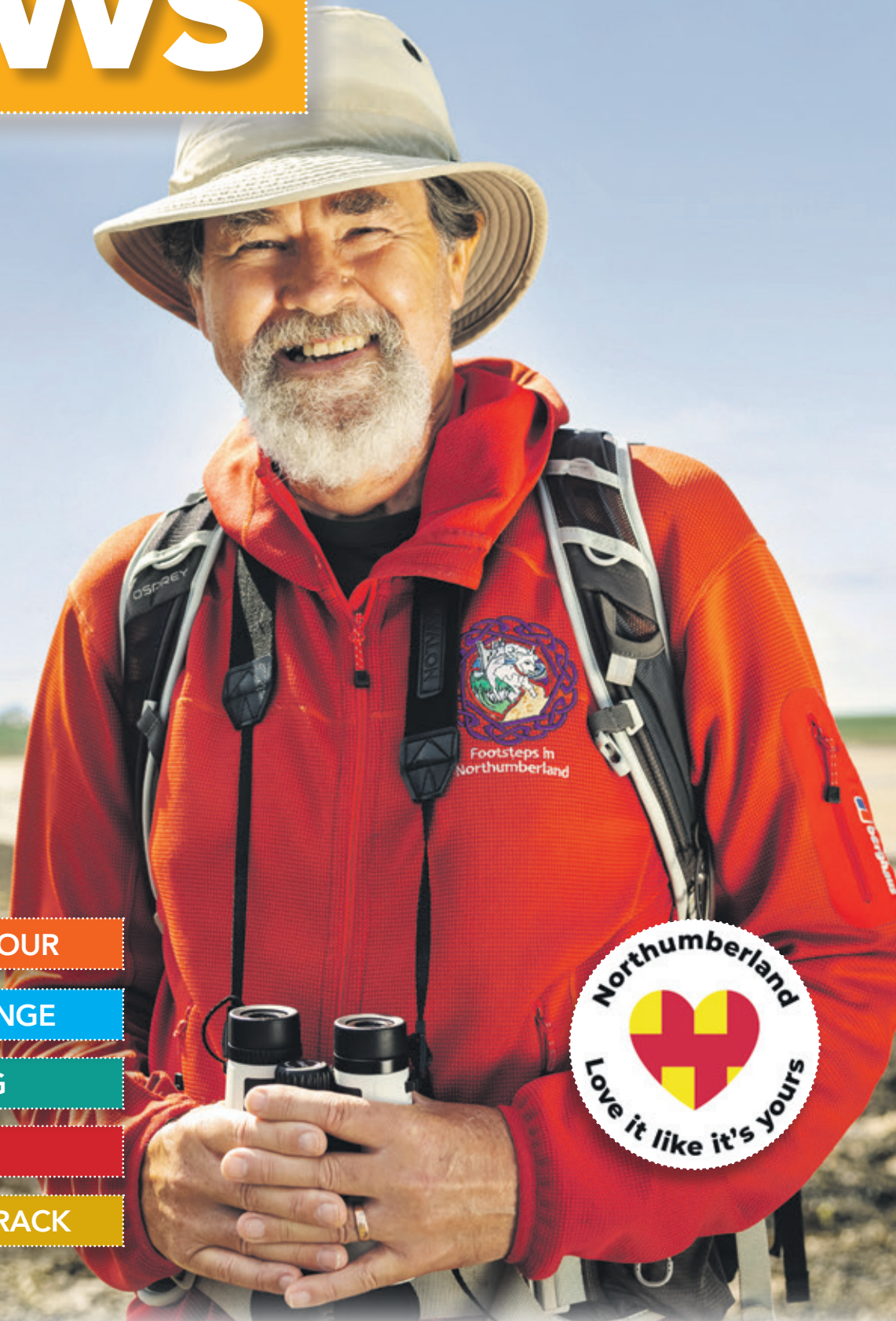


SUMMER 2021 

Northumberland news



MOVING TO STEP FOUR


THE BIG GEAR CHANGE

WILDFIRE WARNING

SHOP LOCAL

RAIL SCHEME ON TRACK





It's ok if you have a question about the Covid vaccine

But it's important you get your answers from a reliable source, because the vaccine is our best protection against Covid.

Find the facts at [BeatCovidNE.co.uk](https://www.beatcovidne.co.uk)

HELPFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

It is really important that you know where to go for the help and advice you need, to support you and your family.

ONECALL

If you are worried about a child or adult's immediate welfare **01670 536 400**

NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

If you, your family or neighbour needs support, please get in touch. We can connect you with a network of people in your area. Are you experiencing financial difficulties, or feeling lonely, overwhelmed or struggling with your mental health? Perhaps you are concerned about a neighbour or someone you think may be experiencing domestic abuse.

Email nct@northumberland.gov.uk
or call **01670 620 015**

between 9am - 6pm, seven days a week.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICE NORTHUMBERLAND

This service is available 24 hours a day, providing confidential support and advice for women and men who are at risk of domestic abuse **01670 820 199**

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

If you need to contact the council in relation to council tax, bin collections, housing queries, report, apply, or pay for something. In the first instance, please use the council's website www.northumberland.gov.uk, alternatively call **0345 600 6400**

NORTHUMBERLAND BUSINESS HUB

If you have a business or are self-employed in Northumberland

www.northumberland.gov.uk/businesshub

CITIZENS ADVICE

For consumer service advice, free phone **0808 223 1133**.
Helplines are open Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm.

RELATE

Free relationship advice and support
www.relate.org.uk/relationships-matter

DEBT

Don't ignore a debt problem - doing nothing could make things worse. Go to www.northumberland.gov.uk/debt for advice and support.



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KEEP IN TOUCH...

To stay informed about all our service developments please follow us on our social media channels.



facebook.com/northumberlandCC



twitter.com/N_LandCouncil



instagram.com/NLandCC



youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV



COVID HAS DRAWN A LONG SHADOW OVER US ALL BUT WE'RE EMERGING INTO MORE POSITIVE TIMES.



FOREWORD BY **GLEN SANDERSON**

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Northumberland is a beautiful county and we're blessed to call it our home.

Whether it's crunching through the snow on our hilltops in winter, watching the emergence of spring in our woodlands or enjoying the magical colours of autumn, there's always something special to enjoy.

And of course, there's summer, when we can hopefully dispense with our coats and enjoy the warmth and sunshine, the longer hours of daylight and the spectacular sunrises and sunsets.

Covid has drawn a long shadow over us all but we're emerging into more positive times. The magnificent vaccination programme has meant not just a shot in the arm

for many residents, but a shot in the arm for our recovery.

We're expecting a bumper number of visitors and have been working with partner agencies to ensure not just a warm welcome, but to encourage people to be responsible when they come to our county.

Of course we must all continue to be sensible and continue to take precautions to stop the spread of Covid, and this edition contains a wealth of information on staying safe over the summer and beyond.

There's also updates and features on our work across the county – in education, leisure and business.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

STAY INFORMED

Please enter the link below to sign up for updates on important local news and changes to council services: nland.uk/updates

AS WE MOVE TO STEP FOUR - REMEMBER IT'S NOT OVER



What is the latest situation in Northumberland?

Cases of Covid are continuing to rise and in some areas of the county numbers have risen at an alarming rate. More than a third of those tested, reported that they'd had no symptoms. The pandemic is still with us, and it is vital we all remain cautious. The Delta variant is more transmissible and continues to spread in our communities, largely amongst those who remain unvaccinated.

What changed on July 19?

On 19th July, England moved to Step 4 for the Government's roadmap, which means:

- Legal restrictions and social distancing will be lifted.
- Continued use of face coverings will still be advised in crowded and enclosed spaces including public transport.
- For England, there will be a gradual return to work.
- There's new guidance for the clinically extremely vulnerable on how to keep themselves safe.
- The existing border policy will continue to apply, including quarantine for those coming back from red list countries.
- Test, trace and isolate will also continue.

LIZ MORGAN IS THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR NORTHUMBERLAND



Although restrictions have been lifted, we are not heading back to life as we knew it so we must continue to work together to protect ourselves, our families and our communities. ”



From **19 July**, limits on social contact were lifted. Consider limiting close contact with people you do not live with and open windows to let fresh air in.



HM Government



- Nightclubs and other venues are encouraged to make use of Covid passports as a means of entry.

What can we do to stay safe?

This change comes at a time when cases are still increasing, and we do need to learn to live with the virus, but the lifting of restrictions is not without risk. Those risks revolve around increased hospital admissions and deaths, an increase in cases of Long Covid, workforce absences and the emergence of new variants which might be worse than the one that's circulating now. We can expect to see cases increase for some time and there's lots of uncertainty about how big this wave will be and the impact it will have but what we do know is that the more cautious we are and the slower we return to pre-covid behaviours, the more likely we are to minimise the peak. So, we all have a part to play in making this work and keeping our communities safe.

It's critical that we remain cautious. By being vigilant and keeping up with those simple steps we've been so good at doing over the last year, we can all stay safe.

- Wash our hands regularly.
- Meet up with friends and family we don't routinely mix with outside.
- Get ourselves tested and self-isolate if we have any symptoms that we think might be Coronavirus.
- Continue to use face coverings in crowded indoor places and on public transport.
- Take up the offer of both doses of the vaccine.

Why should I get the vaccine?

People who have not been vaccinated are at much greater risk of becoming unwell and of transmitting infection. Just because you're young doesn't mean

Mild COVID-19 symptoms for you

Could make others seriously ill

DON'T GUESS. SELF-ISOLATE AND GET A TEST.

NHS COVID-19 app | nhs.uk/Get-Tested | 119

Covid 19 is risk free. Some younger people will end up in hospital and more will go on to develop Long Covid which for some people has meant they have been unable to work for months or to go out and enjoy the freedoms which we have gained over the last few months.

Having the vaccine is one of the best things you can do to protect yourself and others, so it remains essential that everybody comes forward for both doses. We know vaccines protect most of us from serious illness and help to reduce infections, and their effectiveness increases as more people are fully vaccinated.

Getting both doses of the vaccine is our best hope of reducing the serious health harms caused by Covid. It is effective against all current variants, particularly if you have received both doses and the more of us who have it, the more we will lower the rates of Covid infections in our communities and reduce the risk of more serious variants emerging.

Appointments are available through www.nhs.uk or at walk-in vaccination

centres throughout the region so if you haven't already, please make sure you take up this offer and get both doses.

Why should I wear face covering now that it is not a legal requirement?

I'd strongly encourage people to continue to use face coverings in crowded indoor places. Wearing them in busy indoor areas and on public transport will still help to protect you and those around you, even though they're no longer legally required. We also need to consider the feelings of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities who are telling me that they're really concerned about using public transport if face coverings aren't worn.

Although restrictions have been lifted, we are not heading back to life as we knew it so we must continue to work together to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.



NEW COMMUNITY HUB OPENS IN CRAMLINGTON

A new community space has opened in the heart of Cramlington to help connect people in the area.

The hub at Cramlington has opened near Manor Walks Shopping Centre and will be a space where locals can meet others, take part in activities, visit the library or enjoy a coffee with friends in the Learning Café.

Officially opened in July, the hub will offer a vibrant and welcoming

space for social groups, activities and workshops, with a regular programme of events focusing on themes ranging from health and wellbeing to skills and employment and financial advice and support.

This fantastic new community space will be open to any groups looking to host an event or

regular classes. If you run a group or volunteer and you want to get involved, please contact the Northumberland Communities Together Team.

It is hoped that similar hubs will be set up across the county with the aim of connecting local communities.





YOU ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

If you've not heard about our Covid Community Champions programme yet, Champions are members of the public who are supported to regularly share the key things people need to know about Covid-19 with their friends, families and communities, in person and online.

So how does it work? Anyone in Northumberland can sign up to be a Champion and we'll take you through the facts and figures before you start. A hot-off-the press weekly bulletin is then provided every Friday, highlighting up to date case rates, policy changes or statements

from regional leaders, as well as examples of social media posts which can be used to dispel myths, pointing people to accurate sources of information.

Monthly Q&A sessions provide updates on where we are as a county, expert speakers and the most important messages that month, but are also a great opportunity for Champs to feedback what they have been hearing on the ground and explore any tricky issues together.

The Champs role is as important now as it has ever been to help us all make sense of how we live with Covid-19.

To join the team, go to: www.northumberland.gov.uk and search 'community champion' to find out more.

Or drop us a line at: volunteer@northumberland.gov.uk

Keep up the great work, #TeamChamp! You are doing an important job of helping us to get the right messages out to people and communities in Northumberland.

To find out more about what is available go to: <https://nland.uk/HubAtCramlington>

If you want to have a chat with the team at Northumberland Communities Together call: 01670 620 015 9am-6pm, 7 days a week or email: NCT@northumberland.gov.uk





Hannah Young



Cole Williams



Catharine Burrows

INVESTING IN HOMEGROWN TALENT

Over the last five years, the council has employed more than 1,000 apprentices and is committed to investing in more of our county's homegrown talent with 18 apprentices joining the workforce in February and a further 30 set to join in September.

Our new recruits won't be making tea and photocopies - they are getting practical hands-on training, while earning while they learn.

A great example is Hannah Young, Level 2 Horticulture and Landscape apprentice who loves her hands-on role:

"There are a lot of learning opportunities and a lot of opportunities for career progression which was the main thing I looked for in an apprenticeship.

"I really like working at the council, being a woman in a very male-orientated industry, it was quite daunting at first, but the team have made me feel really welcome."

The apprenticeship programme offers apprenticeships from entry to degree level and provides the opportunity to develop skills and experience while working towards achieving nationally recognised qualifications.

Apprenticeships are also a great way to start a second career, and Catharine Burrows did just that: "After taking a long career break to start a family an apprenticeship has offered me a chance to reignite my working career.

"It's been a great way to build my confidence up while learning on the job. Colleagues, managers and directors have all been really supportive and helpful."

For further information on apprenticeships at Northumberland County Council please email:
apprenticeshipenquiries@northumberland.gov.uk



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINTS TO BE TRIALLED IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

To enable as many of our residents to switch to electric vehicles (EV) as possible, we are investing in EV charging infrastructure across Northumberland.

At present, there are currently no on-street charging points in the county, which deters some people from buying an electric car.

Road transport accounts for 33% of CO2 in Northumberland according to the most recent report from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in 2018.

In order to meet our net-zero targets by 2030, at least 55,000 car owners in Northumberland need to make the change to EV, and everyone needs to do their bit to take shorter journeys on foot or by bike and minimise longer car journeys in general.

The council has been awarded more than £115k from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OVEZ) to install on-street residential charging points for EVs at seven locations across the county as part of a pilot scheme. Fifteen charge points will be installed over the coming months at key locations in Alnwick, Ashington, Bellingham, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Corbridge, Felton and Haltwhistle, allowing for up to 30 vehicles to charge at any one time.

You can find out where these chargers will be situated and other news on climate change initiatives in the county by subscribing to our newsletter: <https://nland.uk/climatenewsletter>



CHARGING AHEAD WITH GIGAFACTORY

Approval of plans for a huge 'gigaplant' in the county is set to bring thousands of jobs and major investment.

Planning approval has been given to Britishvolt, which specialises in battery technologies and chose Cambois in the south east of Northumberland for its site.

The £2.6 billion set aside to fund the scheme is believed to make it the biggest single industrial investment in the north east since Nissan set-up shop on Wearside in the 1980s.

The facility will produce world-class lithium-ion batteries with the first phase of the facility intended to be operational by 2023 and at full capacity by 2028. Once at full capacity, the gigaplant will have a production capability equating to approximately 300,000 electric vehicle battery packs each year, intended primarily for the automotive industry.

When built, the site is anticipated to employ almost 3,000 workers. Of these, around 300 will be office staff with the rest operational workers.

It's also expected there will be a several thousand indirect jobs created in the local supply chains for the development.

LOVE IT LIKE IT'S YOURS

We've teamed up with **Visit Northumberland** this summer to launch a new campaign welcoming people to our county – and encouraging them to act responsibly.

And the stars of the 'Love It Like It's Yours' initiative will be familiar faces to some – as they represent local businesses from across the county.

Patrick Norris from Belford, who runs the popular guided walking business, catering for walkers of all abilities, said: "My favourite part of Northumberland has to be the Pilgrims' Way walk to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

"I wanted to support this campaign to help remind visitors to do their bit and leave no trace. If businesses in our county pull together in support of this, it means that we

can reap the benefits of visitors, while helping keep it unspoilt for generations to come."

The campaign is featuring on TV, radio and digital advertising and there is an accompanying toolkit for businesses with a range of downloadable marketing materials - all aimed at reminding visitors to respect this special place.

Ally Thompson runs Hjem, a Michelin-star dining experience near Hexham with partner and chef, Alex Nietosvuri, who also features.

She explained: "We wanted to be

involved because this is our home and we love it. We are very proud of the county and when people visit, they aren't prepared for its beauty. But when they don't treat it with the respect it deserves it is quite upsetting to witness."

David Hall, chair of Visit Northumberland, added: "We've created this campaign, to remind visitors, but also to provide easily accessible and usable information for Northumberland businesses to share with their customers, that encourages them to keep this beautiful place just that."



BUSINESSES CAN DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT AT
[VISITNORTHUMBERLAND.COM/BUSINESS-TOOLKIT](https://www.visitnorthumberland.com/business-toolkit)



WARMER WEATHER WILDFIRE WARNING

While the warmer weather is welcomed by most, it also unfortunately brings an increased risk of wildfires.

The county is enjoying a bumper year for tourism but the council and its partners are reminding residents and visitors to be aware of the dangers of campfires and barbecues leading to wildfires.

In the past 12 months, there have been around 120 fires relating to barbecues and campfires, as well as nine wildfires - including one already this summer which destroyed 18 acres of woodland.

People are being reminded to respect the Countryside Code, put out cigarettes carefully and avoid lighting fires and barbecues.

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Chief Fire Officer, Paul Hedley said: "Human error is by far the biggest cause of wildfires. 2020 was a record year for wildfires despite the long period spent under a national lockdown.

"Wildfires are a big problem because they cause considerable damage to our wildlife, natural environment and local communities. It can take many years for an area to recover.

"They also put significant pressure on the emergency services, particularly in remote areas that aren't easily accessible. We often need to send a large number of crews and fire engines to these incidents, which pulls resources away from other areas.

"Our message is clear. Please don't

light barbecues, even disposable ones and don't bring fire pits or build small fires, however insignificant you may think they are. Please don't risk it!"



RAIL SCHEME RIGHT ON TRACK

Another milestone on the Northumberland Line rail project has been reached after the first sections of track were replaced.

Network Rail have completed work to renew a section of track in preparation for the pioneering project to reopen - the first physical piece of work on the project to reintroduce a regular rail passenger service between Ashington and Newcastle.

The line was closed to passengers in 1964 as part of the Beeching cuts and the essential work involved renewing 600 yards of rails and componentry, which had been used exclusively by freight trains for many years.

The new scheme will provide new and improved transport links for passengers by upgrading 18 miles

of track and signalling, opening six new stations and creating new footbridges and underpasses.

It will carry thousands of residents a day between Ashington and Newcastle in just over half an hour and could boost the local economy by up to £470m after it becomes operational by 2024.

David Underwood, Senior Programme Manager for Network Rail's North and East route, said: "It's amazing to see work to reopen the Northumberland Line finally begin. This is a promising first step in an ambitious project which will revitalise rail in the area and see regular passenger services return."

AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR COMMUNITIES IN NEED

The council is working hard to improve the quantity and quality of affordable housing in the county and to help create more homes for rent.

In addition to annual investment of over £9million to existing council houses, an ambitious housing programme is being developed to bring forward new affordable homes across the county.

The houses will be of mixed sizes to meet local needs, with housing options for the elderly, families and for single people.

Council officers have been looking for potential development sites, working with housing developers and assisting community led schemes, to support the building of affordable housing where it is most needed.

The council has confirmed plans in place to deliver 196 affordable properties at **Blyth, Embelton, Wooler, Amble, Ellington and Allendale**. To support these developments, the council was successful in securing an initial grant of over £900k through Homes England's Affordable Homes Programme.

There are a further 460 potential affordable homes in the pipeline, including schemes at **Cramlington, New Hartley, Rothbury and Hexham**.

In addition to new build schemes, there is lots of work going on to help bring empty properties back into use as affordable rented homes.

When available, the properties will be rented out to those on the county Homefinder allocation system.



THE COUNCIL'S NEW CABINET

Northumberland County Council is made up of 67 democratically elected councillors who are there to represent the views and opinions of individuals and are a voice and a leader for their local community.

They help decide how the county council should carry out its various functions and how multi-million-pound budgets are spent.

The council also has a Cabinet with each member on it responsible for a separate portfolio area. They hold a key role on the council and

are involved in and help to influence many of the important decisions to do with their service area.

The Cabinet will play a pivotal role over the coming years as we work to grow Northumberland's economy and ensure a bright future for everyone who lives, works and visits our great county.



GLEN SANDERSON
Leader



RICHARD WEARMOUTH
Deputy Leader



WENDY PATTISON
Adults' Wellbeing



COLIN HORNCASTLE
Community Services



WOJCIECH PLOSZAJ
Business



GUY RENNER-THOMPSON
Children & Young People



JEFF WATSON
Healthy Lives



JOHN RIDDLE
Local Services

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

<p>CAROLINE BALL (LAB)</p> <p>Ashington Central</p> 	<p>DAVID BAWN (CON)</p> <p>Morpeth North</p> 	<p>JOHN BEYNON (CON)</p> <p>Morpeth Stobhill</p> 	<p>LES BOWMAN (LAB)</p> <p>Holywell</p> 	<p>STEVEN BRIDGETT (IND)</p> <p>Rothbury</p> 	<p>DANIEL CARR (CON)</p> <p>South Blyth</p> 	<p>EILEEN CARTIE (LAB)</p> <p>Wensleydale</p> 
<p>RICHARD DODD (CON)</p> <p>Ponteland North</p> 	<p>CHRISTINE DUNBAR (CON)</p> <p>Cramlington Eastfield</p> 	<p>ELIZABETH DUNN (LAB)</p> <p>Lynemouth</p> 	<p>PAUL EZHILCHELVAN (CON)</p> <p>Cramlington South East</p> 	<p>DAVID FERGUSON (CON)</p> <p>Hartley</p> 	<p>BARRY FLUX (CON)</p> <p>Cramlington West</p> 	<p>JULIE FOSTER (LAB)</p> <p>Stakeford</p> 
<p>ISABEL HUNTER (LIB DEM)</p> <p>Berwick West with Ord</p> 	<p>IAN HUTCHINSON (CON)</p> <p>Haltwhistle</p> 	<p>PETER JACKSON (CON)</p> <p>Ponteland South with Heddon</p> 	<p>VERONICA JONES (CON)</p> <p>Ponteland West</p> 	<p>DEREK KENNEDY (IND)</p> <p>Hexham West</p> 	<p>JAMES LANG (LAB)</p> <p>Seaton with Newbiggin West</p> 	<p>SCOTT LEE (NON ALIGNED)</p> <p>Cramlington East</p> 
<p>WOJCIECH PLOSAJ (CON)</p> <p>Kitty Brewster</p> 	<p>MARK PURVIS (LAB)</p> <p>College</p> 	<p>JEFF REID (LIB DEM)</p> <p>Plessey</p> 	<p>GUY RENNER-THOMPSON (CON)</p> <p>Bamburgh</p> 	<p>MARGARET RICHARDSON (LAB)</p> <p>Cowpen</p> 	<p>JOHN RIDDLE (CON)</p> <p>Bellingham</p> 	<p>MALCOLM ROBINSON (NON ALIGNED)</p> <p>Bedlington West</p> 
<p>MARTIN SWINBANK (GREEN)</p> <p>Alnwick</p> 	<p>MARK SWINBURN (CON)</p> <p>Cramlington Village</p> 	<p>CHRISTINE TAYLOR (IND)</p> <p>Bedlington Central</p> 	<p>TREVOR THORNE (CON)</p> <p>Shilbottle</p> 	<p>DAVID TOWNS (CON)</p> <p>Pegswood</p> 	<p>HOLLY WADDELL (LAB)</p> <p>Bywell</p> 	<p>ALEX WALLACE (LAB)</p> <p>Sleekburn</p> 

<p>GORDON CASTLE (CON)</p> <p>Alnwick</p> 	<p>TREVOR CESSFORD (CON)</p> <p>Hexham Central with Acomb</p> 	<p>TERRY CLARK (LAB)</p> <p>Amble</p> 	<p>ANNE DALE (NON ALIGNED)</p> <p>Stocksfield & Broomhaugh</p> 	<p>WAYNE DALEY (CON)</p> <p>Cramlington North</p> 	<p>LYLE DARWIN (CON)</p> <p>Ponteland East with Stannington</p> 	<p>SCOTT DICKINSON (LAB)</p> <p>Druridge Bay</p> 
<p>BRIAN GALLACHER (LAB)</p> <p>Haydon</p> 	<p>LYNNE GRIMSHAW (LAB)</p> <p>Bothal</p> 	<p>COLIN HARDY (CON)</p> <p>Northam and Islandshires</p> 	<p>GEORGINA HILL (IND)</p> <p>Berwick East</p> 	<p>CATHERINE HOMER (CON)</p> <p>Hexham East</p> 	<p>COLIN HORNCastle (CON)</p> <p>South Tynedale</p> 	<p>CLIFF HUMPHREY (CON)</p> <p>Newsham</p> 
<p>MARK MATHER (CON)</p> <p>Wooler</p> 	<p>NICK MORPHET (GREEN)</p> <p>Humshaugh</p> 	<p>MARY MURPHY (LAB)</p> <p>Choppington</p> 	<p>KATH NISBET (LAB)</p> <p>Croft</p> 	<p>NICHOLAS OLIVER (CON)</p> <p>Corbridge</p> 	<p>KENNETH PARRY (LAB)</p> <p>Hirst</p> 	<p>WENDY PATTISON (CON)</p> <p>Longhoughton</p> 
<p>GLEN SANDERSON (CON)</p> <p>Longhorsley</p> 	<p>ANGIE SCOTT (LAB)</p> <p>Prudhoe North</p> 	<p>PAUL SCOTT (CON)</p> <p>Seghill with Seaton Delaval</p> 	<p>CATHERINE SEYMOUR (CON)</p> <p>Berwick North</p> 	<p>ALAN SHARP (LIB DEM)</p> <p>Haydon with Hadrian</p> 	<p>ELIZABETH SIMPSON (LAB)</p> <p>Newbiggin Central & East</p> 	<p>GORDON STEWART (CON)</p> <p>Prudhoe South</p> 
<p>ANNA WATSON (LAB)</p> <p>Isabella</p> 	<p>JEFF WATSON (CON)</p> <p>Amble West with Warkworth</p> 	<p>RICHARD WEARMOUTH (CON)</p> <p>Morpeth Kirkill</p> 	<p>REBECCA WILCZEK (LAB)</p> <p>Bedlington East</p> 	<p>To find out more or to contact your local county councillor go to:</p> <p>https://nland.uk/councillor</p>		



GIVING FAMILIES SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Four Northumberland schools have adopted a safer route for drop off and pick up times thanks to a **'School Streets'** initiative and a number of measures to reduce the impact of cars at the school gates.

In partnership with the council, schools are able to give children the chance to enjoy a safer, car-free space as they walk, scoot or cycle to and from school.

Initiatives such as timed pedestrian and cycling only zones, road narrowing and parking restrictions have all been introduced and welcomed.

The 'School Streets' initiative forms part of the Go Smarter, Safer Routes to School programme which encompasses a number of initiatives to encourage people in Northumberland to choose an alternative way to travel. It means more children are given the opportunity to walk and cycle, benefiting their own health and wellbeing, whilst also helping to alleviate road safety concerns and reduce air pollution.

Hareside Primary School, Cramlington, **Newsham and New Delaval Primary Schools** in Blyth and **Josephine Butler Primary School**, Ashington have benefited



from 'School Streets' schemes, with **St Aidan's RC Primary School**, Ashington and **Bishop's Primary School-Thomas Bewick**, Ashington also receiving a number of improvements to the streets to improve road safety.

The 'School Streets' initiative further supports Northumberland's call to residents to adopt more sustainable ways of getting around the county and saving the environment whilst also benefiting their own health and wellbeing.



NORTHUMBERLAND CHANGES GEAR

The Big Northumberland Gear Change campaign is asking residents to “slow down” and encouraging people to ditch the car in favour of walking and cycling.

Adopting more sustainable ways of getting around the county will help to save the planet (and waistlines).

Packed with tips and advice from fellow residents who have swapped petrol for pedals, the action-packed website has been launched to convince residents to reduce their reliance on cars, which is crucial in achieving Northumberland's net zero carbon emissions target by 2030. With only 13% of all journeys in

Northumberland made on foot or by bike and with a third of all trips made in the county less than 5km, there is plenty of potential for us all to ditch our cars some or all of the time in favour of healthier, greener and happier ways of getting around.

So, are you up for a challenge? Take on our six-week gear change challenge. Once you've signed up you will receive a weekly email with tips on how to become greener and leaner! As well as a specific weekly challenge to help you go car free.



TO SIGN UP AND TO FIND OUT MORE:
WWW.NORTHUMBERLANDGEARCHANGE.CO.UK

WHERE YOU SHOP REALLY MATTERS

SHOP LOCAL – SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Independent retailers from across Northumberland have added their support to our Shop Local, Shop Northumberland campaign.



Wilmer and Ellie Carcamo,
Caribe Coffee Co



Daniel Turnbull, Turnbull's



We're encouraging residents and visitors to continue to support those businesses who have helped our communities through the last 18 months.

Now is the time to explore what independent retailers you have on your doorstep instead of travelling miles to shop in a giant retailer.

Butchers, bakers, bookshops and more have joined the campaign to show the quality and variety of shops we have available. Businesses from Berwick to Hexham are showcased as part of the campaign in a series of promotional videos.



Hazel Coulson, Urban Pooch

Daniel Turnbull, who is sixth generation in the family butcher's business, said: "By shopping local you are not only supporting us, but you are also supporting the 40 staff who work for **Turnbull's**, and most importantly, you are directly supporting the livelihoods of all of our local farmers and producers who work incredibly hard and are just as passionate about local food and drink as we are."

Urban Pooch was opened by Hazel Coulson in Amble Harbour Village when she struggled to find unique accessories for her Blue French Bulldog, Ivy. She said: "It's such a lovely atmosphere at the Harbour Village and everyone who supports the businesses here knows they are helping to put something back into the local area."

Wilmer and Ellie Carcamo set up **Caribe Coffee Co**, based in Morpeth, in 2018 due to their love of coffee and a vision to provide better quality coffee for independent retailers and our homes. They said: "We hope that customers can play their part by spreading the word about their favourite local retailers with friends and family and continuing to buy local rather than from bigger retailers."



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET:

Choose to Shop Local using independent retailers as much as possible.

Buy local produce from butchers, farm shops or local markets. In this way you'll also be supporting local farmers.

If you have a birthday or a special occasion why not ask friends and family for vouchers for your favourite local shop, restaurant, bookshop or hotel.

Support local businesses on social media. Share, Like and Follow their posts and recommend them to others.

FIND OUT MORE WWW.DISCOVEROURLAND.CO.UK/SHOPLOCAL
 DOWNLOAD OUR TOOLKIT WWW.DISCOVEROURLAND.CO.UK/BUSINESSTOOLKIT

LOCAL PLAN NEARING COMPLETION

A local plan includes all the planning policies that are used to guide and decide on planning applications in an area.

The local plan that the council is developing for Northumberland aims to conserve and nurture Northumberland's identity, support a thriving and competitive economy, and protect the health and wellbeing of people and communities.

Developing a local plan is a detailed and time-consuming job – with a need to provide strong evidence for all of the policies, and giving ample opportunity for all interested parties to have a say on all of the detail.

In Northumberland we are at the stage of a new local plan being 'examined' by independent planning inspectors appointed by the Government.

During 2019 and 2020 the inspectors held public hearings on a number of aspects of the plan.

The lead inspector wrote to the council with her findings in March. Whilst she did not consider the plan that had been submitted to be 'sound', she said that it can be made so with a number of modifications.

An eight-week consultation on proposed modifications ran from 9 June to 4 August.

The planning inspectors will now consider all responses to the modifications, before providing their final conclusions to the council.

The timing is in the hands of the inspectors, however it is hoped that the council may adopt the local plan and start to use it fully in deciding planning applications towards the end of the year.

You can read more about the plan at nland.uk/LocalPlan



NET-ZERO NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland is committed to making our county carbon neutral by 2030, but we need everyone to do their bit to help reduce carbon emissions as much as possible over the next decade.

Where can you help make a difference?

We want our communities to flourish while also reducing their carbon footprint and helping make Northumberland a cleaner and greener county for everyone. Over the past six months we have been working with ten community groups to establish the foundations of our Community Climate Champions scheme.

The scheme aims to give residents and community groups the opportunity to educate and involve their communities in tackling climate change and empower them with their own community climate action plans.

Applications for the scheme open in September. If you would like to be the first to hear about the scheme, please email: climate@northumberland.gov.uk

Plant more trees

Trees help absorb harmful carbon emissions from our atmosphere and turn them into the oxygen we breathe. We want every household in Northumberland to have the opportunity to plant a tree as one way to help make our county carbon neutral.

Last year we helped plant 15,000 trees in our county-wide Free Tree giveaway, but we're not stopping there. This year's scheme will reopen to applications from residents, community groups and schools from September.



INVESTING IN EDUCATION FOR ALL

As our schools take a much-needed summer break, the work does not stop on the multi-million-pound investments in new schools and school improvements across Northumberland.

The council is committed to improving education prospects for all and school investment continues to be the council's largest ever capital programme.

IN THE NORTH

Berwick - Investment is being made to improve the schools offer in the area. Discussions are ongoing with the schools in the partnership to ensure plans going forward will provide long-term, fit-for-purpose education systems and buildings.

Ashington Academy in order to improve the educational, dining and sports facilities at the school. Work is due to be complete for September 2021.

Morpeth - A grant of £320k has been provided by the council to Three Rivers Learning Trust to facilitate the purchase and installation of a two-classroom modular unit at Newminster Middle School. The additional accommodation will support the growth in student numbers.

Blyth - Work is continuing to build a new free special school in Blyth and

IN WEST NORTHUMBERLAND

Hexham - Work is nearing completion on the £36.1m development to build a new high school and middle school on the current Queen Elizabeth High School site. Together with the refurbishment of the Grade II listed hydro building, the school buildings are set to be open by September 2021.

Haltwhistle - Refurbishment and remodelling of the former middle school is nearing completion. The £2.65m investment from the council will see the primary school move into its new accommodation in September and begin to use the state-of-the-art facilities including a new nursery, classrooms and a multi-purpose studio. Haltwhistle Children's Centre will also relocate to the site and enjoy access to new facilities.

ACROSS NORTHUMBERLAND

Work has begun to replace a number of old mobile classroom buildings using £2.5m of government funding. The new units will provide modern teaching and nursery facilities at Felton Church of England and Shilbottle Primary Schools; Amble and Red Row First Schools and Seaton Sluice Middle School.



Ponteland

Amble - Plans continue to be developed for the investment at James Calvert Spence College in Amble to improve the school facilities and meet modern day demands of the curriculum.

the council has worked with partners to develop designs for The Gilbert Ward Academy. Construction is due to start at the end of 2021 with the school opening in 2023.

IN CENTRAL NORTHUMBERLAND

Ponteland - A new flagship £46m schools and leisure development was successfully opened in November 2020, with a new high school and primary school and a fantastic new state-of-the-art leisure centre.

IN THE SOUTH-EAST

Ashington - A £1.5m grant funding contribution is supporting the modernisation and remodelling of



Hexham



IMPROVING SPORT AND LEISURE ACROSS NORTHUMBERLAND

Work continues across Northumberland to roll out the £65 million investment programme in sport and leisure facilities.



Fantastic progress has been made with our ambitious investment programme including the opening of a flagship sports and leisure centre in Ponteland last year. Here's an update on how other schemes are progressing.

MORPETH

Site works have now commenced on Morpeth's new £21 million leisure centre and community hub on Gas House Lane and is on schedule to open early 2023.

The new centre will include a six-lane swimming pool with spectator gallery, a learner pool, soft play facilities, new Tranquillity spa facilities, a four-court sports hall and a new state-of-the-art fitness suite.

The centre will also see a much-

improved fitness studio offer with a dedicated cycling studio and two large fitness studios. A new front of house customer experience will provide a modern and welcoming café and reception.



The centre will also incorporate a new community services hub which will include the town's library, a customer service centre and an adult learning facility.

BERWICK

The construction of the new £22.6 million Berwick Leisure Centre is well underway with the new swimming pools, spa and fitness suite, café, indoor bowling area and sensory room expected to open to the public in autumn 2021.

Phase one of the development will feature a five-lane, 25m swimming pool, a learner pool with an adjustable floor and a leisure area which includes race slides and water play features.

The spa facilities include a sauna,



Ponteland Schools & Leisure Campus

steam room, salt room and spa pool. Three fitness studios and a gym area are also being constructed.

A new full sized 3G pitch has been built next to the centre and is already proving very popular.

The second phase of the work will include the sports hall and car parking area and this is expected to be complete by summer 2022.

BLYTH

Blyth sports centre is nearing the completion of a major £5 million scheme to improve sports and leisure facilities and create a wellness hub for the local community.

The final phase of work is due to be complete in September and will include a dedicated cycling studio, a new and improved soft play experience and an extended cafe offer. A modern reception area will improve the customer experience.

Previous work has included the creation of a new gym and fitness area, two new fitness studios and new spa facilities. The toilets and changing rooms have also been refurbished and the pool hall refreshed and redecorated.

New classrooms in the centre will provide a range of learning



Morpeth

opportunities for the local community.

NEWBIGGIN

Work is due to start this summer on a new £1.5 million pound scheme to refurbish and revitalise Newbiggin Sports and Community Centre with work expected to be complete in early 2022.

Plans have been approved for the scheme which will provide modern leisure, library and community spaces.

There will be a dedicated cycling studio and a new gym area with

weights and cardio equipment.

The squash courts and viewing gallery will be refurbished and improvements made to the six-court sports hall.

There will be new and improved changing facilities, a welcoming reception area, a library and the creation of a community café and hub area.

We're also working with local clubs and the Football Foundation to provide new grass pitches at the centre.



active
Northumberland

MEMBERSHIP
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PERSONAL PROGRAMME
LOYALTY POINTS

GOAL SETTING, ADVICE, CHALLENGES

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OR
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Northumberland

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85p
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ONE-OFF PAYMENT



FREE SUMMER WALKS TO STEP UP YOUR HEALTH

Free health walks are taking place across the county to encourage more people to get out into the great outdoors and improve their health.

The walks are suitable for all levels of ability and take between half an hour and an hour and a half.

All you have to do is turn up at one of the venues wearing sensible footwear and appropriate outdoor clothing and bring a drink if it is hot.

You'll have great company, trained walk leaders and safe walking routes to get you on your way to a healthier lifestyle.

For full details of walks, times and distances go to: nland.uk/walking or ring 01670 620 200



FREE COURSE HELPS IMPROVE WEIGHT AND WELLBEING



Residents are being invited to sign up to a free weight management programme if they want to achieve a long-lasting healthy weight and boost their wellbeing.

The programme is available in leisure centres around the county and is open to adults with a body mass index of over 30kg/m² who are interested in losing weight and getting fitter and healthier.

The unique 12-week course, designed by experts, helps participants to start

and maintain healthier habits and to introduce realistic lifestyle goals to achieve a healthy weight.

They will also learn about the key factors that contribute to weight gain and why so many methods of 'dieting' fail in the long term. The programme consists of weekly, one hour classroom-based sessions and an optional exercise element.

Not sure about your BMI you can check it by visiting: nland.uk/BMI

If you are interested please email: weightmanagement@activenorthumberland.org.uk or sign up at: nland.uk/refer

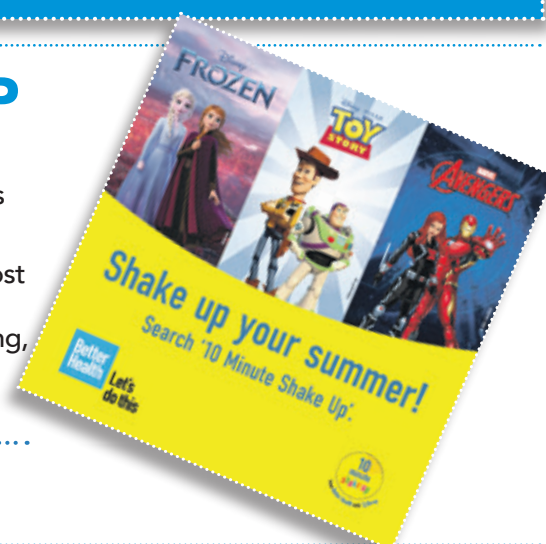
10 MINUTE SUMMER SHAKE UP

A fantastic, fun initiative is taking place over the summer to encourage children and families to get active.

The Change4Life 10 Minute Shake Up campaign uses a bit of Disney magic to inspire children to reach the recommended 60 minutes of

physical activity each day with fun, manageable, 10 minute bursts of exercise.

Working with some of Disney's most popular characters, the campaign focuses on activities such as running, jumping, skipping, throwing, catching and balance.



For local activities and further information visit: www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up

SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A programme of fun activities is running across Northumberland during the summer holiday as part of a government scheme to encourage healthy eating and an active lifestyle.

The fully funded holiday programme means children and young people will be able to fill their holidays with adventure as they make new friends, learn new skills and make memories to cherish forever.

There will be some fantastic experiences on offer including sport, music,

dance, drama, art, cooking and gardening.

Those taking part will also receive a healthy meal as part of the council's wider commitment to ensure those who receive free school meals in term time continue to do so.

The summer programme has been made possible thanks to £1,029,980 funding from the Government's Holiday Activities and Food programme which will also fund further holiday programmes throughout the year.



If you think your children might benefit from the holiday clubs and you would like to find out what is running in your area over the summer, please phone the Northumberland Communities Together Response Hub on **01670 620 015** 9am-6pm, 7 days a week or email: **NCT@northumberland.gov.uk** to find out more.



LIBRARIES UPDATE...

Most libraries are open for time limited browsing and prebooked PC access.

Some are operating amended hours so please check before visiting. If you prefer to carry on collecting a selection of books made by library staff, you can but we are looking forward to seeing

you and helping you choose whilst you are browsing.

Books can be returned to libraries during opening hours but don't panic! Fines on overdue books are currently suspended. Books and audiobooks can be borrowed for three weeks and renewed if no one else has requested them.

To check our latest opening hours go to **www.mylibrary.co.uk**

Northumberland Libraries are offering a free digital helpline for anyone who is struggling with IT at home.

To request a call back ring **0345 600 6400**



MUSEUMS PRESENT 'NORTHUMBERLAND FOLK'

Discover some of Northumberland's strangest stories and most curious characters through award-winning illustrator Jonny Hannah's extraordinary collection of paintings, prints and cut-outs alongside objects and artefacts from the museum collections. But expect the unexpected, these are no ordinary art gallery exhibitions...

This series of vibrant and colourful exhibitions at Berwick Museum and Art Gallery, Hexham Old Gaol, Morpeth Chantry Bagpipe Museum and Woodhorn Museum will be enjoyed by all the family.

www.museumsnorthumberland.org.uk



KEEPING BROTHERS AND SISTERS TOGETHER IS OUR PRIORITY

Adopt North East particularly needs forever families who can adopt brothers and sisters together.

Staying together can help children settle, develop their self-esteem, support their mental health and improve their life chances.

Could you be the forever family for a sibling group like Oscar, Mia and Jacob? Oscar is eight and is a warm-hearted, creative little boy. Mia is six and loves playing and entertaining people. Their brother Jacob is five and interested in everything around him.*

All enquiries are welcome and we will be with you every step of the way. We also hold regular virtual information evenings where you can find out more about adopting:

11/08/21 • 09/09/21 • 04/10/21 • 10/11/21

For enquiries call us on **0191 643 5000**
or email: adoptnortheast@northtyneside.gov.uk
www.adoptnortheast.org.uk

*Names and details have been changed.

ARE YOUR KIDS UP FOR A CHALLENGE THIS SUMMER?

Head to your nearest library or join online and take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. The aim is to encourage children to continue their reading journey through the summer holidays.

All they have to do is read six books over the summer, this can include e-Books and e-Audiobooks. Once completed they will receive a medal, certificate and will be entered into a prize draw to win a family tour with Billy Shiel Farne Islands Boat Tours.

They will join the Wild World Heroes on a quest to discover how they can make a difference to the environment. The Reading

Agency, who co-ordinates the annual challenge has teamed up with WWF to come up with some amazing ideas to help save the planet.

Northumberland Libraries will be offering a range of events and activities to tie in with the Challenge. All events are **FREE** but must be booked in advance on www.eventbrite.co.uk

Libraries will also be working with local partners Leading Link and Northumberland Communities Together to reach out to hundreds of children attending summer provision around the county who might not otherwise benefit from taking part in the Challenge.

To find out more go to www.mylibrary.co.uk





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across Northumberland.



SECURE YOUR PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER

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WWW.NORTHUMBERLAND.GOV.UK/LEARN

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Northumberland
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