



# Project Report

## Championing Coastal Coordination [3Cs]

February - April 2022

*A Durham Heritage Coast and Berwickshire & Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership Project  
Facilitation, delivery, data analysis & outputs by The Blooming Platypus*



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# 01

## Introduction

*A brief overview of; The Blooming Platypus who facilitated and delivered this project, the Championing Coastal Coordination project and the project process.*



## ABOUT

# The Blooming Platypus

The Blooming Platypus is a Design Innovation consultancy with a mission to help you future-proof your organisation, its business model and activities.

Design Innovation is the practice of solving problems using the tools and methods of a designer. When we apply the design mindset to a business challenge, we unlock transformative perspectives that traditional methods struggle to achieve.

As a result, Design Innovation helps to:

- Co-create powerful solutions that stay relevant, and stand the tests of time,
- Stay ahead of your competition by responding proactively to opportunities,
- Innovate economically by streamlining your activities and staying solution-focussed.

Our methods are underpinned by the latest research and designed by our in-house team of practitioner-researchers, all working academics who actively curate and publish studies about Design Innovation.

We are on a mission to breathe fun, colour and creativity back into the world of innovation. If we're going to change the world for the better, let's do it with joy!



Hartlepool. Crimdon Beach. © The Blooming Platypus



## ABOUT

# Championing Coastal Coordination

**The Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) programme is an initiative from the Environment Agency which looks to examine best-practice at the coast in response to the challenges of our time, such as climate change and the biodiversity crisis, and how effective coordination of collaborative processes delivers better outcomes for all concerned.**

This project is one of a number of regional demonstrations funded through 3Cs. It was initiated by Durham Heritage Coast and the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership and aimed to bring together a range of stakeholders, from the Scottish borders down to the Tees and beyond, to build a cross-sectoral understanding of the range of likely climate change impacts on our local coast and sea and begin to identify shared actions and a collaborative response to these.

The learning from this regional project has fed into a larger national piece of work undertaken by the Coastal Partnership Network [CPN], which developed proposals for a national framework for coastal coordination with the UK.

## OVERVIEW

# Project Process

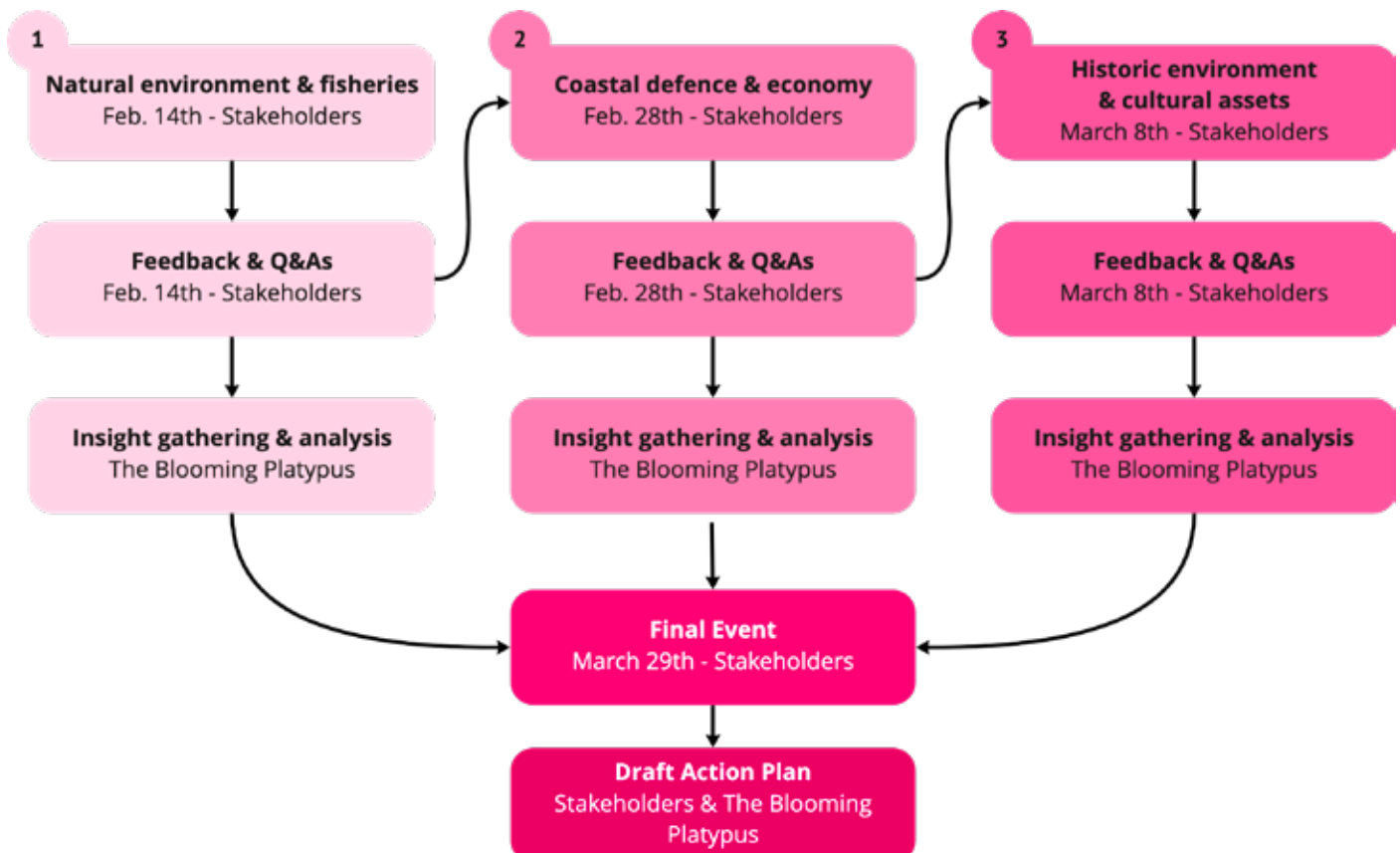
**This project was designed to examine the likely impacts of climate change on the North East coast within a concise time frame and comprised a mix of activities; workshops, insight gathering, data analysis, and a final event. These activities, led by The Blooming Platypus and involving stakeholders at times, led to the creation of a Draft Action Plan.**

Three workshops involving 68 stakeholders and their organisations (41 in total) were conducted to gather insights and unpack tacit knowledge of participants in three different areas; natural environment & fisheries, coastal defence & economy, and historic environment & cultural assets.

The Blooming Platypus then gathered feedback and questions at the end of each workshop to refine & improve the structure and flow

of the remaining workshops and final event. After each iteration, The Blooming Platypus team analysed data, identifying themes and highlighting key insights from the participants.

These insights and themes framed the final event during which participants prioritised and detailed the different actions to be taken to address the likely impact of climate change our North East coast.





# 02

## Workshops

*This first part of this 3Cs project was aiming at bringing stakeholders from different sectors together to unpack their common understanding and thoughts on the probable climate change impacts on our coasts, as well as develop an action plan and activities to address these impacts.*



Some of the Workshop 2 participants © The Blooming Platypus

# The Workshops

This first part of this 3Cs project aimed to bring stakeholders from different sectors & organisations together to unpack their shared understanding and thoughts on the probable climate change impacts on our coasts and develop an action plan and activities to address these impacts.

To investigate the probable climate change impact on our North Eastern Coasts, The Blooming Platypus delivered three separate 3-hour online workshops to look at; [1] **Natural Environment and Fisheries**, [2] **Coastal Defence and Economy** and [3] **Historic Environment and Cultural Assets**.

The workshops' materials and activities were designed by The Blooming Platypus team, who then used Miro, an online collaboration platform, to deliver the sessions.

# Workshop Themes



## 01 Natural Environment & Fisheries

This first workshop explored the likely impact of climate change on habitats, species, protected wildlife areas, and inshore fisheries. We looked at these topics through three different lenses; coastal, intertidal and subtidal.



## 02 Coastal Defence & Economy

This second workshop encompassed coastal and flood defence together with infrastructure and economy. More specifically, we explored a wide range of topics; coastal erosion, flood risk, food production, tourism & recreation, and transport.



## 03 Historic Environment & Cultural Assets

With a focus on historic environments and cultural assets, this third workshop discussed conservation, geography, geology, funding and decision-making. It also highlighted the undeniable fact that assets have and will be lost.

Left page © The Blooming Platypus

Right page © Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership (picture 1 & 2), © iSaw Company for Unsplash (picture 3)

# Workshops

## Proceedings

**The three workshops were designed by The Blooming Platypus, utilised a collaborative approach and tailored design-led activities.**

Participants from varying sectors and organisations were teamed to capture their understanding of the range of likely climate change impacts on our regional coast and sea and identify management actions to address these.

Throughout the workshops, we reflected and ideated, keeping the workshop theme as the primary focus and addressing the following questions:

- What their organisations are currently doing to address issues resulting from climate change [reflection],

- What do successful adaptations to climate change look like [ideation],
- What is currently in place or getting in their way of achieving their vision [reflection],
- What needs to be done differently to achieve this vision [ideation].

Whilst conversations were occurring in breakout rooms, facilitators and note-takers captured details using digital sticky notes on Miro, paying close attention to details and repeated topics of interest to inform future sessions.

At the end of the workshops, teams were encouraged to share their insights with the rest of the group, ask questions and give feedback. Once again, note-takers captured this discussion.

Overview of a breakout room during Workshop 2 © The Blooming Platypus

# 03

## Data Analysis

*The three workshops attended by numerous stakeholders with different perspectives produced a large number of insights and observations, which this second phase of the project aimed at reviewing, categorising and synthesising.*





# 04

## Findings

*The Findings are the result of the collaborative & co-creative workshops in which 68 stakeholders and their organisations [41] participated. These findings reflect the collective rounds of ideations, discussions, and consensus during these three workshops.*



© SeaScapes

## Findings

The Findings highlighted five main themes that needed to be considered to address the likely impact of climate change on our coasts; ***collaboration, public engagement, policy, data, and nature-focused solutions.***

Building directly upon the insights from the Workshops [pages 9-12] and the first round of Data Analysis [pages 13-14], these themes emerged naturally as they kept being discussed and brought into the conversation, from different perspectives and by various stakeholders.

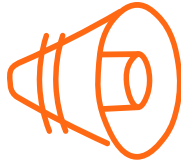
Analysing insights from the Workshops, The Blooming Platypus and the North East Coastal Network 3Cs project team agreed that these themes were the most relevant, timely, and crucial.

# Overview of Themes



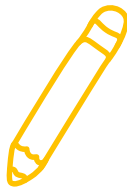
## Collaboration

Capitalising on the knowledge, expertise, experience and drive present within the NE Coastal Network and broader stakeholders.



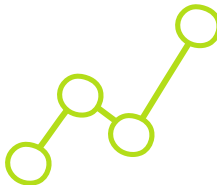
## Public engagement

Engaging with the broader public through education, events or projects as they are 'experts by experience'.



## Policy

Addressing the gaps and challenges emerging from geographic and time-bound governments and political agendas.



## Data

Maximising the collection, the use and the signposting of data while disseminating new knowledge generated through data analysis.



## Nature-focused solutions

Using nature and considering it every step of the way to address challenges resulting from climate change in a more holistic manner.

# Collaboration



**Capitalising on the knowledge, expertise, experience and drive present within the NE Coastal Network and broader stakeholders.**



© Gilbert Johnston

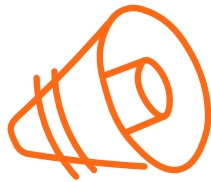
The North East Coastal Network is based on the collaboration of multiple groups of stakeholders;

- Local authorities leading the network,
- Experts,
- The public,
- Government & governmental agencies,
- Local and global partnerships.

To facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders, this theme suggests identifying, choosing and using collaborative tools, activities and practices.

An enhanced collaboration will allow all voices to be heard and all knowledge and expertise to be captured, so we can find the best way forward to address challenges arising from climate change.

# Public Engagement



**Engaging with the broader public through education, events or projects as they are 'experts by experience'.**



© SeaScapes

Public engagement is about giving everyone a chance to engage with the North East Coastal Network in one way or another. It requires being inclusive of everyone, no matter their age, background, geographical location, etc.

This theme suggests;

- Educating about climate change and its impact,
- Giving agency and empowering individuals to make a change,
- Communicating and sharing information with all likely to be impacted.

These activities should be considered on two different levels:

- Internal - the NE Coastal Network partners creating materials and organising events to deliver the activities,
- External - the NE Coastal Network delivering the activities to the public.



# Policy



**Addressing the gaps and challenges emerging from geographic and time-bound governments and political agendas.**



© Nicholas Doherty on Unsplash

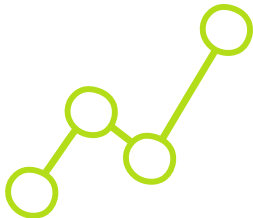
The theme of policy looks at creating both new policies and altering existing policies at various levels to allow more agency in connecting organisations and parties.

It recommends improving political collaboration internationally, nationally, regionally and locally, focusing on implementing long-term solutions for the greater good of the planet, not of political parties.

This theme also considers the potential of the North East Coastal Network in lobbying for new policies focusing on addressing climate change to be put in place.

Finally, funding, the lack thereof, and their short timeframe also need to be reconsidered in the future if we want to make a sustainable positive change.

# Data



**Maximising the collection, the use and the signposting of data while disseminating new knowledge generated through data analysis.**



© Coastal Data Explorer

This theme looks at the capability to collect and analyse data to address challenges arising from climate change.

It suggests taking a more strategic approach to data collection by considering;

- How might data be collected,
- To what end is data being collected,
- To whom it might be helpful,
- How data and new knowledge emerging might be disseminated.

Furthermore, the theme proposes to consider 'data' through a collaborative lens to maximise its relevance and use across the North East Coastal Network, but also externally.

# Nature-Focused Solutions



**Using nature and considering it every step of the way to address challenges resulting from climate change in a more holistic manner.**



© Paula Lightfoot

This theme focuses on the importance of creating and adapting nature-based solutions and focusing on the impact the solutions we implement have on nature.

It starts with making the best use of what nature offers, such as natural flood defences. It is crucial to increase understanding and recognition to better understand such solutions if we hope to scale them in the future.

This theme also highlights the urgency to put in place focused actions tackling problematic behaviours and addressing damaging habits and industries.

Finally, this theme emphasises the need to balance soft and hard structures, assessing the impact on nature and durability of the chosen structures.

© Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership



# 05

## Final Event

*The Final Event designed and facilitated by The Blooming Platypus aimed to review the findings, identify and prioritise the actions needed, and approve the Draft Action Plan.*





Speaker presentation during the Final Event © The Blooming Platypus

## Final Event

The project's Final Event brought together previous workshop participants together with new stakeholders.

Split between speaker talks and breakout sessions, the 3-hour event aimed at reviewing the themes and prioritising actions to be taken forward by the North East Coastal Network.

The Final Event materials and activities were designed by The Blooming Platypus team, who then used Miro [just like for the workshops] to deliver the sessions.

This Final Event was held on the morning of March 29th, 2022.

## PLENARY

# Speakers

We welcomed three speakers for our final event, who kindly agreed to share with the participants their experiences and views regarding addressing the impact resulting from climate change. Their talks started the day and successfully provoked thoughts and discussion points for the event.



### **Anthony Firth**

Head of Marine Strategy  
*Historic England*

*"Our coasts, and our relationships to them,  
is going to change."*

*"Collaboration through good-will  
and resources."*



### **Damian Crilly**

Manager, Strategic Catchment Partnerships  
*Environment Agency*

*"The cause of, and the answer to, all the  
world's problems is people."*

*"Improve collaboration through collective  
& collaborative governance."*



### **Sir Paul Ennals CBE**

Convening Chair  
*North East England Climate Change Coalition*

*"The best partnerships are the one's that  
go outside of the usual suspects."*

*"There is nothing not to like about becoming  
England's greenest region."*



## BREAKOUT ROOMS

## World Café

**The Word Café is an ideation activity meant to be shared between different teams. Its purpose is to allow teams to navigate from one theme to another to build upon the ideas of other groups to benefit from the distributed intelligence, knowledge and expertise of all individuals present.**

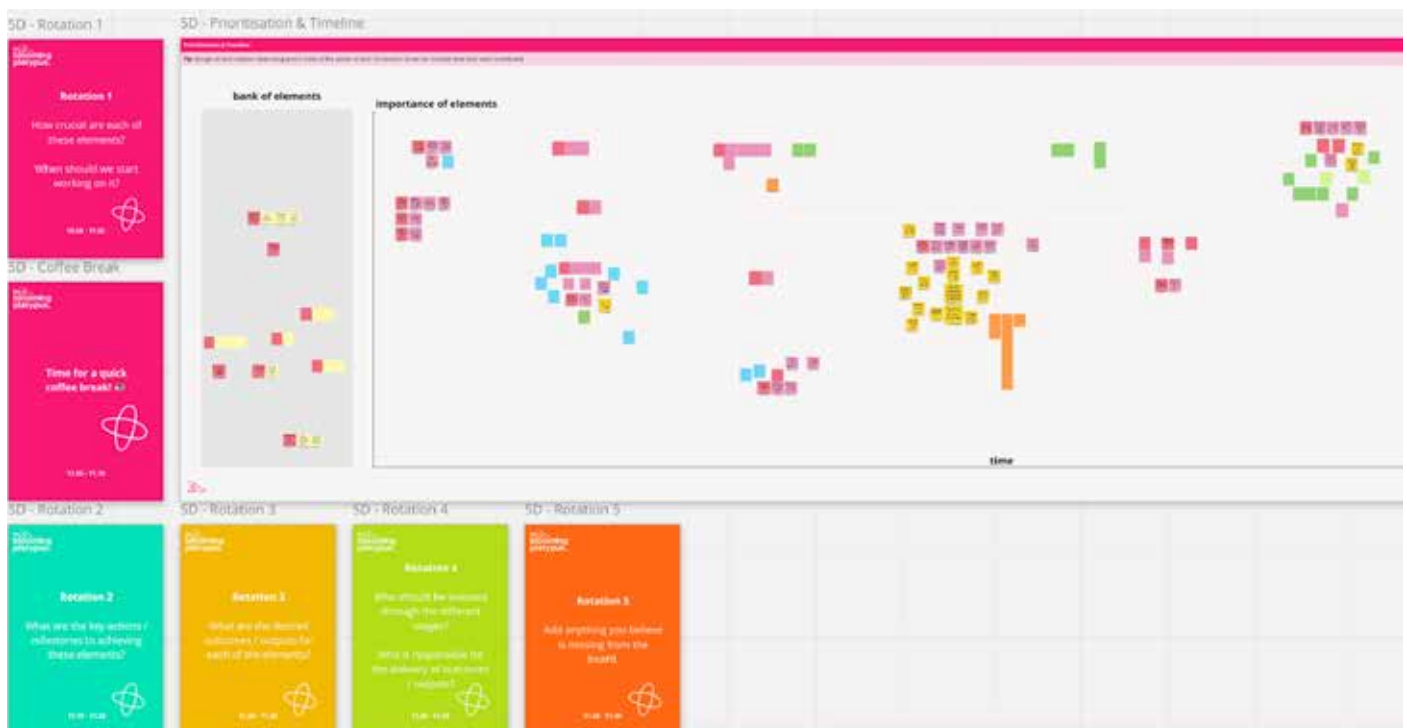
Practically on the day, we split the group into five different teams, each team focusing on one of the previously highlighted themes (see pages 17-20) and working with elements identified during the Data Analysis phase of the project.

We conducted five 10-minute long rotations of ideation, each team answering the same question at the same time but focusing on a different theme for each rotation;

- **Rotation 1** - how crucial are these elements? When should we start working on it?
- **Rotation 2** - what are the key milestones/ actions to achieving these elements?

- **Rotation 3** - what are the desired outcomes/outputs for each of these elements?
- **Rotation 4** - who should be involved through the different stages? Who is responsible for the delivery of the outcomes/outputs?
- **Rotation 5** - add anything you believe is missing from the board.

The teams mapped their answers on a Miro Board (one per theme) according to their importance and timeliness. These maps formed the basis of the Actions Needed (pages 25-30) and the Draft Action Plan.



Overview of the Collaboration board by the end of the Final Event

© The Blooming Platypus

# 06

## Actions Needed

*The actions listed in this section are the key outputs from the Final Event. This list is not exhaustive and results from a collaborative and co-creative process conducted over a restricted period with a limited number of stakeholders.*

*Please, note that this section compliments and details the key foci highlighted in the Draft Action Plan.*

## 01

### Identify & engage with the 'right' stakeholders

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Reach out to and engage with existing local leaders and community groups who are already interested or willing to get involved. Then, uncover and map out where the gaps are to identify missing stakeholders. Be strategic and purposeful about whom you engage with, as your goal is to enact change [with often limited resources].

## 02

### Make solutions accessible to all

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale [in years from April 2022]

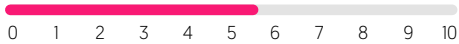


If you want change to happen on a broad scale, you will need to make it accessible to the masses and not just to the experts in climate change. Specifically, you need to consider developing affordable solutions that can be implemented by all communities, and not just the most experienced or privileged ones.

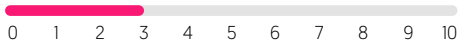
## 03

### Record & share good practice

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale [in years from April 2022]

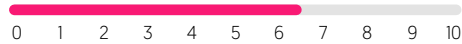


So many great projects and initiatives have been and are being done at different scales. They could be replicated, if only we heard of them! For the coastal collaboration to be successful, it is crucial to identify tools and methods to record and share good (and bad) practices amongst the North East Coastal Network.

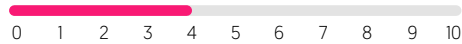
## 04

### Think globally but act locally

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Although we have to act locally, we need to think further than our North East coast. The North Sea, and more broadly the ocean, is not just impacted by our behaviours or actions, but also those of other countries. We need to look at ways to collaborate, make the 'right decisions' and implement them. We should support each other for maximum impact.

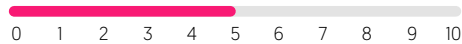
# Collaboration Actions



## 05

### Share ownership with communities

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Climate change should not just be the responsibility of experts, governments and charities. We need to look at ways to engage with communities physically so that they can get involved in the process and decision-making. We also need to get creative in the way we consult them and offer new approaches, such as apprenticeships.



# Public Engagement Actions

06

## Share information simply

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



We have to constantly share information with the public to engage them. There needs to be consistent messaging across all stakeholders and platforms and regular campaigns using simple jargon-free language that is accessible to all.

07

## Identify audience groups

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



The North East Coastal Network and its partners are already receiving the support of numerous groups of the public. We need to harness the power of these existing groups and networks before going further, as this approach has been successful in the past.

08

## Create a guide to climate change

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]

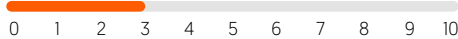


Although the public has heard a lot about climate change in the media, it is not always clear what that means and how it will impact them. Creating a Guide to Climate Change would enable them to learn good and bad practices whilst maintaining optimism. And remember, we aim to empower, not blame.

09

## Raise awareness

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



It is easy for the public to get confused as many local authorities have their own approach. Receiving clear information from the North East Coastal Network and their partners and getting a chance to be involved in projects or regular and meaningful events would raise their awareness about good and bad practices.

10

## Document case studies

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



There are many excellent and positive initiatives that nobody gets a chance to hear about. Creating a mechanism to document case studies and use them as real-world examples would inspire others and trigger a chain of positive reactions and behaviours.

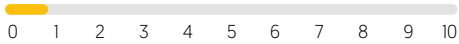
11

## Create a coastal action plan

### Level of urgency



### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



There is a severe need to get people from the different stakeholders together to tackle the impact of climate change on our coasts and create a regional coastal action plan. This Plan needs to be informed by local knowledge, data and national opportunity mapping, and the Draft Action Plan produced during this project.

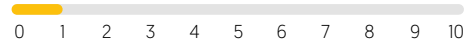
12

## Improve joined-up thinking in policy

### Level of urgency



### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Collaboration and ideation practices across stakeholders with different interests and expertise must be improved in policy, particularly between land and sea. On-going projects and new initiatives should consider a more diverse range of stakeholders outside the political landscape for a holistic approach.

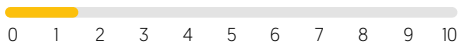
13

## Offer appropriate incentives to drive change

### Level of urgency



### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Local authorities & national governments, and other stakeholders involved in projects should have the possibility to be autonomous when needed. In addition, and where appropriate, it is necessary to reduce bureaucracy to maximise limited human and financial resources for action-focused work.

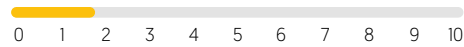
14

## Create a centre for capacity

### Level of urgency



### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Stakeholders are struggling to find their way through the raft of policies and initiatives, which often vary from one local council to another. Creating a regional hub that allows local knowledge, equipment and funding opportunities to be recorded and shared would enable collaboration if put at the centre of all actions in the NE.

15

## Work across local authorities & political boundaries

### Level of urgency

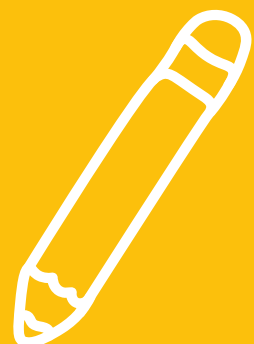


### Timescale [in years from April 2022]



If governments, local authorities and political parties evolve over the years, the need for real and consistent actions to address climate change remains. To achieve that, long-term initiatives, fundings, and partnerships need to be put in place to ensure projects' sustainability, longevity, and success.

Policy  
Actions





# Data Actions



16

## Improve data signposting

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



We need to make sure stakeholders can easily find the data. If not, we are at risk of repeating the same work across organisations and using limited human and financial resources to conduct research that has already been done. But keep in mind; simplicity is key!

17

## Map out data

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Mapping data would allow to visualise the type of data already available, navigate the main themes and make it accessible to wider audiences. It would also allow more detailed information to be provided and accessed, enabling information sharing.

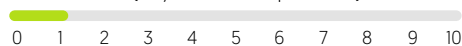
18

## Create a metadata catalogue

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



A metadata catalogue of all stakeholders part of the North East Coastal Network, what data they currently have and what research they do would help understand the breadth of information already being collected. This is a necessary action to complete before any further data collection.

19

## Use data to educate

Level of urgency



Timescale [in years from April 2022]



Once data is available, we need to collectively determine how it can be translated, simplified and taken away from data to facts and used to educate people. We also need to acknowledge the audience and consider different communication tools to deliver the message.

## 20

### Evidence success of nature-based solutions

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale (in years from April 2022)



It is urgent to increase target research and work hand-in-hand with researchers and other stakeholders to identify the scientific evidence needed. As monitoring programs usually last years, the sooner we get started, the earlier we get the necessary proof of success.

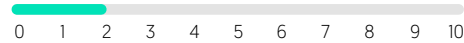
## 21

### Work with nature

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale (in years from April 2022)



There is a natural capital that we should use by taking an ecosystem-services approach. We have to stop fighting against nature and work with it, taking a more holistic approach and considering the long-term impact instead of focusing on quick wins.

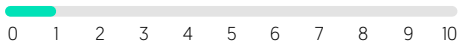
## 22

### Create and restore habitat

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale (in years from April 2022)



There is great potential in enhancing biodiversity in and around existing grey infrastructures by creating habitats and retro-fitting solutions that could help flood defence.

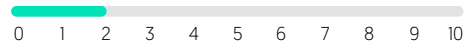
## 23

### Shift food habits

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale (in years from April 2022)



Individual choices about the food they eat can have a big cumulative impact on the environment. It is urgent to consider how we might support and enable more sustainable practices. Shifting food habits towards such practices would allow habitat and ecosystem services sustainability.

## Nature-Focused Actions



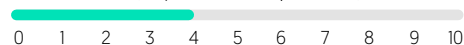
## 24

### Create focus targets

#### Level of urgency



#### Timescale (in years from April 2022)



There are no targets for marine net gain and little marine natural capital measurables. The North East Coastal Network and its partners could work together to set such targets and measures and confirm them across the different sectors for a net gain.

# 07

## Next Steps

*Discuss the future of the North East Coastal Network  
and the following steps to build upon this 3Cs project.*



*Picture © Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership*

## Next Steps

The Durham Heritage Coast Partnership and the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership will progress the creation of a North East Coastal Network to continue the collaborative working started by the project.

We will be in touch soon with partners for further discussion about implementing the priority actions identified in the workshops.

In the meantime, if anyone has any comments or reactions to the content of this report then we would be happy to receive them. Comments can be sent to [nick.brodin@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nick.brodin@northumberland.gov.uk)

# 08

## Acknowledgements

*We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the 68 individuals and 41 organisations who took part in the Championing Coastal Coordination project. Your insights, expertise and energy have been invaluable and greatly contributed to the success of this project.*

*Thank you!*



# With extensive thanks to all

Nick Brodin  
**Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership**

Alex Higgs  
**Berwickshire Marine Reserve**

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## Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs)

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