Why does your input matter?

Our natural environment is a resource shared by everybody. It is important that we all have our say about the actions that should be taken to support nature recovery.

We want our LNRS to reflect the views and priorities, experience, knowledge, and the understanding of our coastal communities including the people who live next to, visit, or work on the sea.

By contributing to our LNRS, you can help shape a practical and achievable strategy that:

- Demonstrates a better alignment of all the competing demands on the marine area
- Represents your views on what is feasible and practical
- Influences future resources and funding allocations

Your involvement now can shape what we do for nature, future funding, local planning policy and how we do things differently.


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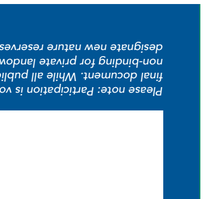
What are the opportunities in this area?


© Richard Willis

There are many opportunities to enhance the marine environment along our coastline. Many of these are linked to reducing existing pressures on our habitats and species and allowing them to recover naturally.

Water quality enhancements

- Water quality enhancements are required in the rivers and streams flowing into the marine environment as excessive nutrient inputs lead to excessive growth of some types of algae. These in turn damage the habitats of a wide range of other species

Coastal infrastructure and man-made structures

- Existing man-made structures, such as sea walls, can be retrofitted with artificial rockpools, to be more wildlife-friendly
- New structures, including those in renewable energy projects, can be designed to include features that create wildlife habitats that benefit marine species

© Nick Brodin

Habitat creation and restoration

- Increase important marine habitats by encouraging natural expansion or colonisation
- Ensure habitat expansion proposals do not harm other high-value marine habitats

Biosecurity

- Invasive non-native species (INNS) can devastate marine wildlife and damage marine businesses economically
- Implementing simple biosecurity measures like ‘Check Clean Dry’ can prevent the spread of marine INNS to new areas


© Nick Brodin

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What is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) aim to create and implement locally tailored solutions to improve our natural environment, address species loss, and build resilience in landscapes across England.

The North East Combined Authority oversees the LNRS in Northumberland, Newcastle, and North Tyneside, with Northumberland County Council leading the project. This strategy will serve as an essential plan for protecting our wildlife.

LNRS in marine areas

The formal LNRS boundary will extend to the mean low water mark, covering only the intertidal areas of the marine environment. Recognising the critical importance of our inshore coastal waters North of Tyne, we’re adding an additional ‘non-statutory’ marine section to our LNRS. This extra section, though not part of the legally required document, will outline local aspirations for our marine environment and the activities that will help achieve these goals.


© Marine Nature Partnership (MNP)

Northumberland County Council

North of Tyne Marine

Nature Recovery Conversations


© David Fenge

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Contact information

Let us know what you think.

We have suggested some ideas in this leaflet, but what do you think are the most important actions that could be undertaken to help nature thrive in this area? Whether you manage land, run a business or are a local resident, we want to hear your views.

If you are a farmer or landowner there will be a more detailed consultation for you.

Contact us

Email: lnrs@northumberland.gov.uk

WhatsApp: 07929 746542

You can also leave voice notes and/or videos via our WhatsApp.

Leave your comments below:

Please note: Participation is voluntary, and you can join at any stage. There will be a consultation on the final document. While all public bodies will have a legal obligation to have regard to the LNRS, it is non-binding for private landowners. Private land managers will not be required to make changes or designate new nature reserves because of the LNRS.

About the North of Tyne Marine area

The inshore coastal waters of the area between Tynemouth and the Scottish border are recognised as being of national and international significance for the quality and diversity of their marine wildlife.

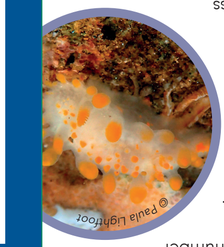
Important habitats include intertidal mudflats and sandflats, saltmarsh, estuaries, mussel beds, seagrass beds, rocky reef, sea caves, kelp forests, and marine sediments.

A wealth of species

These habitats support a range of different species including:

- Seabirds
- Seals
- Dolphins
- Fish
- Marine invertebrates such as sponges, corals, and crustacea

The high quality of our coast attracts an increasing number of visitors and recreational sea users. The area is actively fished, both recreationally and commercially. Shellfish, such as crab and lobster, are an important part of the local fishing economy. There is a growing maritime renewable industry located in the southern half of the area.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Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) aim to create and implement locally tailored solutions to improve our natural environment, address species loss, and build resilience in landscapes across England.

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We know there is already good work taking place for nature and biodiversity in some areas. We recognise the careful management over generations that has kept good habitats and species.

The coloured sites on the map are simply the existing nature designations.

Coastal squeeze

As sea levels rise, all the coastal habitats and existing land use will be squeezed. All the habitats need space to naturally rollback and to be dynamic.

The LIFE WADER project is currently working in the coastal strip and up the river Tweed.

Estuaries

Our marine area includes several important estuaries, including the Tweed, the Aln, the Coquet, and Blyth. Seawater comes in at high tide, and the estuaries are habitats for many species. There are opportunities to improve the habitats in estuaries. Both through improving water quality in the wider catchment and projects in the estuaries themselves.

Marine Invasive Species

Marine invasive species are an environmental and economic threat to our coast and waters. Biosecurity measures are needed from both commercial and recreational users of the coast. Also monitoring for the presence of new species is needed.

Water quality

Inshore waters, particularly in the north, are affected by nutrient enrichment, we think this comes from inland areas. Addressing these will help the most important habitats to recover their condition.

Seabirds

Our coast has internationally important populations of breeding seabirds. They rely on a healthy marine environment to find food for themselves and their chicks. Maintaining healthy fisheries in our inshore waters is vital for marine conservation and the local fishing economy.

Grey Seal

Our coast has internationally significant populations of grey seal. They use areas like the Farne Islands for breeding and hauling out. Seals also haul out at other places along the coast, such as Coquet Island and St Mary's Island. All the haul out areas are sensitive to recreational disturbance.

Saltmarsh, mudflats and mussel beds

Saltmarsh, mudflats, and mussel beds are important. There are water quality issues inland. There are opportunities for managed realignment to create more intertidal habitat.

Rocky Reefs

The rocky reefs have some of the most diverse habitats in the North Sea. Some of them are always underwater; some are only covered by water at high tide. There is a wide variety of species here, including kelp. They can be important places for young fish, and for commercial shellfish, such as crab and lobster.

Marine infrastructure

There are opportunities from the presence of renewable energy and other marine infrastructure. These opportunities would incorporate benefits for habitats, species, and fisheries.

Restoration measures at Lynemouth will reduce pressures on the marine area. This should result in recovery of marine habitats in Lynemouth Bay. We need to monitor the improvements.

Man-made structures

Although our coast is fairly natural, there are man-made structures like sea walls. These could be more wildlife-friendly. For example, "vertipools" which are like rockpools, or rough surfaces for seaweed and shellfish to colonise.

Berwick-upon-Tweed
Wooler
Alnwick
Amble
Rothbury
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea
Ashington
Morpeth
Bedlington
Blyth
Cramlington
Whitley Bay
Ponteland
Longbenton
Tynemouth

Northumberland County Council

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