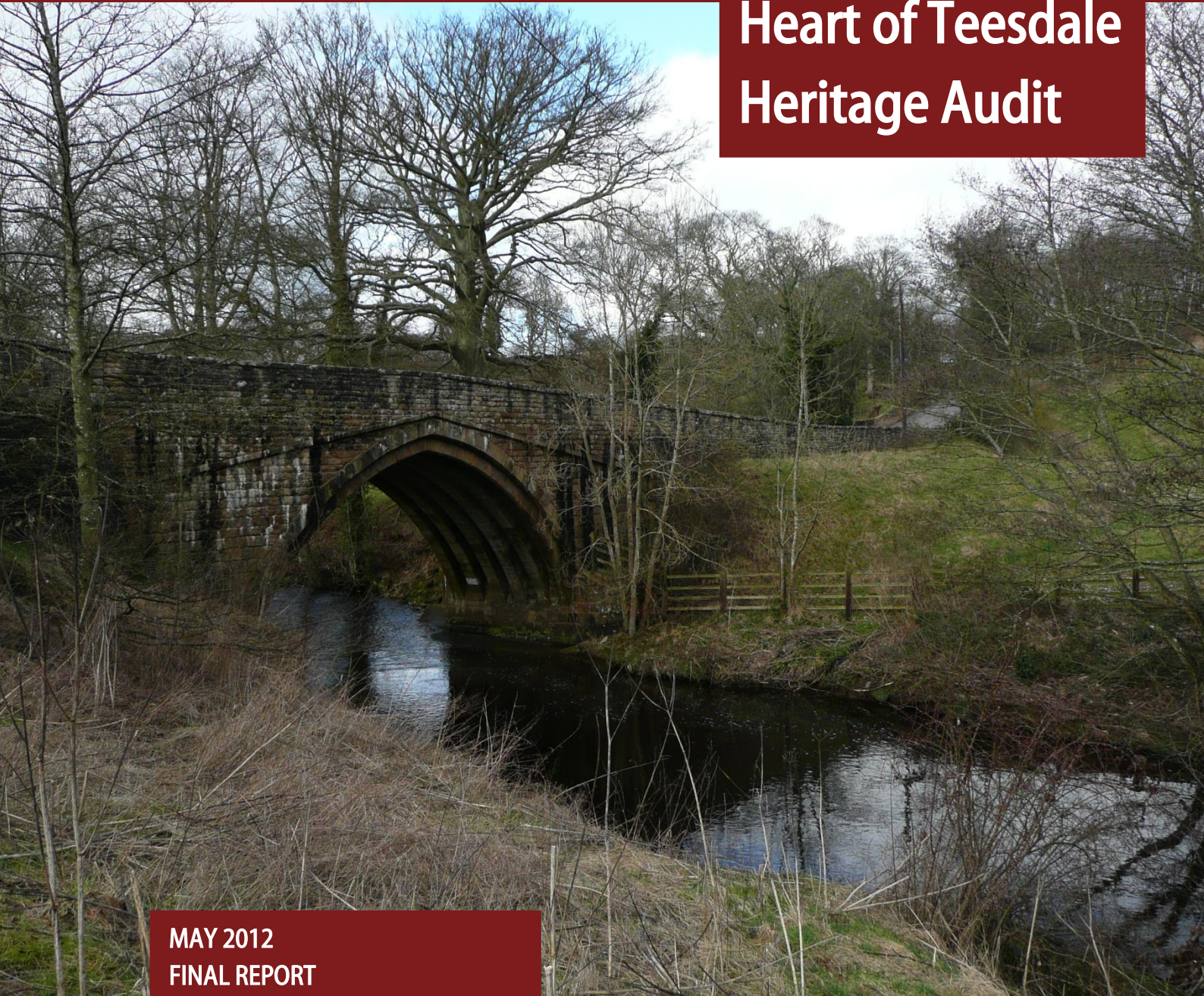




NORTH *of* ENGLAND CIVIC TRUST

Heart of Teesdale Heritage Audit



MAY 2012
FINAL REPORT



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Introduction

Background

- 1.1 The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership received its stage two pass from Heritage Lottery Fund in October 2011 and moved into implementation phase for the programme from that date. Through a co-ordinated series of initiatives and projects, the scheme will address a range of issues affecting the landscape there, including land management, biodiversity, habitat creation, historic environment, climate change, access, interpretation, tourism, learning, training and volunteering. The Partnership has already produced a Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) which will guide the five year project. Additionally, the Witham Heritage Survey (produced in 2011 for The Witham Trustees and Barnard Castle Vision) presented a summary of the findings of a survey for the Witham Hall and surrounding area of Barnard Castle. This was the result of a consultation exercise and focus group meetings designed to inform and support development of a learning activity programme by identifying those elements of the towns and the how local building people would like to engage with their heritage. Many resources covering the wider Teesdale area are identified in the survey. The Partnership has identified a need for further audit work in relation to heritage and related community groups, before identifying priorities for further work and community projects over the remaining four years of the programme.
- 1.2 North of England Civic Trust (NECT) is an independent charity. For over 45 years it has been active in conservation and regeneration across the North East of England, North Yorkshire and Cumbria. As a civic trust it champions public involvement in the processes that shape the environment, and has extensive experience of working with local groups. As a building preservation trust, it tackles dereliction on the high street and in the countryside, from modest local landmarks to the rescue of nationally important heritage on the brink of being lost. As a consultancy, it provides independent expert advice, brokering solutions to sensitive development issues and securing the resources needed to convert liabilities into assets. NECT has been commissioned to produce an independent heritage audit for Durham County Council and the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership, which will act as a baseline from which to build potential projects throughout the life of the partnership, and to prepare a project programme to consult on and prioritise ideas and projects suggested during the heritage audit work.
- 1.3 In summary, the aims and objectives were:
 - < to produce a basic database of heritage assets (such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments and other locally known sites), including community interest groups, individuals, archives, collections, undesignated archaeological sites and buildings and areas, based upon existing readily-available information, desk study and community consultation;
 - < to establish a list of potential projects and ideas, with outline briefs and delivery mechanisms;
 - < to focus on the Heart of Teesdale area, but to include the wider Teesdale area where relevant
 - < to engage with the public and stakeholders through an engagement event to devise and prioritise potential projects and outcomes identified through the audit



Methodology

- 1.4 NECT has carried out this study in a comprehensive and collaborative way, using the following steps:
- < desk research and survey
 - < stakeholder interviews and discussions
 - < community consultation events

Stakeholder interviews and discussions

- 1.5 The Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership provided a list of stakeholders, individuals and organisations that they felt could contribute. These contacts were followed up by desk-based research and/or contact by email, telephone or in person. Conversations were held mainly by telephone. A number of useful contacts were also gained through the public consultation events, and useful conversations held with a number of stakeholders at these events. See below for the full list of stakeholders consulted for this study.

Online survey

- 1.6 In order to gain as wide a response as possible, NECT, in collaboration with the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership, devised an online survey via Survey Monkey (www.surveymonkey.com/s/FGN6MZL). This was advertised (with a direct link to the survey), along with the audit, on the NECT website, by email to over 1300 contacts via the Heritage Skills Initiative and Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership mailing lists, and to a number of stakeholders, either in addition to or instead of telephone/in person contact, due to the above-mentioned constraints. It was also advertised by organisations such as CBA North, on their website. Questions were as follows:
1. In which part or parts of Teesdale are you interested?
 2. Which buildings, sites or landscape features do you value most as part of Teesdale's heritage?
 3. Which events, activities or traditions (e.g. industries, customs, folklore, crafts, music, food, recipes etc) do you consider to be part of Teesdale's heritage?
 4. What features relating to the heritage of Teesdale would you include in a local listing scheme, and why? (This could include, for example, a wall, a mounting block, a phone box or a tree - any feature that is not already listed but that you feel is locally significant).
 5. Have you ever been to a Heritage Open Days event in Teesdale
 6. Are there any specialist heritage groups/societies in your area (e.g. bridge appreciation, mining heritage, rare breeds, oral history etc)? If so, please give us the name of the group/society and contact details (if known):
 7. Are you involved in any heritage activities at the moment, e.g. member of a local history society/specialist group such as above?
 8. Tell us about any ideas or priorities you or your community/local society have for future heritage projects in the Teesdale area:
 9. Please tell us about any support your community/local society requires which could be highlighted through the Heart of Teesdale Heritage Audit (e.g. resources, training, volunteers, equipment, software, storage etc).
 10. If you would like to be involved in any heritage projects in the Teesdale area, and/or have further information/skills/resources to offer, please give details and provide your name, address, email and/or contact number below:



Community consultations

- 1.7 Advice was taken from Durham County Council and the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership on the best locations within the Teesdale area to hold public consultation events, and three were held during one week in March 2012. The events were all held between 4-8pm, to reach a good cross-section of ages, and people who were in work, not working and retired. The events were advertised in local libraries and village halls within the area, in the Northern Echo and Teesdale Mercury, by email to over 1300 contacts, including the Heritage Skills Initiative mailing list, and widely in Barnard Castle. In spite of this, attendance was poor. This is believed to be due to a number of factors: the unseasonal good weather, the threat of a national petrol distribution strike (which hit national news during this particular week, causing abnormal queues at petrol stations, and a shortage of petrol) and the confusion and fatigue from a perceived overlap of consultations, which has emerged from a number of conversations. The events took place as follows:
- < Gainford Village Hall, Tuesday 27th March (9 respondents)
 - < Middleton in Teesdale Village Hall 28th March (4 respondents)
 - < The Witham at Woodleigh, Barnard Castle, 29th March (8 respondents)
- 1.8 As a basis for discussion, the online survey questions were used. Despite the low turnout, the quality and range of information received during the consultations was extremely useful, and gave further contacts and leads to follow. The vast majority were followed up – where this was not the case, it was simply due to time or resource constraints. One-to-one conversations averaged 30 minutes each, with many lasting an hour or more, hence a large reliance on contact by email.
- 1.9 The organisations and individuals who have contributed to the audit and survey include:
- < Jane Addison (Teesdale Heritage Group)
 - < Barnard Castle Ramblers
 - < Samantha Belcher (former Community Curator, Bowes Museum)
 - < Nick Boldrini (Historic Environment Record Officer, Durham County Council)
 - < Liz Bregazzi (County Archivist, Durham Record Office)
 - < Trevor Brookes (Teesdale Mercury)
 - < Cliff Brown (Bowes Local History Group)
 - < Denise Charlton (Teesdale Heritage Group, Middleton Development Trust)
 - < Brian Clarke (village archivist, Winston)
 - < Cleveland & Teesside Local History Society
 - < Diana Collecott (Dickens In Teesdale)
 - < David Croom (Teesdale Mercury)
 - < Margaret Dent (Lunedale Heritage Project)
 - < Fiona Douglas (Barnard Castle Library)
 - < Durham County Local History Society (John Banham)
 - < Durham Veteran Tree Volunteer Group
 - < Judith Dyke (Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists Field Club, Gainford History Society)
 - < Ros Evans, Heritage Outreach Officer, Durham County Council
 - < English Heritage (Rob Young, Historic Environment Adviser, North East Region)
 - < David France, local stonemason
 - < Tom Gledhill, Natural England



- < Dorothy Hall (North East War Memorials Project)
- < David Harrison, Gainford Hall
- < Bryan Harris, Senior Conservation Officer, Durham County Council
- < Jean Hemingway, volunteer researcher, Bowes Museum
- < Mike Hemingway (Fitzhugh Library, Teesdale Record Society)
- < Charlotte Hursey, Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership
- < Natalie King (Gainford Village Hall Committee)
- < David Mason, Principal Archaeologist, Durham County Council
- < Sandra Moorhouse (Dickens in Teesdale, Teesdale Heritage Open Days Group)
- < Ian Moorhouse (Trees for Cotherstone)
- < Trish Pemberton (Gainford Local History Society)
- < David Petts (North East Heritage Partnership)
- < Parkin Raine, local historian
- < Alan Richardson (Northern Archaeology Group)
- < Mr & Mrs Risbey, Gainford residents
- < Martin Roberts, North East Vernacular Architecture Group
- < Jim Sewell (Teesdale Record Society)
- < Lesley Silvera (North Pennines AONB)
- < Carole Sobkowiak (Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists Field Club)
- < Mike Stow (Gainford Local History Society)
- < Ian Tallentire (Middleton Development Trust)
- < Neil Tarn (Eggleston Agricultural Society)
- < Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services (Diane Spark)
- < Claire Todd (Learning & Skills Co-ordinator, Bishop Auckland College)
- < John Toulson (National Traction Engine Trust)
- < Alice Ullathorne, Diocese of Ripon & Leeds Church Buildings Support
- < Cllr J R Watson, Barnard Castle
- < Jane Whittaker, Bowes Museum
- < Alan Wilkinson (Barnard Castle & District History Group)
- < Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group

1.10 The following include others contacted without a full response, and a few who were not contacted due to time constraints:

- < Archaeo-Environment Ltd
- < Architectural & Archaeological Society of Durham & Northumberland
- < Barningham Local History Group
- < Brigantia Archaeological Practice
- < CBA North
- < Cleveland, North Yorkshire & South Durham Family History Society
- < County Durham History & Heritage Forum
- < Durham Victoria County History Trust
- < Peter Coverdale, Cross Lanes
- < Durham Arch & Arch
- < Friends of Darlington Railway Museum



- < Gaunless Valley History Trust
- < Groundwork
- < Mickleton Village Hall Community Heritage Group
- < Mike Hein-Hartmann, former Conservation Officer, Teesdale District Council
- < North East Mills Group
- < Parish Councils
- < Peter Ryder, Historic Buildings Consultant
- < Stainmore Railway Company
- < U3A
- < Upper Teesdale Botany Group

1.11 NECT is indebted to the many people who took an active interest in this study and made valuable contributions. We hope that their "of its findings will generate momentum and enthusiasm for the delivery of any projects which are developed as a result.



Audit & Consultation

Survey results

2.1 Responses to the online survey and survey responses collected in person (at consultations or by phone) are included on the audit spreadsheet. Online responses totalled 10, and responses collected in person number approximately 32. The number is approximate, because although conversations at the drop-in consultations were based around the survey, it was not always possible to go through the questions on a one-to-one basis. For example, the consultation at Barnard Castle mostly took the form of animated discussion around a table. The most useful conversations were those held one-to-one, either by phone or in person. Responses are listed separately where relevant, for ease of counting how many times the same response was received. Much of the information gathered has been through a mixture of structured and informal conversations, both one-to-one and in group discussion. The total number of individuals and organisations who have contributed to the audit is 52.

2.2 All respondents (other than online, for which there is no data) were over 21 years of age, approximately 95% were over 30. The known geographic range includes Barnard Castle, Bowes, Cotherstone, Eggleston, Gainford, Middleton-in-Teesdale and Winston.

Q1: The part or parts of Teesdale in which the most significant number of people are interested is all of the area, followed by Gainford, Middleton, Barnard Castle and Upper Teesdale.

Q2: The buildings, sites or landscape features followed by wildlife, plants and trees, Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, the rivers and the views.

Q3: The events, activities or traditions most of interest were Meet, various agricultural shows and crafts.

Q4: Requests for local list suggestions often prompted no response or that all the important features are already listed. It was also suggested more than once that there is not enough information on features already designated. Of suggestions given, most were for railway viaducts or bridges or farm buildings. Some concern was expressed at local listing being another form of control.

Q5: There are a roughly equal number of those who have and have not been to a Heritage Open Days event in Teesdale. If those who take part in or run such events are included, then roughly 60% have attended such events.

Q6: Many people mentioned groups already known about, and hence not all responses were recorded, as the intention was to discover previously unknown groups. However, it is useful to know that the most mentioned groups were the Teesdale Record Society, the Fitzhugh Library, the Teesdale Heritage Group and Dickens in Teesdale, as it gives an indication of their value to the community, and/or their visibility.

Q7: Seventy-five per cent of online respondees are involved in heritage activities currently, with a higher percentage of those attending consultations or contacted directly.

Qs 8-10: Project suggestions are listed in full on the audit spreadsheet, resources required and contacts are listed next to the relevant groups/organisations, and resources are discussed elsewhere.



Audit spreadsheet

- 2.3 This lists those organisations, collections, resources and sites which exist in the heritage sector within the Teesdale area, concentrating on, but not restricted to, the Heart of Teesdale boundary. The process to gather the audit spreadsheet data was based on discussions with various individuals, heritage organisations and responses to the online survey, through phone calls or in person at the consultation events. A list of contacts from the Heart of Teesdale LP was used as the basis for consultation, but each person consulted was asked for further contacts, until a well-rounded body of contacts had been made. The vast majority of leads were followed up (those not followed up were due to restrictions on time and resources). Not every lead followed or every contact given produced results, sometimes due to no response being received.
- 2.4 The audit spreadsheet is in Appendix A. It includes survey responses, resources and groups covering both the Heart of Teesdale and wider Teesdale area, and entries from the historic environment records for the Heart of Teesdale area, including listed buildings, conservation areas and archaeological events. Much data is already available in disparate sources, from surveys or appraisals already completed, and may be used to complete any gaps.

Resource

- 2.5 The audit identified around 95 resources, including collections (some of which are individual), organisations in or covering the Teesdale area, individuals offering skills etc. These range from very local collections (e.g. Meet the Middletons) to larger organisations which cover the whole of the Teesdale area, such as Durham County Record Office and regional or sub-regional organisations such as The Great North Museum. The only formal public collections held within the area are those at Bowes Museum and the local studies collections at The Fitzhugh Library and Barnard Castle Library. The audit spreadsheet includes a number of individuals from the Teesdale area who are known to be very active in the heritage sector and/or have significant collections of material relating to the area. These include local historians and writers, some of whom already share, or are willing to share, their knowledge with the local or wider Teesdale community, including local schools. They also include a few individuals with knowledge of, or who have done research into collections held in the area. Where known, we have specified requirements/lack of resources highlighted either by members of the organisations, or by others with a good knowledge of the organisations in question.

Groups

- 2.6 The audit has identified around 40 groups and societies which cover the Teesdale area, some of which have little or no information on the internet, such as the Northern Archaeology Group, and a number of local history groups. A number of these groups have been learnt about through online research or through discussions, the vast majority of whom have been contacted. Some, who have been learnt about late in the process, simply have their details noted, and would no doubt have valuable contributions to make. Others have been contacted but not responded, or not responded in full. Further conversations with these groups may identify further resources required/offered.



Historic Environment Record Information

- 2.7 A list of historic environment records relating to the Heart of Teesdale area is attached, including listed and scheduled assets, conservation areas and historic parks. Clarification of records as follows:
- < AMIE Files – records from the National Monuments Record, names detailing whether they are lines, points etc in the Durham County Council (DCC) GIS
 - < Conservation Areas, and whether character appraisals have been produced
 - < Events – DCC list of archaeological events
 - < HF – DCC list of sites / finds etc in the area
 - < SHINE records (Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England): a single, nationally consistent dataset of undesignated historic environment features in England that could benefit from management within Environmental Stewardship, an agri-environment scheme administered by Natural England on behalf of Defra. Data about suitable sites is created by local authority Historic Environment Records (HERs) and fed into the national SHINE dataset. These entries may be candidates for a local list.
- 2.8 Nick Boldrini, Historic Environment Officer for DCC, has said that those records not on SHINE may be because records are poor, not because the sites are not deserving of inclusion. He has identified the potential for a project to visit sites and check their condition in this relation. He also noted that AMIE and HF records probably overlap and work to resolve this is desirable. If this cannot be done by HER, it could form part of a community project, with HER help. There is a similar possibility with Events and NMR Excavation Index records, which also overlap.
- 2.9 N.B. There is also an Area of Archaeological Interest (Barnard Castle) and two Wetland Areas, but no relevant information in the GIS system, other than that they exist. Also, not all records are fully in the HER system as yet, and there is a significant backlog of information to be added. These can be accessed by appointment.

Audit spreadsheet warning

- 2.10 The audit spreadsheet compiled is a working document which gives a snapshot of heritage in the Teesdale area, and also provides a means of raising some awareness of private collections, which could help to prevent their future loss when current owners are no longer around. Due to the ever-evolving nature of the sector, it can never be fully comprehensive, but the results shown are a reliable resource which can be used as a basis for future work. Some entries are blank because contact with or response from some contacts was never achieved, despite several attempts. Many resources are already listed in The Witham Heritage Survey, and can be added to this audit spreadsheet.
- 2.11 Some difficulties would need to be overcome for the audit spreadsheet to be made available to the public (as either an online or hard copy), such as obtaining people's permission to be included in the audit spreadsheet, and maintaining its accuracy as information changes over time. However it could be possible in the future to set up a comprehensive portal to websites and contact details about sites and organisations, based on the one created by the County Durham History & Heritage Forum. This would provide a first port of call for people to find out about heritage in their locality.



Conclusions – some recurring themes

- 3.1 The area is rich in terms of its built and landscape heritage, and the history is very deep, but it is not heavily endowed with designated assets (i.e. those parts of the historic environment valued enough to be controlled through planning), perhaps due to its largely rural nature. What has been very striking from consultations is the huge appreciation of the landscape by the community and those involved in the heritage and cultural sector within the area, often in preference to built heritage.

Insufficient co-ordination and collaboration

- 3.2 There is a huge amount of activity by a number of groups within the area, but feedback has highlighted the issue of too many separate groups working on their own activities, often with an overlap, and a desire to bring them together. The feeling has been expressed that this can be achieved with a little effort. Many groups are run by volunteers, are self-funded and tend to concentrate on simply existing, but most would like to work with others, share ideas and resources. There has been some recent evidence of working together, under the umbrella of Dickens In Teesdale, for example, which is seen to be pro-active. On the other hand, the view has also been expressed that too much is made of the Dickens connection, but that it does appear to be an effective way of focusing attention on the area. There is a good level of informal networking – many people are involved in more than one heritage-related group or activity – but with stronger foundations in place, more collaboration and co-ordination would follow. On one hand, there are strong links between organisations such as the Fitzhugh Library, Teesdale Record Society and Teesdale Heritage Group (for instance, Teesdale Record Society has suggested running a one day local history seminar with at least 5 local history groups). On the other hand, the County Durham History & Heritage Forum, which aims to provide an avenue for communication and information sharing between member organisations and the community, is not considered by some respondents to be as effective as hoped in Teesdale, because it is based out of the area. We suggest that a Teesdale-wide heritage forum would perhaps garner more enthusiasm and a feeling of ownership, although it would need to have a specific purpose and wide support to ensure it became valuable.
- 3.3 A number of people have mentioned the need for a focal point, a first point of contact, and the requirement for upskilling e.g. in applying for funding, or working with collections such as archiving and cataloguing. Various people have noted a reluctance for people to take charge of activities, such as carnivals, due to the red tape involved, regarding health and safety, insurance etc. A new post of Heritage Community Co-ordinator has been created for Witham Hall, in partnership with The Bowes Museum, with a brief to deliver a community access and engagement plan for the Witham building development project to inform and involve local people and, in conjunction with the Museum, to deliver a two-year local history and heritage activity programme including events, exhibitions, workshops and other activities. From feedback received, it seems to NECT that a Heritage Community Co-ordinator for the whole of the Teesdale area would be of great benefit to the wider community, and that it is important that such a post should not be focused on one particular settlement, but reach out to and involve all the smaller communities in the area.
- 3.4 To achieve progress, and help to meet the aims of the HoT LP, it appears that there would be some benefit to formalisation. There is an evident and impressive degree of professionalism to a number of groups in the area, for example in terms of their output (events, publications etc), although feelings were expressed that some



groups have a tendency to be too academic, to the exclusion of more generally popular heritage-related interests (e.g. family history research). We suggest that there would be a benefit in bringing these disparate interests together. One way of doing this would be to support the Teesdale Heritage Open Days Group to increase participation in Heritage Open Days, which creates a climate of people working together. It has cited the need to make participation more attractive to businesses, perhaps by handing out discount vouchers to visitors, to encourage a benefit to the local economy.

Many heritage resources are outside the area

- 3.5 Many relevant heritage services, resources or organisations are not based in Teesdale, even if they cover the area. This has the effect of generating some resentment towards those services, and a feeling that more could be done by them in terms of outreach in the area. The view was expressed that many Teesdale residents feel quite remote from Durham city. It is clear that it is important to use local knowledge, rather than outside organisations (this audit, completed by a regional organisation, has probably suffered due in part to this, leading to a smaller than expected response). There is a perception that a lot of funding goes to outside organisations rather than local ones, even if those organisations cover the area. There is also a perception that a number of finds and records relating to the area are housed outside it, e.g. in Beamish or Newcastle, and a reluctance from some individuals or groups to donate items to either Beamish or the County Record Office because of difficulties in the past with gaining access to items once deposited. The need for one umbrella source to go to for an overall understanding of the history of Teesdale is keenly felt.
- 3.6 As the Witham Heritage Survey found, local expectations are high, for example many are keen to see a local museum, and frustration has been expressed over current difficulties in accessing local collections at Bowes Museum. The Museum acknowledges that it has focused on redeveloping and promoting the museum regionally and nationally, and ensuring that it is fit for purpose in the twenty-first century. Now that these aims are being achieved, it plans to increase access to its local history and archaeology collections via a programme of events and activities. It is aiming to achieve this through partnership with The Witham Hall and its Heritage Programme Co-ordinator, through exhibitions, a new library facility, and working with local heritage groups and societies via the HoT LP. The timing of the Witham Hall development programme and the HoT LP fortuitously dovetail with the Museum's own development strategy. Accessing the local collection is storage, for which the Museum requires further funds. The old fire station in Barnard Castle has been discussed as a possible venue for access to local collections, but respondents have noted that currently this is only an idea and would need considerable project development.

Lack of resources

- 3.7 A theme that has recurred time and again, in discussions with many local groups, is the lack of resources. This is particularly in relation to equipment (mainly projectors and laptops) and storage. For example, The Witham is keen to accommodate the Fitzhugh Library once refurbished, but will lack sufficient storage space to do so fully. The requirement for increasing the pool of skilled people, in terms of ability to apply for funding and in collections management, has been expressed. Specific requirements are noted in the audit spreadsheet, next to the relevant group. It must be noted that there is likely to be a number of groups either not contacted directly due to time constraints, or who have not responded, who may be also be in need of resources – perhaps leading



to the lack of response. Some of these lie outside the HoT boundary, but may be able to apply for other streams of funding.

- 3.8 A lack of facilities in the area was also noted by respondents, for example too few visitor centres and toilets, or toilets being in a bad state of repair, with Bowlees being given as an example. N.B. The North Pennines AONB has taken the lease for Bowlees, and is applying for funding to improve the car park and meters to help sustain the building, but this does not include the toilets at the moment.
- 3.9 Valuable and highly regarded community services, such as The Fitzhugh Library are staffed entirely by volunteers, and a number of groups rely solely on funding from volunteers. This may be a characteristic of these types of groups, but could be addressed by providing training in increasing numbers of and managing volunteers. It appears that an insufficiency of volunteers has the effect of being restrictive to many potential activities. For example, the Fitzhugh is only open on Tuesdays (although they do open at other times on request), and many groups have a speaker programme – some have a budget for this, but others ask people to speak for free. Fees are normally too expensive – some curators engage with the community in this way as part of their role, but often require at least transport costs.

Transport

- 3.10 Transport is a big issue in the area, and was mentioned many times in discussions. The size of the area and disparate nature of settlements is a barrier to accessing services. A number of respondents informed us that bus services have been heavily cut back, and the lack of cheap or free transport impacts greatly on access to heritage sites or activities. The Teesdale Heritage Open Days Group, which received initial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and has been in existence for around 5 years, has arranged bus tours to HOD events, in order to help address this need. Another way of addressing this could be to raise awareness and skills by offering training in the use of online resources. Another suggestion we received was the idea of travelling exhibitions, using the whole Teesdale area as a museum, and taking heritage to people.

Sense of place

- 3.11 There is a strong sense of pride in the area, and a clear love for the landscape and its variety of features, touched both by man and nature. From the hushes and waterfalls to the many bridges, village greens and dry stone walls, it has a distinctive identity, and it is easy to understand the local pride felt by communities. There have been a number of suggestions for small projects such as opening up access to footpaths, producing village trails and promoting village carnivals, which all help to sustain such pride. One suggestion, for a project to document the influence that water has had on the names of roads and structures in Romaldkirk, before this knowledge dies out, perfectly illustrates local distinctiveness. Indeed, feedback suggests that, despite reduced tourism promotion regionally, local people are keen to enhance the sense of place which characterises the area.



Learning resources

- 3.12 This subject also highlights the perception that there is little on offer, that resources are located outside the area, and accessibility issues for those in rural areas. There has also been an issue raised about the time of courses precluding those who are employed.

County Durham Archive Education Service

- 3.13 A range of resources is available online: www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/Pages/learningzone.aspx. There are also resource packs for loan on the following:

- < Ourselves (Key Stage 1)
- < Victorian Children (KS2)
- < Local Area (KS2)
- < Local History (KS3)
- < Science (KS3)
- < Science: Medicine Through Time (KS3)
- < World War II
- < Poor Law (KS5)

- 3.14 In the past two years, no Teesdale schools have borrowed them. However, they are also available via Durham Learning Resources, for which the Education Service has no figures. The following Teesdale schools used the Education Service:

- < Montalbo Primary School, Barnard Castle – workshop delivered by the Education Archivist to Year 5/6 at school, on War Horse (using details of a real war horse taken from records in the DLI collection)
- < Montalbo Primary School, Barnard Castle – workshop delivered at the DLI Museum on Aycliffe Angels
- < St Mary's RC Primary School, Barnard Castle – workshop delivered to Year 5/6 at school, based on using the Census.

- 3.15 There have also been outreach activities run from the Education Service:

- < In 2010, a project was undertaken with HMYOI Deerbolt in collaboration with Safe Ground, Durham University Archives and the Barnard Castle Luncheon Club. Themes explored included separation and food, and were based on WW2 archives. Intergenerational work took place to help break down barriers between the two groups (14 prisoners aged 18-21 and 20 older adults from the community). The young men were inspired by the archives and their talks with the older adults to create role play, poetry, songs and drawings. The project culminated in performances by the prisoners to their families, fellow prisoners and members of the community. A resource box was created from the project, which is available from the Record Office for loan. Discussions have been held for the box to be used by the Youth Offending Team.
- < Durham Dales Carers (one group in Teesdale, one in Weardale): 6 week family history course in Barnard Castle, including a visit to the Record Office
- < Altogether Archaeology: North Pennines AONB HLF-funded project for over 300 volunteers, working on a range of archaeological sites and projects. Holwick Group included training in using archives and an archive research group to complement the field work.



- ◁ Dickens in Durham exhibition in the Record Office and at Darlington and Cockerton Library and liaison with Dickens in Teesdale group
- ◁ Community heritage training in collections management and digitisation for Mickleton Village Hall Community Heritage Group.

3.16 The Service is keen to offer people the opportunity to visit the Record Office to find out more about archives, why and how they are kept, and what is available about their locality and heritage. It would like to be able to organise group visits (and provide transport) so residents could come and find out more about their County Record Office.

3.17 Another valuable contribution it can offer is in collections management and digitisation for the various local history/community heritage groups. This gives the opportunity to spread best practice and encourage proper management of collections. It can also advise on recording procedures for their collections, packaging and storage conditions, advise when archives would be better placed in the Record Office for permanent preservation and copies kept in the locality, advise on safe digitisation and proper file management and provide access to specialist digitisation equipment when a flatbed scanner is not suitable.

3.18 Funding is required for all these initiatives.

Bishop Auckland College

3.19 Through commissioning arrangements with Durham County Council Adult Learning & Skills Service, the College offers a range of non-accredited courses across South and West Durham. The learning included in the South and West Durham delivery plan covers three themes of learning 1) Personal Interest 2) Introduction to Vocational and 3) Employability. Focus is on learning, which will provide an opportunity to gain or develop skills and confidence to progress to further learning, personal development and employment, and may provide opportunities for advancement in work or personal life. Courses offered include Family History and the History of County Durham, however to date they have not been delivered in the Teesdale area. Provision is demand-led, and although at this stage interest has been low, the opportunities for these/other courses are available. This provision is delivered in community venues at various locations across South and West Durham.

Darlington Learning and Skills Service

3.20 This service offers taster sessions in Family History and Memory Boxes, and a course in Family History.

Project Gaps

3.21 Many suggestions we received are already being addressed by HoT projects already in various stages of development. The suggestions below are where gaps have been identified, or potential gaps where projects could fit with those existing. They dovetail with many of the Partnerships, including local themes of distinctiveness, natural and built environment, conservation, skills, training, community participation, agriculture, heritage arts and culture.



Potential Projects

N.B. Shaded cells denote project suggestions which highlight the distinctiveness of Teesdale. All project suggestions are made by respondents to the survey unless otherwise stated. **Not all projects will be viable, and landowners/building owners will require consultation.**

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	NECT SUGGESTION?
Building Recording, Barnard Castle	A number of people noted the significance of the local shops and original signs, and that most were originally residential buildings. Building recording projects to record the more interesting shops would involve the community in discovering more about local history, by tracing the development of local buildings. This involves exploring and measuring the buildings themselves, as well as local archive research. A great way of achieving hands-on activity for those who might not have taken part in heritage activity before. The North East Vernacular Architecture Group runs similar projects across the region, many in Co. Durham.	Yes, as a result of feedback
Cotman River Walk, Brignall	This circular route along the River Greta, from the hamlet of Brignall, crossing the river at Brignall Mill, includes views that were famously painted by John Sell Cotman and J M W Turner, and written about by Walter Scott in his epic poem Rokeby. However, it was commented that it is difficult to negotiate, particularly in the summer, due to seasonal overgrowth and, recently, a number of fallen trees lying across the path. This would be an ideal community project, to remove vegetation and clear the paths, and could be linked in to the HoT/A5 Paths For All People project, being led by Durham County Council and Partners. There could also be an opportunity for on-site interpretation, bringing to life the artistic connections which could lift this walk into something much more significant.	
Conservation Area Character Appraisals	Of the 12 designated Conservation Areas within the HoT boundary, only 2 have Character Appraisals (Barnard Castle and Eggleston). All conservation areas should have a lively, illustrated document, which sets out what makes them special, and which is adopted by the Council. These documents are usually prepared by the local council, but they could be prepared by the community with professional guidance. Such projects have been successfully run in other parts of the region. The Council would control the brief so it knew the work would be of adoptable standard, but local people could prepare the research, area survey, photographs, diagrams and descriptions needed to make a sound character appraisal. This is a great way of increasing the skills and capacity of people to get involved in local planning issues, and helps increase confidence in the town planning processes.	
Dry Stone Walling	Teesdale stone walls are an integral part of the landscape and survey respondents have noted that there is significant unrepaired degradation, whether natural or through stone theft. There are many local wallers, and a local training school in Weardale. This could be aimed either at lay people, involving taster day events, or just for contractors. There could be a local dry stone walling group who undertake weekend repairs under their own We have also been informed that there are specific local styles of dry stone walling, influenced by the geology of the area, and research of this could form part of a project.	
Eggleston Archaeological	There is the potential for a detailed landscape archaeology project involving local interest groups. Training would be involved in developing	



<p>Survey</p>	<p>survey techniques and air photograph interpretation skills, and giving local groups the skills to do their own archaeology. A key tool that could be employed for this is LIDAR data, which could be provided by Natural England and the Environment Agency. A similar project has been undertaken by the North Pennines AONB Altogether Archaeology Project.</p>	
<p>Field Barns Survey</p>	<p>Use and condition surveys were undertaken in the 1990s by the NNPA for Swaledale, Wensleydale and Littondale. Grant aid was used to encourage farmers to tackle repairs, with a good success rate. Over 250 barns were repaired in Swaledale over 8 years. English Heritage have since produced a toolkit for recording barns. There could be a follow up survey to see how much work is still needed and to highlight successes as a way of encouraging further action. The toolkit could be used for live training activities. Natural England currently involved in restoration of 3 field barns at Holwick, on Raby Estate, which has agreed that HSI skills events could be incorporated. There is the opportunity for training on 5 different types of roof – suitable for more than one-day taster courses.</p>	
<p>Heart of Teesdale Heritage Skills Project</p>	<p>A number of sites could be used for a heritage skills project, which would demonstrate how run-down historic buildings can be repaired and maintained using methods and materials suitable to their age and construction. Potential sites could perhaps include The Saddle House (currently maintained on ad hoc basis by farmer – contact: Neil Tarn, 01833 640 016, starn59@btinternet.com), which is need of repointing, underpinning, possibly carpentry and joinery, dependent on further research. The current interpretation board is also in a poor condition. Also, the wash houses, by White Row, Middleton, are derelict and the roofs beginning to cave in – they are the last remaining wash houses in Middleton. Other possible sites could be the bastion and walls at Hutton Magna, Whorlton Toll Cottage, the old boat house near to Whorlton Bridge and other outbuildings/offshoots.</p>	<p>Yes, as a result of feedback</p>
<p>Heritage Community Development Worker</p>	<p>It is clear that the area would benefit from a Teesdale-wide Heritage Community Development Worker, who could complement the new post of Heritage Programme Co-ordinator for the Witham. This would provide a first point of contact for groups and individuals in need of advice and support, and a way of co-ordinating some area-wide activities. It would be an important role, linking communities to museums, archives and other more widely based heritage organisations, thereby building up co-operation and trust, building on and encouraging relationships between groups. The co-ordinator could also provide training in securing and sustaining funding (suggested specification in appendix).</p>	<p>Yes, as a result of feedback</p>
<p>Historic Environment Record</p>	<p>There is the potential for a project to visit potential SHINE (Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England) sites and check their condition. Other potential work would involve resolving overlap in various records, and could form part of a community project, with HER help.</p>	
<p>Legs</p>	<p>This Anglo Saxon cross lies just outside the Heart of Teesdale boundary, four miles north of Piercebridge, to the west of the B6275. The base is believed to be Roman and symbolic of the 20th Legion. There is a local rhyme, which refers to the steepness of the hill below the cross: <i>Leſ þæt geseaſc 7 fceagga <] ʒ ʒ ʒ U b X 6] ʒ X Y f g</i> <i>Make many a horse to puff and blow</i> The cross is no longer visible, but the base and remaining stem is approximately 10ft high. Concrete was used to stabilise it approximately 20 years ago, but this is becoming undermined. The retaining wall to the side of the road is in dire need of repair – if it comes down it will start to</p>	



	undermine the cross and base. The cross is in a farm field belonging to White House Farm, but has a public stile for access. The approximate cost to rebuild the wall and stabilise the cross would be £2-3000, and would involve approximately 5 days work. This has the potential to provide a possible skills training opportunity	
Live Heritage Site Training	There is a possibility of partnering with current Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Schemes, to offer training on live heritage sites. Likely focuses would include lime mortar work and both pan tile and slate roofing on the Raby Estate Summerhouse Grange , and roofing and lime work on 3 barns on the Strathmore Estate at Holwick. Although outside the HoT area, publicity would focus on the LP area, to ensure benefit to the community living within the area. Either location could also provide an interesting practical dimension to a homeowner day, focused on helping those who live in or own pre-1919 buildings to better understand and look after their homes.	Yes
Local list	This could be piloted within the Heart of Teesdale boundary and could involve the community in putting together an informal list of buildings and structures which are not worthy of listing, but are important enough to local people that they should be considered when looking at future planning and development. The benefits are preserving buildings of local importance, valuing the views of the community, increasing knowledge and skills. Issues to be aware of are that they will not be government listed, and an apparent lack of enthusiasm. Some cite fear of possible restriction, others that most significant features are already designated, and some of the already designated assets don't have to find out more, and to ensure unpublished material is published, has been suggested as possibly more beneficial.	
Lost Landscapes	Feedback has highlighted the loss of a number of significant views, due to recent tree growth, and a project has been suggested to remove trees in order to improve views. This would need to involve educating communities on the reason for the requirement for removal.	
Milestones	There are approximately 6 milestones between Gainford and Barnard Castle – Mike Stow in Gainford has repaired and maintained 2 at his own expense. He is willing to do more, and it would be an ideal project with to involve the local community, and possibly local school. This could also involve a mapping project of milestones within the HoT area.	
Outbuildings	A survey of the various outbuildings in the HoT area could be undertaken, such as the bastion on the edge of Hutton Magna, various lead mining workshops etc. Like the field barn, small domestic and farm buildings might have marginal economic value, but often contribute to the local landscape or village s beneficial. use is important to the local what their repair needs are and encouraging owners to tackle them could be a good way of enhancing the character of local village landscapes.	Yes, as a result of feedback
Pack Horse Bridge Survey	A project has been suggested to survey the pack horse bridges in the area. There is also the potential for a skills training project to remove the Headlam Pack Horse Bridge from the Heritage At Risk Register. It is noted as generally satisfactory but in decline, with significant localised problems.	
Prehistoric Rock Art	There are 6 examples of prehistoric rock art on the Heritage At Risk Register: 2 at Cotherstone and 4 at Lartington. Currently there are plans for a Prehistoric Rock Art project (HoT/C7) for one site (yet to be decided). Funding could be used for further sites.	
River	A project to survey river crossings in the area has been suggested, due to	



Crossings Survey	the number and variety of crossings, including stepping stones, which form part of the same story. There is scope to research this topic to gain understanding of their historical significance, and to plot how types of crossing have varied over time due, for example, to changes in the strength of the river current.	
Rokeby Park	Feedback has suggested the potential for community involvement to improve the Park – the Gateway to Mortham Tower is on the Heritage At Risk Register (Priority C). Recent works at Barforth have resulted in the removal of 3 buildings from the HAR Register, through a successful collaboration between the landowner, contractors, agencies and local community.	
Romaldkirk – The Culture of Water	It has been suggested that there is a danger of losing local knowledge about the influence that water has had on street names and structures in Romaldkirk, such as Water Gap, the main road that runs down through the village. This could be addressed by adding features to a local list, an oral history project etc.	
St Peter School, Gainford	The developer has recently asked local people to come up with ideas for re-use. Feedback from a number of consultations shows that the lack of a local museum is keenly felt, and there are numerous storage issues for local collections. The opinion was expressed that the front of the building needs to be preserved. Could the building be used as a heritage hub – a local museum, community education and skills training centre. Such a scheme has the potential to turn a controversial past into a future beneficial to the whole of Teesdale, and form a legacy project for HoT LP.	Yes, as a result of feedback
Teesdale Mercury Digitisation 1954 – to date	The current Teesdale Mercury Digitisation Project, being led by Roy Tranter, with the involvement of Teesdale Record Society, is restricted to 1854-1954.	
Traditional Skills Training	Training events in traditional crafts and skills could be run in the area, using local trainers where possible. Events could include blacksmithing, stained glass, clay sculpture, introduction to lime/pointing, a homeowner event, heather thatching, wood carving, silversmithing or pole lathe turning. These events would encourage learning and skills sharing within the HoT LP area and promote better understanding, and therefore protection, of the area's heritage.	Yes, as a result of feedback
Village Atlas	This would need to be professionally led, but would involve the community in research and publishing (including potentially online as a GIS) a guide to their local area, its places, stories and people. A good opportunity for training, increasing knowledge of and access to an area, and community activity. Cotherstone Gainford, Whorlton and Winston have been suggested (although Gainford is already involved with the Ancient Parish of Gainford project). Useful planning tools can come from such projects, for example, maps of archaeological sensitivity. Basic atlases can cost between 8-10k	
Wells Survey	It has been suggested that surveying the wells in the Teesdale area would provide a good basis for a community-led project.	
Whorlton Bridge	The approach to this attractive bridge and Toll Cottage is spoilt by a mish-mash of signs, which do much to detract from appreciation of these historic features. A project to rationalise signage would be a vast improvement.	Yes



Sources

Consultation, online, by phone and in person, as detailed above

Desk top research

Heart of Teesdale Landscape Conservation Action Plan 2011-2016

Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership Landscape Appraisal, Chris Burnett Associates 2011

Witham Heritage Survey 2011, Archaeo-Environment Ltd, August 2011

Appendices

- A Audit Spreadsheet
- B Teesdale Heritage Community Development Worker – Person Specification



| Appendix A

| Heart of Teesdale Audit Spreadsheet



Appendix B

Teesdale Heritage Community Development Worker

Person Specification

Quality	Essential	Desirable
Training/ Experience/ Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Experience of community development, project co-ordination, and/or the museums/archives and/or heritage sector < Experience of working successfully with a wide range of individuals and organisations, including volunteers and community groups < Experience of developing programmes and ideas to reach new audiences < Experience of delivering training and outreach events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Educated to degree level or equivalent < Knowledge and understanding of the museums and archives sector < Knowledge and understanding of the community development sector < Knowledge and understanding of the built heritage sector < Project development experience < Teaching qualification - school or adult learning < Experience of developing promotion and publicity materials
Knowledge/ Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Outstanding communication skills < Computer literate in all normal office computer systems – Microsoft Office/Internet < Strong organisational skills < Effective Presentation skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Database management/maintenance < Research skills < Knowledge of Teesdale area
Interpersonal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Demonstrable ability to develop successful relationships and partnerships < Ability to work on own initiative < Self starter / highly proactive < Ability to deliver projects successfully to tight timetable < Flexible attitude 	
Considerations	This role will require travel around Teesdale, County Durham and beyond, where appropriate, therefore a current driving licence and/or access to a car is required.	

