

# GGN - Geopark Annual Report 2021

## 1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

**Geopark name, country, regional Network:** North Pennines UNESCO Global Geopark, UK, European Geoparks Network)

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

2003/2018

**Photo caption:** Artist Lionel Playford captures landscapes and engages visitors as part of the North Pennines Art Week.



## 2. GEOPARK FIGURES

**Number of Geopark staff:** 46 staffs including 2 geoscientist(s)

**Number of visitors:** Visitors to Bowlees Visitor Centre in 2021 approx. 30,727. Visitors to partner site Killhope Museum in 2021: 11,154

**Number of Geopark events:** Approx. 130 events organised by management body.

**Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes:** Approx. 10

**Number of Geopark press release:** 20

## 3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

### Major achievements in 2021

- Lots of activity despite the pandemic, including a wide range of nature recovery, community engagement and cultural heritage work, such as a landscape art week in August engaging around 1400 people.
- Completion of the Earthworks Project – a 3-year, £500,000 Geoheritage project including interpretation, education, public events and site improvements and successful application for a new project with schools and families running until 2024.
- The creation of a new project and an Action Research Group to explore barriers to engagement and access, and other work towards greater inclusivity.

### Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- North Pennines staff attended all of the EGN and GGN Digital Forum events in 2021.
- 2 staff attended the EGN online conference hosted by Papuk in September 2021.
- The North Pennines Geopark Director is a member of the EGN Advisory Committee.
- 3 staff attended the UKCUGGp annual forum and have contributed to other national discussions such as a workshop on climate change.
- The North Pennines is participating in the development of a partnership project with other UK UGGps.

## **Management and Financial Status**

- The core budget from national and local government remains small but steady at £426,000.
- External project funding used in 2021 was around £3.5 million.

## **Geoconservation**

- Recent work includes new interpretation at key geological and historic sites and maintenance of paths to reduce the risk of damage.

## **Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)**

- 4 new Geotrail walk leaflets (and digital versions) were released in 2021.
- The North Pennines Annual Tourism Forum was held online in 2021 and featured promotion of the new Geotours app for visitors.
- To date, 112 businesses have signed up to the North Pennines Responsible Tourism Charter.

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

- In January to March 2021, 13 online workshops were run for youth groups around a Geoheritage theme, reaching 150 young people age 5 to 14.
- A series of resources for primary schools were produced this year focused on a particular site.
- Other programmes this year have included work with local schools, with youth groups (including making films inspired by the Geopark) and with adults, online and in person.

## **Strategic partnership**

- The Geopark management body is made up of a partnership of local authorities, agencies, NGOs and community representatives.
- Other partnerships include project partners such as a National Park Authority, water and utility companies, Rivers Trusts and Wildlife Trusts and various community groups.
- The organization engages with the Europarc and Eurosites networks, an EU LIFE project and other initiatives such as the Great North Bog through its peatland restoration work.

## **Promotional activities**

- The North Pennines Annual Forum was held online this year, promoting the work of the Geopark team, and was attended by around 100 people.
- Geopark staff attended the virtual Peatland Pavilion at COP26.

## **4. CONTACTS**

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