

SUSSEX HERITAGE COAST

A strategy and action plan
2016–20



SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK



OUR VISION

The iconic landscapes, seascapes, wildlife and heritage of the Heritage Coast will be conserved and enhanced through landscape scale partnerships.

Opportunities will exist for increasing understanding and enjoyment whilst supporting sustainable access and developing the economic benefits to the area.



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River Cuckmere © SDNPA/Sam Moore

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for the Sussex Heritage Coast based on partnership working, and to identify an action plan for the next five years.

Heritage Coasts were established to protect and conserve the best stretches of undeveloped coast in England. The Sussex Heritage Coast was the first to be defined, stretching from Eastbourne, along the iconic chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters, past Cuckmere Haven to Splash Point at Seaford. The land section of the Sussex Heritage Coast sits entirely within the South Downs National Park.

The Sussex Heritage Coast was first defined in 1973 – following this policies and a strategy were developed. In 1992 the Countryside Commission published new priorities for Heritage Coasts which included a requirement to have a management plan. The first such plan for the Sussex Heritage Coast was produced in 1993.

In 2006 a review of Heritage Coasts was carried out, endorsing the need for management plans and recognising the complementary purposes of protected areas.

The National Purposes and Targets of Heritage Coasts

1. To conserve, protect and enhance the natural beauty of the coasts, including their terrestrial, littoral and marine flora and fauna, and their heritage features of architectural, historical and archaeological interest.
2. To facilitate and enhance their enjoyment, understanding and appreciation by the public by improving and extending opportunities for recreational, educational, sporting and tourist activities that draw on, and are consistent with, the conservation of their natural beauty and the protection of their heritage features.
3. To maintain, and improve (where necessary) the environmental health of inshore waters affecting Heritage Coasts and their beaches through appropriate works and management measures.
4. To take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing, and of the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts, by promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development, which in themselves conserve and enhance natural beauty and heritage features.



POLICY BACKGROUND

The value of Heritage Coasts is recognised through national planning policy with a stated need for planning decisions to protect and enhance them. Paragraph 114 of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) states that local authorities should: 'maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as heritage coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.'

There is considerable overlap between the purposes of Heritage Coasts and the Purposes and Duty of the South Downs National Park (see purposes 1, 2 and 4 on the previous page). The Heritage Coast is also referenced in the South Downs National Park Partnership Management Plan, specifically:

Policy 7. Actively promote more joined up and sustainable management of the coast, including the defined area of the Sussex Heritage Coast through integrated coastal zone management.

Purpose 3 of Heritage Coasts in regard to the health of inshore waters is not covered by National Park Purposes, however there is synergy with the emerging South Marine Plan, current Shoreline Management Plans and also the management advice for the recently designated Marine Conservation Zone. In addition, these waters are included in the Water Framework Directive and Catchment Partnerships.

At a local level the Heritage Coast is a unique and valued East Sussex offer that can contribute to driving sustainable economic development in targeted sectors and community engagement.

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

This plan has been developed by a small group of key partners who recognise that partnership is essential for the delivery of actions which will benefit the Heritage Coast. Other partners and volunteers will play a key role in supporting projects and initiatives which will arise as the plan progresses.

The key partners who have developed this plan are:



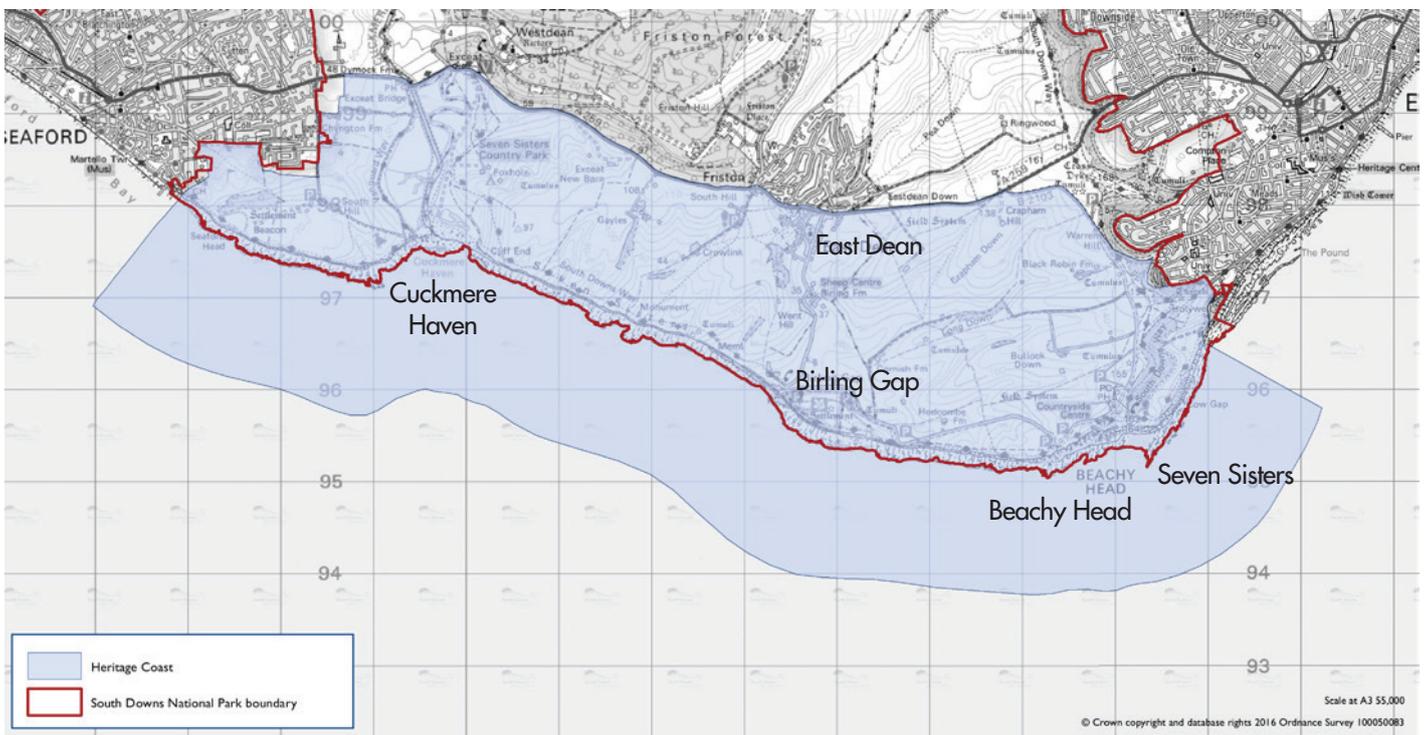
HERITAGE COAST BOUNDARY

The defined Heritage Coast stretches from Eastbourne, along the iconic chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and Seven Sisters, past the Cuckmere Estuary and Seaford Head to Splash Point at Seaford. The inland boundary is technically the A259 road, however it is recognised that this needs to be a porous boundary as there are dynamics that interact in and out of the area, as well as strong links to a range of activities in a wider area (such as tourism accommodation provision and activity).

REVIEW

This is a five year management plan and will be reviewed and revised as necessary, to keep momentum and ensure future progress.

SUSSEX HERITAGE COAST



PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS

1. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Sussex Heritage Coast encompasses two areas of national importance for wildlife and natural heritage: the Seaford to Beachy Head Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone. The animals, plants and habitats protected by these national designations can be found via the following links:

- Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI: designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk
- Beachy Head West MCZ: gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zone-2013-designation-beachy-head-west

The conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural beauty of the Heritage Coast, including its flora and fauna, geology and heritage features, should focus on maintaining these sites in favourable condition and aim for further enhancement through the key processes in the three main areas; marine, coastal and land. These key processes will include sustainable management of the marine environment and the intertidal zones and, on land, the management of the species rich chalk grassland and heathland, as well as species recovery (for example the potter flower bee) and hydrological processes. Resource management also needs to link to protection of heritage assets (see section 4).

Marine environment conservation advice for the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) has been developed by Natural England (NE) setting the priorities for future action. The Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) is responsible for creating and regulating fisheries management in the MCZ. This management encompasses all fisheries sectors and will be underpinned by the principle of supporting sustainability. The Sussex IFCA also manages fisheries in all marine waters along the Sussex Heritage Coast outside of the MCZ. Sustainable marine fisheries are a key factor of the Heritage Coast – its environment, community and economy. This is also supported by the Seven Sisters Voluntary Marine Conservation Area.

The vast majority of land in the Heritage Coast is already under Higher Level Stewardship. The most significant element of land management is sustainable conservation grazing at a landscape scale. There are several existing grazing regimes but it is recognised that it could be mutually beneficial to set up a grazing project which encourages sharing livestock where appropriate, achieving



good land management, joining up grazing and benefitting individual organisations as well. There may also be future possibilities for funding through Countryside Stewardship to facilitate a farming cluster of holdings. Conservation grazing should also be referred to when considering interpretation, access and behavioural change (see sections 2, 3 and 5).

The Cuckmere Working Group has an existing project looking at the future management of the estuary which the Heritage Coast partnership supports as a contributory project to the management of the natural environment of the Heritage Coast.

The intertidal zone is entirely subject to natural processes and there are two areas of work that can contribute to improving this zone. Firstly, an increased awareness and understanding of the flora and fauna present there and the threats/issues through interpretation (visitor panels, information leaflets etc.), and secondly to find ways to manage marine litter through behaviour change.

It is important to acknowledge the importance of the unprotected cliffs to this unique coastal landscape and their associated geological heritage.

KEY PRINCIPLE 1. Adopt and implement conservation advice for the Marine Conservation Zone.

KEY PRINCIPLE 2. Support measures that will conserve and enhance the unique coastal landscape and retain its open character and uninterrupted views.

KEY PRINCIPLE 3. Develop landscape scale management of habitats: bigger better and more connected.

KEY PRINCIPLE 4. Support an agreed approach to restoration of natural processes within the Cuckmere Estuary being pursued by the Cuckmere Working group.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- 1.1** Adopt the conservation advice package for Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).
- 1.2** Ensure compliance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Water Framework Directive to achieve good ecological status/potential.
- 1.3** Support the creation of the South Marine Plan such that it contains the relevant policies to enable Heritage Coast targets to be met.
- 1.4** Support sustainable local sea fisheries to underpin the marine environment and local markets.
- 1.5** Seek to establish a conservation grazing partnership that makes best use of existing resources at a landscape scale, to benefit the Site of Special Scientific Interest.
- 1.6** Investigate future funding and management through Countryside Stewardship.
- 1.7** Recognise the Cuckmere Working Group as contributing to Heritage Coast management.
- 1.8** Organise bioblitz events to spread awareness and understanding of the flora and fauna of the intertidal zone, including the threat of invasive non-native species.
- 1.9** Organise beach cleans to tackle marine litter and raise awareness with ports and boat-owners.



Tideline at Birling Gap © James Ringland

2. SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Sussex Heritage Coast receives well over a million visitors each year, including walkers and cyclists, day trippers and large coach parties. The challenge is to balance the area's popularity with the need to protect its special qualities. Currently many of the visitors come and go without gaining much knowledge of the Sussex Heritage Coast.

In improving the experience for visitors, growing the value of the visitor market and promoting the area further, it will be important to define the qualities of the area to articulate why it is special, why it is worth visiting and how visitors can help protect it for the future.

There are many gateways to the area: the Newhaven–Dieppe ferry line, the South Downs Way and bordering towns, in particular Eastbourne and Seaford. The food and drink portal (southdownsfood.org) volunteers play an important role in welcoming visitors at the three visitor centres in the area and should be seen as “gatekeepers” alongside the many tourist businesses in the area.

This visitor market needs to be managed so that the visitor economy helps to maintain what people come to see (e.g. funding rights of way improvements). It will be important to balance this principle with protecting the area.

KEY PRINCIPLE 5. Define the special qualities of the Sussex Heritage Coast

KEY PRINCIPLE 6. Identify existing networks of providers of sustainable tourism and recreation, and agree promotions of the special qualities.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- 2.1** Identify the special qualities of the area.
- 2.2** Develop a narrative based on these qualities and utilise in promotion of sustainable tourism and recreation.
- 2.3** Offer training and familiarisation trips for gate-keepers.
- 2.4** Develop a joint approach to managing filming and events in the area.
- 2.5** Investigate initiatives to promote the area on the back of existing and new marketing initiatives such as culture, wine and cycling.
- 2.6** Utilise the local outdoor education network to engage in the special qualities of the Heritage Coast.



Canoeing at Cuckmere Haven © SDNPA

3. ACCESS

Access to and around the area is crucial to visitors' enjoyment of the Heritage Coast whether on foot, wheelchair, bike, horse or in a bus, train or car. There will be a need to consider key access routes such as the A259 and also the future of the Beachy Head Road as the cliff erodes. There is also a need to assess any road scheme proposals against enhancement of the landscape (e.g. pressure for A27 dual carriageway and A259 road improvements). Measures to support and enable sustainable transport options need to be seriously considered.

The South Downs Way National Trail is a key route through the area and there are considerable areas of open access land (designated under the Countryside Rights Of Way act 2000). Other access routes should also be considered including re-alignment of access along the riverbanks of the Cuckmere (see section 1). The new coast path and coastal open access (led by NE) will be delivered during the life of this plan.

An access hierarchy could be developed, from the main roads around the area to the minor roads, the key recreational routes, including cycle-paths and the extensive rights of way network, which contains a high percentage of bridleways, drawing on existing work undertaken by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).

There is a need to consider sustainable access management in a dynamic system/changing environment including the ongoing work to

promote sustainable access, walking and cycling friendly destinations.

KEY PRINCIPLE 7. As a Partnership, input into future plans for highway improvements in the area.

KEY PRINCIPLE 8. The local highway authority and other relevant bodies to manage and improve recreational routes in the area.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- 3.1** Develop a hierarchy of access, to include open access land.
- 3.2** Work towards completing Coastal Access and the Coast path.
- 3.3** Work in partnership with landowners and local authorities to realign the paths alongside the river Cuckmere.
- 3.4** Liaise with highway authorities, public transport providers and other relevant bodies (e.g. Sustrans) in regard to long term plans for highways and sustainable access in the area through the delivery of the ESCC Local Transport Plan 2011–2026, whilst ensuring the relationship between improvements and the broader environment be protected and enhanced.



Cuckmere Haven © SDNPA/Wischa Haller

4. HISTORY (HERITAGE)

The Heritage Coast is rich in archaeological sites and monuments above and below ground and beneath the sea. Archaeological sites, buildings and historic landscape features such as fields and tracks endure from the past and with the geology and topography they give the Heritage Coast its own, unique evolved character; a distinctiveness that makes it possible to understand a 'sense of place'.

While rising sea levels and erosion have significantly changed, and continue to change, the Heritage Coast has been a location for human activity and settlement for well over ten thousand years. The Heritage Coast includes evidence from Stone Age hunter-gatherers and the first farmers, to internationally connected Bronze Age seafarers and metal workers. There are also many signs of the defence of Britain during the Second World War and the more recent demands of agriculture, tourism and development, as well as continued climate change and coastal erosion. There is still much to discover about the history and archaeology of the Heritage Coast.

KEY PRINCIPLE 9. Develop and implement projects to conserve and enhance heritage and archaeological features, and use these to help promote understanding of the Heritage Coast to the general public.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- 4.1** Develop an evidence base about the history and archaeology of the Heritage Coast using the Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 4.2** Support projects to understand, conserve and enhance heritage and archaeological features, particularly those under threat.
- 4.3** Promote projects that increase understanding and interpretation of the historic environment for the public benefit.
- 4.4** Promote the marine archaeology, including historic wrecks



5. VISITOR INFORMATION

The Heritage Coast area has excellent opportunities for targeting information to increase visitor enjoyment and understanding of the area. There are already a series of interpretive panels, leaflets, events and three visitor centres in the area. These need to be better coordinated to make the most of the opportunities available, looking at synergy, complementary approaches and increased partnership.

There is a case for developing an interpretive plan for the Heritage Coast, which should include the traditional visitor centres as well as social media, volunteer initiatives and behaviour change campaigns promoting responsible visits to the area. There is a need to create a consistent message and core narrative for interpretation working in partnership with other providers. The strategy should also take into account a hierarchy of information; visitor centres, areas with some interpretation and areas which should be interpretation free.

There is also a need to consider “carrying capacity” and look at visitor pressures, how to reduce the peaks, even out demand across the year and achieve a wider geographic spread as well.

Volunteers play a key role in resourcing the visitor facilities in the area and there are opportunities to develop joint briefings and training to increase knowledge. Several organisations already run events in the area and there is an

opportunity for joint support and promotion to mutual benefit. The developing volunteering network for the South Downs could provide support.

There is a basic need for interpretation to “state the obvious” highlighting that the beauty of the area and its grassland flora and fauna are due to grazing and the Seven Sisters white cliffs exist because of the constant sea erosion. There is also the need to highlight access opportunities and places to visit other than the few tourist hotspots.

KEY PRINCIPLE 10. Develop an integrated interpretive plan for the area to include key messages and options for delivery.

KEY PRINCIPLE 11. Develop a joint approach to volunteer training and supporting events in the area.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- 5.1** Develop an interpretive plan for the Heritage Coast including an audit of current provision.
- 5.2** Work together to support events to raise awareness of the area.



6. LOCAL COMMUNITY

A considerable number of community initiatives are already being undertaken by partner organisations, these include Neighbourhood Plans and the work of the Friends of the Cuckmere, which provide much of the background information and context on community needs; it is not the intention to duplicate these here.

There is a need to develop a network for local organisations to develop support for volunteer groups in the area and to highlight the opportunities that tourism and recreation visits to the area can bring. As part of this there is an opportunity to support existing initiatives and offer training and support to volunteer groups.

It is essential to engage the community in this plan. For the wider community (and visitors) this could be through a simple tool such as the postcards that were filled in for the original South Downs National Park (SDNP) sense of place work (ESCC has software for such analysis).

KEY PRINCIPLE 12. Develop and support a network for volunteers and local communities in the area encouraging opportunities to input into Heritage Coast projects.

KEY PRINCIPLE 13. Support initiatives to undertake beach cleans and promote reduction of litter along the coast.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- 6.1** Develop a network and support local volunteers.
- 6.2** Engagement and joint training for volunteers.
- 6.3** Develop and run beach cleans, beach schools and other awareness events and promotions.



7. PLANNING

The relevant planning authority for the area is the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). Joint Local Plans have been developed with Lewes District Council, Eastbourne Borough Council and Wealden District Council. The SDNPA is preparing a park wide Local Plan which will supersede the old local council plans. Lewes District Council has delegated authority to determine certain planning applications with the SDNPA, whilst all planning applications in the Eastbourne and Wealden Downs go to the SDNPA

Heritage Coasts are highlighted in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and need to be taken into account in decisions made by local planning authorities (policy and development management). In accordance with the NPPF, the local planning authorities within the Sussex Heritage Coast should, where possible, seek enhancements to the designated area.

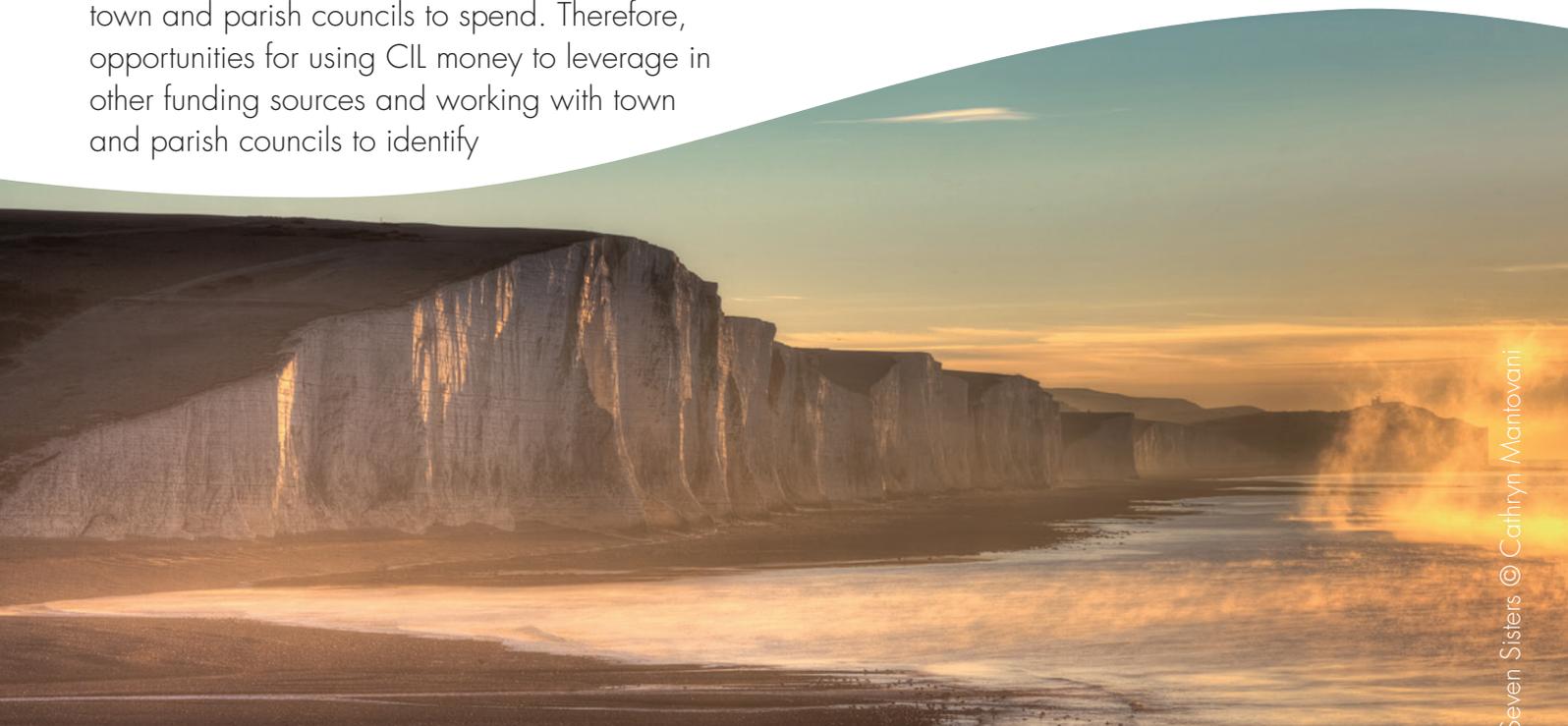
One possible way of achieving this is through the identification of green infrastructure projects in and around the Heritage Coast, which could be funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies raised. Whilst this does present a potential opportunity, it is also recognised that there will be many other infrastructure projects competing for a limited pot of money and that a significant proportion of this money will be for the relevant town and parish councils to spend. Therefore, opportunities for using CIL money to leverage in other funding sources and working with town and parish councils to identify

potential green infrastructure projects, particularly through the neighbourhood planning process, should be explored.

KEY PRINCIPLE 14. Seek to support communities and environmental gains through the CIL process.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

- 7.1** Consider any potential projects to include in the CIL register (regulation 123 list) and list project ideas coming from the Heritage Coast area that are already logged from the early draft CIL process.
- 7.2** Consider other funding sources that could aid in the implementation of green and blue infrastructure projects in the Heritage Coast
- 7.3** Work with those town and parish councils preparing neighbourhood plans in the Heritage Coast area to explore opportunities for identifying and implementing (potentially through part of their proportion of CIL receipts) green and blue infrastructure projects in and around the Heritage Coast.



ACTION PLAN

1. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
1.1 Adopt and implement the conservation advice package for Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ).	NE. Sussex IFCA	Conservation advice. Sussex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (IFCA) byelaw creation.	2015-16 adopt 2016 implement	Develop byelaws to ensure good practice and management of the MCZ. 2016
1.2 Ensure compliance with Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive to achieve good ecological status/potential.	All	River Basin Management Plan. Marine Strategy Framework Directive targets.	2020 and 2027	Undertake seaview analysis for the Heritage coast area
1.3 Support the creation of the South Marine Plan such that it contains the relevant policies to enable Heritage Coast targets.	SDNP	South Marine Plan.	2016	Input into all marine plan consultation
1.4 Support sustainable local sea fisheries to underpin marine environment and local market.	Councils, SDNP, IFCA	Sussex IFCA byelaws Marine Management Organisation fisheries statistics.	2016–20	Develop a local fish campaign
1.5 Seek to establish a conservation grazing partnership at a landscape scale.	Heritage Coast Group or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field may include Eastbourne Borough Council, National Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust, East Sussex County Council.	Grazing stock.	2016	An integrated conservation grazing plan implemented by partner bodies
1.6 Investigate future funding through Countryside stewardship.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	Advice on Countryside Stewardship.	2017	Investigate CS funding and develop a farm cluster group

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
1.7 Recognise the Cuckmere Estuary project as contributing to the Heritage Coast management and ensure the two partnerships work in a complementary way.	HCG		2016 onwards	Ensure cross party representation with CEP
1.8 Organise bioblitz events to look at flora and fauna of the intertidal zone including invasive non native species	NT, SWT, ESCC		2016 onwards	Run an annual event
1.9 Organise beach cleans to tackle marine litter.	NT SWT SDNPA, ESCC	Volunteers.	2016 onwards	Run an annual event

2. SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL TOURISM AND RECREATION

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
2.1 Identify the special qualities of the area.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	Landscape assessments. Visitor feedback. Interpretation plan.	2016	Working group to agree special qualities
2.2 Develop a narrative based on these qualities and utilise in promotion of sustainable tourism and recreation.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	As above.	2017	Establish Sustainable tourism working group. Early 2017
2.3 Offer training and familiarisation trips for gate keepers.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	Birling Gap meeting room. Access to Welcome Host training.	2018	Run two awareness training sessions
2.4 Develop a joint approach to managing filming in the area.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	Creative England event. East Sussex Film locations e-network.	2017	Establish a filming management working group
2.5 Investigate initiatives to promote the area on the back of existing and new marketing initiatives such as culture, wine and cycling.	HCG. ESCC Economic development. SDNPA marketing.	Existing marketing websites.	2017-18	Working group to consider potential new initiatives
2.6 Utilise the local outdoor education network to engage in the special qualities of the Heritage Coast.		Existing outdoor education networks.	2016 onwards	Develop Heritage coast outdoor education network

3. ACCESS

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
3.1 Develop hierarchy of access including open access land.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.		2016	Establish sub group and map access hierarchy
3.2 Work towards completing Coastal access.	NE and local authorities, SDNPA.	Central Government funding.	2017–18	Implement coastal access 2017
3.3 Work in partnership with landowners and local authorities to realign the paths alongside the river Cuckmere.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.		2017	Identify and designate alternative routes
3.4 Liaise with highway authorities in regard to 5 year transport plans for the area.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.		2016	Working group to liaise with local highway authorities

4. HERITAGE

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
4.1 Develop an evidence base about the history and archaeology of the Heritage Coast using the Historic Environment Record (HER).	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field including Historic England (HE), County archaeologist.		2016 onwards	Establish a historic environment working group to include terrestrial and marine archaeology End of 2016
4.2 Support projects to understand, conserve and enhance heritage and archaeological features, particularly those under threat.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.		2016 onwards	Further to the evidence base develop projects
4.3 Promote projects which increase understanding and interpretation of the historic environment for the public benefit.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	Links to interpretation plan.	2016	Further to the evidence base develop interpretation
4.4 Promote the marine archaeology of the coast including wrecks.	HE		2017 onwards	Promote and interpret marine archaeology

5. INTERPRETATION

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
5.1 Develop an interpretative plan for the Heritage coast area including an audit of current provision.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	Utilise in house skills form partner organisations.	2017	A key starting point for other actions Complete audit by 2017
5.2 Work together to support events to raise awareness of the area.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	Promotional materials.	2017 onwards	Develop and share an events calendar

6. COMMUNITIES

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
6.1 Develop network and support local volunteers.	SDNPA Volunteer development with ESCC and other organisations.		2017	Develop a volunteer network
6.2 Organise joint training for volunteers.	SDNPA Volunteer development with ESCC and other organisations.		2017 onwards	Run two awareness training sessions
6.3 Develop and run beach cleans, beach schools and other awareness events and promotions.	See 1.6 and 2.6		2016 onwards	Run two awareness events

7. PLANNING

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
7.1 Consider any potential projects to include in the CIL register and list project ideas coming from the Heritage Coast area that are already logged from the early draft CIL process.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.		2016 onwards	Define projects to include on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) register
7.2 Consider other funding sources that could aid in the implementation of green and blue infrastructure projects in the Heritage Coast.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.		2017	Investigate potential funding opportunities

ACTION	BY WHOM	RESOURCES	TIMESCALE	PRIORITY AND TARGET
7.3 Work with those town and parish councils preparing neighbourhood plans in the Heritage Coast area to explore opportunities for identifying and implementing (potentially through part of their proportion of CIL receipts) green and blue infrastructure projects in and around the Heritage Coast.	HCG or (sub) working group of key representatives with expertise in this field.	SDNPA neighbourhood plan support team.	2016 onwards	Engage and support neighbourhood plans

REFERENCES

- National Character Area Profile 125. South Downs (2013)
- South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (2011) Character types: A1 Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs; F1 Cuckmere Floodplain; R1 Seaford to Beachy Head Shoreline
- Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI citation and condition assessment
- National Planning Policy Framework
- Local Plan
- Shoreline Management Plan

GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

Carrying Capacity – the ability of an area to receive a set number of visitors without damaging the natural resource.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – a scheme raising funds from development to support improvements to local infrastructure.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW act 2000) – National legislation which includes the designation of access land.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) – European funding schemes for farmers and land managers to engage in measures to enhance the environment.

Historic Environment Record (HER) – record of archaeological sites in an area.

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) – One of a network of marine nature reserves established to protect marine life.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) – these are the key pieces of European legislation relating to coastal waters and estuaries.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – the national planning guidance.

Partnership Management Plan (PMP) – the management plan for the South Downs National Park.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – a national designation to protect a site for its wildlife or geological value.

Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) – an agreed plan for the management of the coast including the protection of property.

South Marine Plan – a plan for the Marine area to manage the use of resources and protect the marine environment.

EA – Environment Agency

ESCC – East Sussex County Council

HCG – Heritage Coast Group

HE – Historic England

IFCA – Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

NE – Natural England

NT – National Trust

SDNPA – South Downs National Park Authority

SWT – Sussex Wildlife Trust

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