

Hetton Smithy restoration Highly Commended

Work to restore the Grade 2 Listed blacksmith's building at Hetton-le-Hole has been highly commended by Constructing Excellence in the North East at their Gala Evening. The "Smithy" restoration, was highlighted in the Heritage category.

The single storey, one-roomed smithy is one of the oldest buildings in the town and is now back as a working blacksmith's shop with owner John Guy planning public demonstrations.

The open days are 5th July, 2nd August (10am to 2pm) and 12th, 13th and 14th September (10am to 3pm). John Guy said: "I am looking forward to the open days, in particular being able to demonstrate the historic tools and techniques".



Left to right - Peter Dunn (Durham County Council), Derek Nicholson (Classic Masonry), David Beaumont (Architect) with Linda and John Guy the owners (front) at the CENE awards.

Hawthorn Hive Lime Kiln conserved



The eastern lime kiln at Hawthorn Hive, consolidated along with the retaining wall next to it which has been rebuilt using stone from the Dene.

Works to consolidate the historic lime kiln at Hawthorn Hive are almost complete. The lime kiln structure is unusual. Three individual kilns were built into a natural promontory on the cliff face, close to the beach at the mouth of Hawthorn Dene. Little remains of the two kilns closest to the beach. We focussed work on the consolidation of the eastern kiln, the most intact, to ensure it is preserved for the foreseeable future.

During the works we found some interesting objects - three World War I barbed wire fence posts. They are evidence of the military defences of the Dene, in addition to the concrete "pill box" near the beach which is still in great condition.

Marsden Old Quarry

We have placed three new sculptures in Marsden Old Quarry. 'Ant' an artist who grew up near to the quarry designed and sculpted them. Owen Pugh who quarried the rock in nearby Marsden Quarry, donated the limestone and a place for Ant to work.

You will find a sculpture of a lizard on a rock at the entrance to the quarry on Lizard Lane. Within the Nature Reserve are an abstract sculpture and a stone two-seater sofa. In July we are planning an event at the Reserve where you can meet the artist, explore the site and activities including a miniature sculpture hunt. Look out for details on our website.

Access around the quarry is being improved and footpaths have been cleared. We will be removing anti-graffiti paint obscuring the rock faces and repainting the White Horse later this year.



The lizard of Lizard Lane.



Carley Hill quarry before the works were carried out (above)

The concretionary limestone formations (right)

After the works were complete (below)



Fulwell Quarry

Carley Hill Quarry in Fulwell, Sunderland is a disused quarry. The site is a nationally important geological site of special scientific interest (SSSI) due to the variety of Permian rocks that you can see on the quarry face.

The rock faces had become inaccessible due to tree growth and covered with plants. We have carried out major rock face clearance works in order to uncover the rocks. You now have better access at the site to appreciate the fascinating geology.

We are planning to do more clearance works in other parts of the site later this year. This will give you access to the concretionary limestone formations that make the area's rocks so special.

Sunderland City Council organised the works to the quarry. Natural England's Conservation Enhancement Scheme paid for the works along with Heritage Lottery Funding from the Limestone Landscapes Project.

For further information on this project or to find out more about events that are planned for the site, please contact Grace Crawford at Groundwork on 01207 524803 or email grace.crawford@groundwork.org.uk

An aptly named Bee Orchid, a highlight of the magnesian limestone grasslands

Image: D. Mitchell



Limestone Festival 2014

Between June and August we have for you a festival of events to celebrate the natural beauty and heritage of the historic limestone landscape.

Festival events are to help you, your family and friends to learn more about the area's heritage in a fun way and you may even get fit at the same time.

We are adding more walks, talks and activities over the next few weeks visit www.limestonelandscapes.info

Date	Description	Type	Location	Organisation	Booking	For further information please contact
Sat 14th June 12 noon - 4pm	Limestone Landscapes partners are launching our 3 months of activities as part of Sunderland Festival and there will be fossils, freebies, butterfly, bee and flower crafts and much more for all the family. FREE.	E	Herrington Country Park	Sunderland Live	No	Limestone Landscapes Tel: 03000 267155 or email: limestonelandscapes@durham.gov.uk
Wed 18th June 1pm-4pm	Wildflowers and butterflies at Thrislington walk and talk with Limestone Landscapes Project Manager Tony Devos. FREE	W	Thrislington National Nature Reserve	Limestone Landscapes	Yes	Limestone Landscapes Tel: 03000 267155 or email: limestonelandscapes@durham.gov.uk
Sat 21st June 11pm until late (10.30pm at Castle Eden Dene)	Night time glow worm walk. To celebrate National Insect Week join Joe Davies from Natural England on a late evening visit to Thrislington NNR in search of elusive glow worms. FREE. Sturdy footwear essential.	W	Thrislington National Nature Reserve	Natural England	Yes	To book a place and transport from Castle Eden Dene tel: 0191 586 0004
Sun 29th June 11am start	Botanical treasures: Coast between Easington and Hawthorn. A medium hard walk of 5 and half hours duration with Geologist and Natural Historian John Burgess. Note that there is a cost for this activity.	LW	Easington Colliery Viewpoint	Durham County Council	No	www.durham.gov.uk/countryside countryside@durham.gov.uk 03000 264 589
Sat 5th July and 2nd Aug 10am-2pm	Hetton Smithy Open Days - meet owner John Guy and watch him demonstrate traditional skills. Drop in sessions. FREE.	E	Hetton-le-Hole, Bog Row, North Road.	Limestone Landscapes	No	Limestone Landscapes Tel: 03000 267155 or email: limestonelandscapes@durham.gov.uk

E = Event, W=Walk LW= Long Walk D= Day School



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Sun 6th July	Sunderland Mag-Lime Tour. Spend the day with Geologist Brian Young exploring the Sunderland geology landmarks. A bus tour stopping at 5 locations. Bring lunch. 10.30am-4pm. FREE.	D	Meet at Sunderland Stadium of Light car park	Limestone Landscapes	Yes	Limestone Landscapes Tel: 03000 267155 or email: limestonelandscapes@durham.gov.uk
Sat /Sun 12th / 13th July	Hartlepool Headland Heritage Festival. A variety of activities including walks, talks and family events over the 2 days. This event launches a 5 year commemoration of World War 1. 10.30-4pm. FREE.	E	Hartlepool Headland	Hartlepool Council	No	David Geen, Hartlepool Council Tel: 01429 266522
Sat 12th July 10am - 12 noon	Heugh Gun Battery and Headlands Tour. FREE.	W	Hartlepool	Groundwork	No	Helen Cheetham, Groundwork Tel: 0191 567 2550
Sat 19th July	Celebrating Our Coast. Family activities with many partner organisations. FREE.	E	Dalton Park, Murton	Heritage Coast	No	Heritage Coast. Tel: 03000 268 131; www.durhamheritagecoast.org
Sat 26th July 11am-4pm	Big Watch Weekend. Join Durham Wildlife Trust and Limestone Landscapes for a landmark cetacean data collection exercise along the North Sea coast. FREE activities during the day will include guided walks of geology and wildflowers, reptile and amphibian display, face painting, and arts and crafts. FREE.	E	Blackhall Rocks Nature Reserve	Durham Wildlife Trust	No	Durham Wildlife Trust 0191 584 3112
Wed 30th July 10am-12noon	The Coastal Defences of Seaham. A walk exploring Seaham's role in defending our coastline. FREE.	W	North Terrace Green at War Memorial to start	Groundwork	No	Helen Cheetham, Groundwork Tel: 0191 567 2550
Fri 1st August 1pm-3pm	Disappearing Guns of Trow Point. An historical walk around South Shields. FREE.	W	South Shields starting at Souter Lighthouse	Groundwork	No	Helen Cheetham, Groundwork Tel: 0191 567 2550
Sat 2nd August 10am-12noon	The Coastal Defences of Sunderland. A walk exploring Sunderland's importance in wartime defence of our coastline. FREE.	W	Sunderland starting at Roker Clifftop next to Roker Park	Groundwork	No	Helen Cheetham, Groundwork Tel: 0191 567 2550



Date	Description	Type	Location	Organisation	Booking	For further information please contact
Sat 2nd August 11am-3pm	Castle Eden Dene Nature Reserve Family Fun day. Craft stalls, traditional games, and much more. FREE.	E	Castle Eden Dene	Natural England - Joe Davies	No	Natural England For more information tel: 0191 586 0004
Tues 12th August 1pm-4.30pm	Historical Walk and Talk with Niall Hammond at Hawthorn Dene, taking in the newly refurbished Lime Kilns. Medium difficulty - steep steps down to the beach. Plus free bus from DLI car park at 12.15pm includes return journey. FREE.	LW	Hawthorn Dene	Limestone Landscapes	Yes	Limestone Landscapes Tel: 03000 267155 or email: limestonelandscapes@durham.gov.uk
Tues 19th August 1pm-4.30pm	Historical Walk and Talk with Niall Hammond at Castle Eden Dene. Medium difficulty. FREE. Plus free bus from DLI car park at 12.15pm includes return journey.	LW	Castle Eden Dene	Limestone Landscapes	Yes	Limestone Landscapes Tel: 03000 267155 or email: limestonelandscapes@durham.gov.uk
Wed 27th August 11am-3pm	A wild day out at Thorpe Lea East Farm. FREE drop in sessions. Make charcoal on a campfire and create some charcoal artwork. Bug hunting and a walk in the meadows.	E	Thorpe Lea East Farm	Durham Wildlife Trust - Kirsty Pollard	No	Durham Wildlife Trust 0191 584 3112
Sun 14th Sept	Fascinating Fungi Foray with enthusiast Tom Kirby. Discover the wonderful world of mycology within the ancient woodland at Castle Eden Dene. Sturdy footwear essential. 10am-1pm. FREE.	W	Castle Eden Dene	Natural England - Joe Davies	No	Natural England For more information tel: 0191 586 0004
Sat 20th Sept	Beach Watch - Help support the vital work of Marine Conservation Society with the UK's largest coastal litter survey and beach clean up. Bring sturdy footwear. 10.30am-12.30pm. FREE.	E	Blackhall Rocks	Natural England - Joe Davies	No	Natural England For more information tel: 0191 586 0004
Sun 21st Sept	Big Lime Triathlon. Please note that there is a charge for participants in this event.	E	Hartlepool Marnia	Groundwork - Natalie Connor	Yes	For more information www.hartlepool.gov.uk/biglimetriathlon

There is also a full series of walks led by Durham Countryside Team - please visit www.durham.gov.uk/countryside for more details



Early purple orchids now growing on the steep sides of Cross Gill



In the past six months Durham Wildlife Trust have transformed the coastal site at Cross Gill, just north of Crimdon Dene Caravan Park. Thick gorse and scrub almost completely covered it in November 2013. Since then, Durham Wildlife Trust's Reserves Team has put in over 400 volunteer days. Firstly they removed the gorse and scrub, and in the past few weeks the new growth of bracken.

You can already see the results with the emergence of orchids and other flora that would have been impossible to see last summer. Work continues to keep on top of regrowth. We will install a water supply in the next few weeks, so we can put grazing

Coastal Grasslands at Cross Gill



Gorse being removed by volunteers in November.

animals onto the site during the winter to eat off the summer's vegetation.

For more information on this project please contact Vivien Kent at Durham Wildlife Trust on 0191 584 3112, or email: vkent@durhamwt.co.uk

Join in with the Big Watch weekend

You can join Durham Wildlife Trust for a day spotting marine mammals at Blackhall Rocks on Saturday 26th July. We are joining up with ERIC North East (Environmental Records and Information Centre), Marine Life, Orca and the Sea Water Foundation for the day. We will be training volunteers in how to identify whales, dolphins and porpoises using spotting scopes set up along the coastline.

Other FREE activities during the day will include:

- A guided walk of the Magnesian Limestone formation with Geologist Dr Paul Williams
- Magnesian Limestone Plant ID with Durham Wildlife Trust
- A reptile and amphibian display
- Face painting
- Fun arts & crafts



Common Dolphins
Image: Eleanor Stone - Manx Wildlife Trust

There is no need to book just come along on the day. For more information please contact Michael Rogers at Durham Wildlife Trust on (0191) 584 3112 or email: mrogers@durhamwt.co.uk

Village Atlas celebrations at Elwick



The Village Atlas exhibition in the WI Hall

Elwick Village held a 'Picnic on the Green' on Monday 5th May, to celebrate the completion of their Village Atlas. This free event for villagers was opened by television historian, John Grundy and was attended by the Mayor of Hartlepool along with most of the village.

They enjoyed an Exhibition of the findings of the Village Atlas project, and lots of traditional activities, which included:

- Maypole dancing by the children
- Morris dancing
- A tug-of-war
- Hook the duck
- Coconut shy
- Target football



One of the pub teams is given encouragement, although the Young Farmers' won the Tug of War Competition

Preston's of Potto's famous fairground organ 'Ruth' provided a musical background. A Victoria sponge baking competition and the making of lavender bags, peg dolls and coasters added to the fun.

Local volunteers have been researching many aspects of what makes the village the place it is, and have discovered lots of previously unknown information about their village.

One of the volunteers, Minna West said "We had no idea that we had water voles living on Char Beck, nor that there are rare wild orchids amongst the several hundred species of wildflowers growing in the parish. We had a 'Time Team' style, 3-day archaeological dig on the Green last summer, and uncovered the remains of a World War II air raid shelter and what looks to be an 18th or 19th century forge.



Morris Dancers

We knew that the village had been originally laid out by the Normans, probably on the site of an earlier Saxon settlement. Our research has shown how the village grew and expanded over time, and we think we may have uncovered at least two previously unknown medieval settlements.

Amazingly, we have also discovered why water runs across the roads in the village – it's to do with the geology, not a high water table at all." A summary of the research is currently in production and should be available in July.



A selection of coastal wildflowers

Image: s D. Mitchell



A photo of Common spotted orchids in Marsden Old Quarry -
We would love to see your photos from the area

Calling all photographers!

While you are out and about in the Limestone Landscapes over the Summer take a photo of your favourite place and send it to us, with a few words telling us why you like it. The photos will be on display at our celebration event in November. We are offering prizes for the best entries.

For competition details and how to submit visit our website or telephone 03000 267152.

Self-guided walk leaflets - coming soon...

A number of our projects have been busy producing self-guided tour and walk leaflets around the area. Groundwork are delivering a series of walks (see an example to the right) to appreciate the geology across the area. They are in the process of developing another series which brings to life the Coastal Defences. The tours and walks will be launched as part of this year's Limestone Festival.

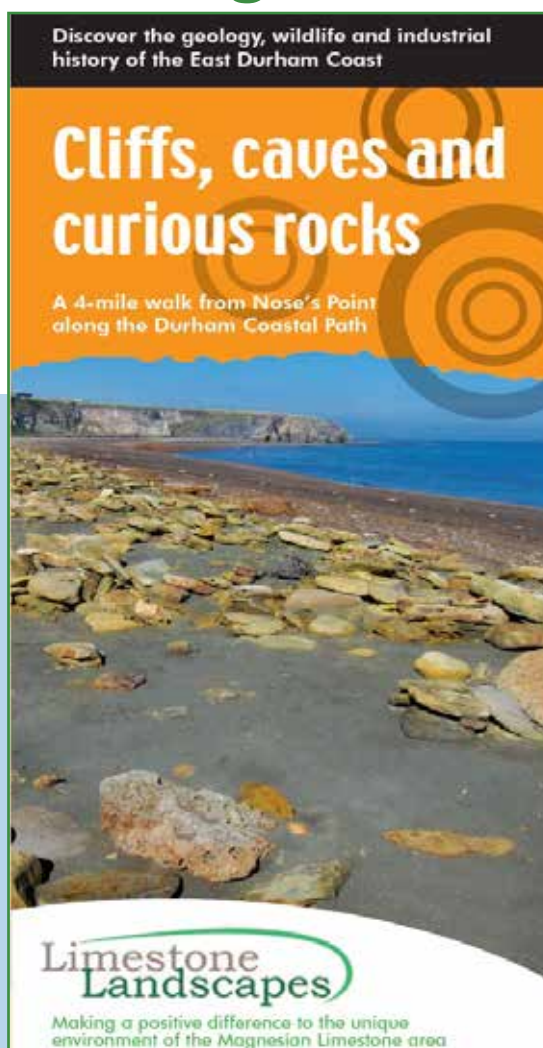
Durham Wildlife Trust has produced two walk leaflets and audio tours about coal tip ecology. The first will be ready in July.

If you would like to find out more about any of our projects or would like to become involved please contact:

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c/o Durham County Council
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Durham
DH1 5UQ

Telephone: **03000 267155**

Email: limestonelandscapes@durham.gov.uk



www.limestonelandscapes.info