

TURNING THE TIDE

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE DURHAM COASTLINE

SUMMARY

After suffering from 100 years of waste tipping by the coal industry, the coastline of County Durham has a run-down and neglected image. Now, as part of the drive towards giving East Durham a more attractive environment and making it into a location in which new industry will wish to invest, plans are in place to restore the coastline to its former beauty.

Turning The Tide is the ambitious and innovative programme through which, by the end of the century, the derelict wastelands will have been replaced with an area rich in wildlife which will attract local people and visitors from far afield. The programme will build on the current proposal to have the entire coastline declared a National Nature Reserve, which will be a fitting recognition of the beauty and grandeur of this previously uncelebrated part of Britain.

The programme has received the backing of the lottery-funded Millennium Commission, which has recognised the importance of **Turning The Tide** by awarding it a substantial grant and ensuring that it receives a high profile in the press and media.

AIMS


The **Turning The Tide** programme has three specific aims;

1. To restore, enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the Durham Coast
2. To encourage sustainable use and enjoyment of the Durham Coast
3. To rekindle local pride and a sense of ownership of the Durham Coast

PARTNERS

Turning The Tide is very much a partnership programme, drawing support from a wide range of organisations and bodies which are concerned with the environment in the Durham Coast area, either as public authorities, land-owners, or as locally-based private companies. The partnership has been boosted by the support of the lottery-funded Millennium Commission, which has chosen **Turning The Tide** as one of the key initiatives to mark the beginning of the new century.

The list of Partners in **Turning The Tide** is as follows;



- The Millennium Commission
- Durham County Council
- Easington District Council
- National Trust
- English Partnerships
- Countryside Commission
- Northumbrian Water
- English Nature
- European Union
- Forestry Authority
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Groundwork East Durham
- Northern Arts
- Seaham Harbour Dock Company

FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The funding for **Turning The Tide** has been assembled from a range of public and private sources, and amounts to an anticipated total of £9.9 million, of which £4.5 million is being provided by the Millennium Commission.



Other major contributors to the funding package are; English Partnerships, through their land reclamation budget; the Countryside Commission; Durham County Council; Easington District Council; and Northumbrian Water. Significant grants are also being sought from the European Union, through the European Regional Development Fund.

COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAMME


Turning The Tide is not a single project, but a co-ordinated programme made up of a number of interlinked elements, spread along the 18 kilometre length of the Durham Coast.

There are four categories of project within the programme, each designed to tackle a particular problem;

Category A; Improving the beaches;

Based on the removal of derelict structures, debris and rubbish from the beaches, to enable their rejuvenation as attractive destinations for visitors. The work will also involve the monitoring of the natural changes taking place on the beaches, and an investigation into the potential for the re-introduction of sand to one of the beaches as a permanent improvement.

Category B; Removal of colliery spoil;



Involving the removal of the remaining spoil heaps at Easington and Horden, before the material they contain is washed out by the tides and becomes a pollution hazard on the nearby beaches.

Category C; Nature conservation and landscape enhancement;

The provision of new tree and shrub planting along the coast, and the creation of new limestone grassland on the cliff-tops and headlands. Together, these projects will aim to restore the area to the conditions which would have been seen before the coal mines were developed, and the cliff-tops became used for intensive agriculture.

Category D; Coastal recreation and access;

Following the improvements to the coastline, these projects will provide new pathways and cycletracks to encourage greater enjoyment of the coast by local people and visitors. An extensive marketing campaign will be launched, in order to inform people of the attractiveness of the Durham Coast, along with a project to provide visitors with information on the history and heritage of the coast.

A full list of the component projects, along with their funding details and lead partners, is attached.

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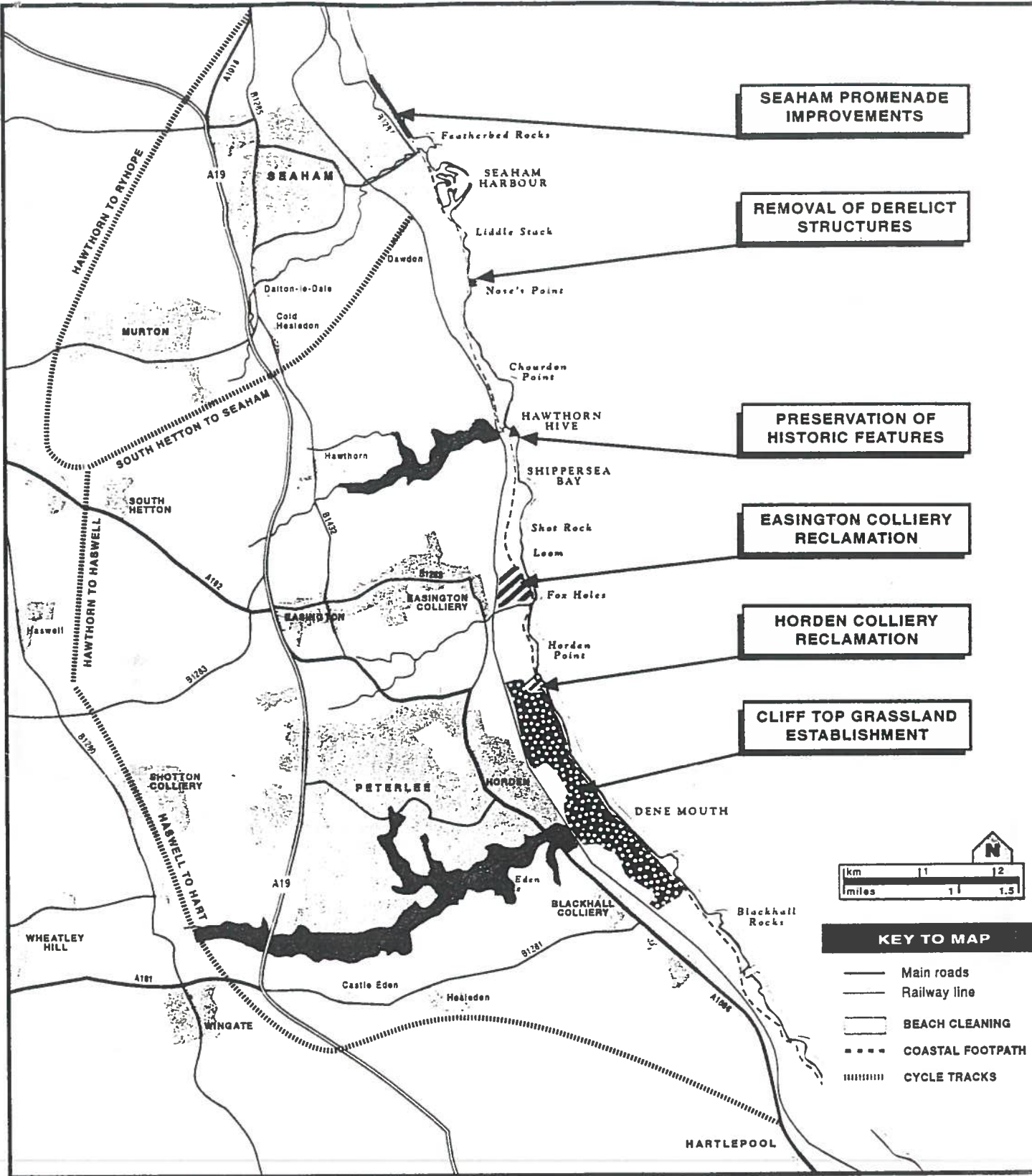
TURNING THE TIDE- CONSTITUENT PROJECTS

Ref	Title	Description	Lead Partners	Budget (£)
A1	Remove derelict structures	Dismantle and remove the remains of disused structures along the coast and in the Denes.	DCC/EDC/EP	62,500
A2	Beach Cleaning	Gather up and suitably dispose of beach litter and general debris	EDC	66,000
A3	Beach Monitoring	Set up a systematic exercise to monitor the way in which the beaches are changing	DCC/EDC	66,000
A4	Beach Feeding	Carry out feasibility studies into the importation of sand at Easington beach over a two-year period.	EDC	180,000
B1	Easington Reclamation	Remove the spoil heap from the beach at Easington, and use the material to help reclaim the site of the former Easington Colliery.	EDC/EP	3,000,000
B2	Horden Reclamation	Remove the spoil heap from the beach at Horden, and use the material to help improve the nature conservation and amenity value of the cliff-tops.	DCC/EP	1,350,000
C1	Habitat Creation	Acquire or seek donation of land for the creation and subsequent management and monitoring of semi-natural habitats.	DCC/NT	1,300,000
C5	Planting Strategy	Carry out conservation work at the coastal Denes, and implement a programme of new planting.	DCC/EDC	225,000
C6	Eyesore Removal	Treat or remove intrusive features.	DCC	69,000
D2	Visitor Facilities	Design and implement visitor facilities at three locations, including information provision.	DCC/EDC	672,000
D3	Coastal Footpath	Substantially complete improvements to the coastal footpath network, including waymarking, access controls, seating and artworks.	DCC/EDC/NT	480,500
D4	Other Gateway Points	Design and construct "Gateways" to the coast for visitors.	DCC	33,000

Ref.	Title	Description	Lead Partner	Budget (£)
D5	Construct Cyclepaths	Design and construct cyclepaths, including land aquisition.	DCC/EDC	1,185,000
D6	Disabled Persons' Walkway	Design and implement a disabled persons' walkway to the cliff-top at Dawdon.	DCC	66,000
D7	Interpretation	Develop and implement an interpretation programme, including public arts projects, exhibitions and leaflets.	DCC	150,000
D8	Visitor Management & Monitoring	Develop and implement a visitor management regime	DCC	7,000
D10	Marketing and Promotion	Market and promote the project for four years.	DCC	49,500
D11	Seaham Promenade	Design and implement a scheme to improve Seaham Promenade.	GED/EDC	680,000

Key to Lead Partners:

DCC	Durham County Council
EDC	Easington District Council
EP	English Partnerships
GED	Groundwork East Durham
NT	National Trust



SEAHAM PROMENADE IMPROVEMENTS

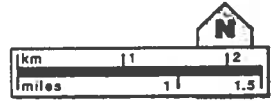
REMOVAL OF DERELICT STRUCTURES

PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC FEATURES

EASINGTON COLLIERY RECLAMATION

HORDEN COLLIERY RECLAMATION

CLIFF TOP GRASSLAND ESTABLISHMENT



KEY TO MAP

- Main roads
- Railway line
- BEACH CLEANING
- COASTAL FOOTPATH
- ||||| CYCLE TRACKS

TURNING THE TIDE

A PROJECT FOR THE MILLENNIUM

