Northumberland National Park

Tony Gates
Chief Executive

Northumberland National Park Authority
Northumberland National Park

- 1,049 sq km
- Population 1,800
- Land ownership
  - 57% Private
  - 23% MoD
  - 19% Forestry
  - 1% National Park/National Trust

[Map of Northumberland National Park]
Northumberland National Park Authority

- A single purpose Local Authority since 1997
- 18 members
- 50 staff
- National Park Grant £2.5 million p/a (40% reduction since 2010)
- Annual Budget circa £4.5 million
What the National Park is About

- Natural Environment
- Cultural Heritage
- Tourism
- Education
- Access and recreation
- Social and economic
Our priorities

- Land management
- Rural economic development
- Engaging Young people
Land management

- Planning and development management
- 100% of farmed areas in stewardship schemes
- Moorland restoration
- Native woodland creation
- Heritage at risk
Rural development

- Discretionary grant programmes
- £3.2 from 2009 to 2014
- Support for businesses and local community groups, schools etc.
- Protecting local services through planning system and support
- Broadband development
- Tourism development
  - 1.5 million visitors
  - 46% would come back!
  - £66m spend in Park
  - £150m in wider area
Engaging Young People

- Young Northumberland
- Youth Mosaic
- Schools programme
- Young Archaeologists
- Young naturalists
- Youth Ranger
- Youth Volunteers
The Sill – National Landscape Discovery Centre

- £14m project
- £8m building and 5 year activity programme
- 86 bed Youth Hostel
- £7.8m HLF funding
- £500k grant and £1.5m loan from NCC
- Start – November 2015 / Open June 2017
- A ‘Hub’ to help engage people with landscape
- 117 jobs and £2.5 m GVA to local economy per year
• A boost for the whole county

• Biggest Gold Tier Park in Europe

• Protects one of our special features and DCA

• Star Tips for Profit
  - 106 businesses trained
  - 46% more business from of Dark Sky tourism

• Open June 2017

• A ‘Hub’ to help engage people with landscape
Sue Hugenholtz, owner of Blacksmith's Cottage: “Since we achieved International Dark Sky Park status, my holiday let business in the Cheviots has become an all year round destination with guests travelling from all over the country for long weekend out of season breaks in beautiful Northumberland. We supply all guests with their very own 'stargazing pack', or if they wish they can book a tailor-made stargazing evening with our Astro Guide, astronomer Ian Glendinning. In my view Northumberland has a very exciting future!”
UK National Parks: Britain's Breathing Spaces

Vision: “By 2010 people would be out of their cars and staying longer in National Parks”

......aware of National Park, even if they haven’t visited
......strong emotional and inspiring reaction to the idea of National Parks
The Future

- Reducing Government Budgets
- Alternative Funding Sources
- The Sill
- Rural development, tourism and growth
- Close working with Northumberland County Council
Contact:

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