1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:**
North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark, United Kingdom, European Geoparks Network

**Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation:** 2003 / 2018

**Image:** Hush – a monumental temporary art installation by Steve Messam in the North Pennines AONB and UNESCO Global Geopark, July 2019 – received 5000 visitors and coverage in national and international press.

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staff:** 32 staff including 2 geoscientists

**Number of visitors:** Bowlees Visitor Centre 52,000. (full area survey not conducted this year).

**Number of Geopark events:** 110+ (organised by management body)

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** 20

**Number of Geopark press release:** 30+

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

**Major achievements in 2019**

- Peatland restoration continues on a large scale in the Geopark, including projects with other UK and European partners including LIFE, INTERREG and other funding sources.

- The Geopark team organised training for volunteers, programmes for schools involving mining heritage, making animations and creative writing, and public events including a major art installation (see image), walks, talks, exhibitions and workshops.

- A multi-million pound Landscape Partnership Scheme, Fellfoot Forward, covering the north-west part of the Geopark and its surroundings was awarded funding to begin in 2020, working with local partners and communities towards conservation, engagement and interpretation.

**Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation**

- Participation by two staff in the 43rd and 44th EGN CC meetings and European Geoparks Conference. The Director, Chris Woodley-Stewart, was elected to the EGN AC in March 2019.
Participation in an INTERREG Atlantic Area project with 11 other Geopark partners including assisting 2 aspiring Geoparks. This project has been extended and will end in November 2020.

Assistance for aspiring UK Geoparks through the UK Geoparks Forum, of which Chris Woodley-Stewart is vice-chair. 3 staff attended the UK forum in May 2019.

Colleagues from an aspiring Geopark in Sweden were hosted for a visit in August 2019.

Chris Woodley-Stewart undertook a revalidation mission for Sobrarbe Geopark in Spain.

Management and Financial Status

The core management budget is currently secure. Major conservation and engagement work is funded by grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, EU, UK Government sources and trusts/foundations etc. The UK’s departure from the EU does not affect existing projects but could impact on future collaborations.

Geoconservation

A funding bid was submitted in November 2019 for a mining heritage research and conservation project. Access work and footpath improvements were carried out at a couple of the most popular geosites.

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

A series of workshops was held in January to March 2019 for local tourism businesses to help them find out more about the Geopark and opportunities for visitors.

The INTERREG Atlantic Geoparks project involves working together with partners to collectively promote geotourism through events, training and communications.

Good relationships continue to be built with businesses and Destination Management Organisations through events, projects, regular email updates and working groups.

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

2019 education programmes have included school visits to the Geopark, a programme for schools to explore geological and mining heritage, training for volunteers and connections to local universities including contributing to a careers event for students.

Strategic partnership

The team works with many strategic partners, including local authorities, conservation organisations, government agencies, educational institutions and other protected landscapes.

Promotional activities

Good media coverage has been secured for work on a wide range of issues such as wildlife conservation, peatland restoration and public events, along with successful promotion on social media (e.g. 60,000 Twitter and 4200 Facebook followers).
4. CONTACTS

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