

## FAQs

### **Q - I've walked along these cliffs for years. Is my health at risk?**

A - No. The low levels of harmful materials will not have caused any health issues to walkers or visitors and the overall risk is very low.

### **Q - What exactly have you found?**

A - Low levels of contamination which are below the concentrations that would impact on human health. There are low levels of asbestos and arsenic within the ground but nothing you wouldn't find in any other landfill site.

### **Q - What can the public do to help?**

A - We ask that any clean up is left to the council due to the instability of the cliffs and potential exposure to contaminants.

### **Q - What can you do to stop the sea being contaminated by this waste?**

A - While we're working on a long term solution to remove the harmful material in the meantime we'll be carrying out monitoring of the site and regular clean-ups.

### **Q - What are you doing about illegal off-road bikers who churn up the area?**

A - Extra warning signs are being put up. We're also working with police on extra patrols to deter riders. It is illegal to ride on these dunes and we do look to take enforcement action where possible.

### **Q - How did all this waste get here?**

A - This is the result of the area's historic mining heritage. In total, it is likely that over 30million tonnes of colliery waste was tipped at Lynemouth over seven decades before operations stopped in 2005. There has also been other historic waste disposal activity at the site, including illegal fly tipping and cable burning with these waste materials now being exposed by coastal erosion.

### **Q - Who will fund the removal of all this waste?**

A - While the council has some funding set aside it will be working with the government to look at what other funding contributions could be available.

### **Q - Why will it be 2021 before proper work can start?**

A - This is a complex and technical issue. Now that we have a better understanding of the materials in the site and have been able to determine the best long term solution to address the problems being faced, we now need to commission the detailed design, develop a working methodology, secure necessary regulatory and planning consents and procure a main works contractor to manage and implement the scheme.