

# REVITALISING REDESDALE

## Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership

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Design, Access & Heritage Statement  
St Cuthbert's Church, Corsenside



# OVERVIEW

The Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership aims to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character of Redesdale embodied in its natural environment, heritage and cultural traditions whilst adopting approaches which are relevant to the changing values and needs of the 21st Century.

Redesdale is a remote upland area of west Northumberland which adjoins the Anglo-Scottish border at Carter Bar. As a frontier and strategic corridor, Redesdale has been shaped by centuries of conflict since Roman times. This is Border Reiver country where allegiances were to family rather than country or crown. The valley's history shaped the landscape and its people, resulting in a sense of wilderness and leaving a rich, but increasingly threatened legacy of natural, built and cultural heritage.

The Revitalising Redesdale Project area covers the entire Rede catchment from where the River Rede rises at Carter Bar on the Anglo-Scottish border to its confluence with the North Tyne.

A £2.8 million Partnership Scheme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will deliver a lasting legacy that seeks to reinforce the special character and identity of Redesdale and its communities.

The scheme has 6 parts:

- Deliver improvements to habitats across Redesdale to enhance wider habitat connectivity and enhance its resilience to external pressures, including climate change.

- Create a pool of trained volunteers living within the valley or the surrounding area, who will be engaged and interested in continuing to be involved in conserving and enhancing the heritage of the valley.
- Leave historic monuments and archaeological sites in a better condition and have management plans in place to maintain their condition.
- Instigate ecological, archaeological and history research projects which will ensure that important sites in the valley have been recorded on regional databases to protect them in the future.
- Provide new interpretative material and develop promoted walking routes around village hubs to encourage more visitors and local people to explore Redesdale and its heritage for themselves.
- Develop Redesdale as a visitor destination and stop-off point on the way to and from Scotland.

The Redesdale Valley is full of 'Frontier' stories. Raids and skirmishes to full-scale battle stories pepper the landscape, emphasising the unrest deep in the valley's history. These stories fade as settlers build more permanent homes, looking to work and farm the land. Meanwhile the Rede continues its timeless journey through the hills attracting a wide range of wildlife both to its banks and the diverse environments that surround its route.

An exciting range of interpretation has been developed to tell these stories - external information boards, illustrated toposcopes, hub and orientation sites and waymarked walking trails.



# EXTERNAL INTERPRETATION

The subject of this planning application are the external interpretation features that form part of a cohesive network of interpretation across Redesdale. Figure 1 shows the location of the physical interpretation features in the landscape.

A design style taking inspiration from the juxtaposition of the rough past and tranquil present has been developed into a portfolio of external interpretation features shown in Figure 2. Siberian Larch is proposed for the interpretation supports and a High Pressured Laminated (HPL) for the graphics.

All design and specification provides a high degree of robustness, longevity and ease of maintenance. The interpretation is designed to improve aesthetically as it weathers, reflecting the aged nature of the landscape it relates to. The printed information panels use the HPL external signage system and have a proposed service life of 10+ yrs.

Accessibility of the interpretation has been a key consideration in both its strategic and detailed design. Sites have been selected for the best possible physical accessibility with greatest priority and investment given to the most accessible sites.

Many of the other interpretation proposals as part of the wider Scheme, e.g. installation of board walks, artistic sculptures and enhanced website will improve accessibility of this heritage further still.

The design, number and locational spread of features across the National Park, and the individual locations of each feature have been chosen to create negligible visual impact on the landscape. In places, the proposed features replace existing boards, e.g. Otterburn Battlefield.



# EXTERNAL INTERPRETATION

Figure 1



# DESIGN OVERVIEW

Figure 2



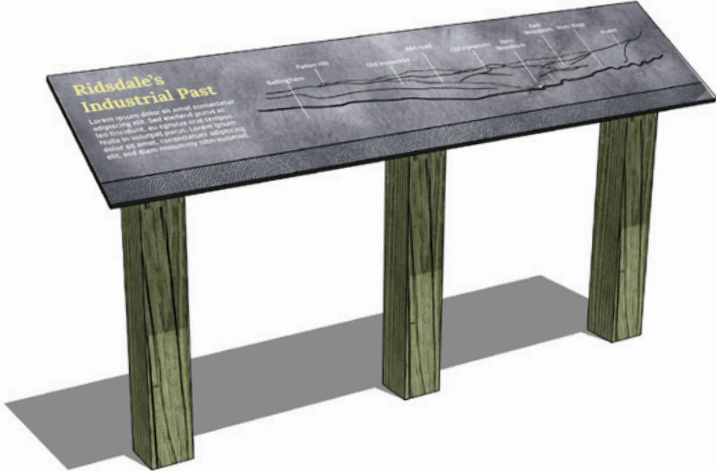
2 Sided Monolith



3 Sided Monolith



Lectern



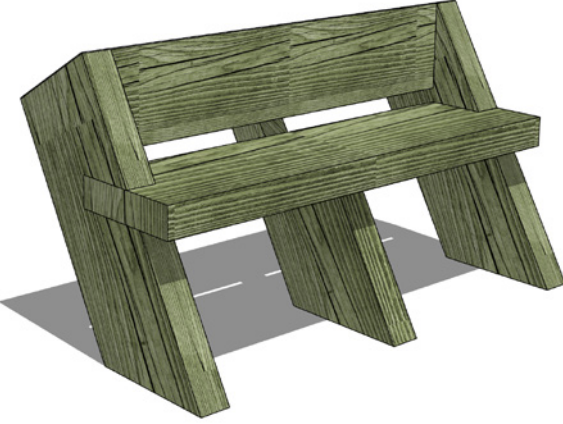
Toposcope



Directional Post



Influencer



Toposcope Bench

# ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CORSENSIDE



# HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

The tiny church of St Cuthbert is situated down a rough track on an isolated hillside overlooking the river Rede. The church contains a Norman chancel arch but is largely 12th century with bellcote and south door that was added in 1735. The nave windows were altered in the mid-19th century, with installation of sash windows. The church is a Grade II listed building and contains a number of interesting monuments including a Tudor way-marker, medieval grave slabs and copy of the Ten Commandments inscribed on large timber panels. It is said to have been built on the spot that the monks rested whilst carrying St Cuthbert's body when they fled Lindisfarne. Whilst used occasionally in summer for church services, members of the community have sought to establish the picturesque graveyard which contains many old gravestones as an area for wildflowers.

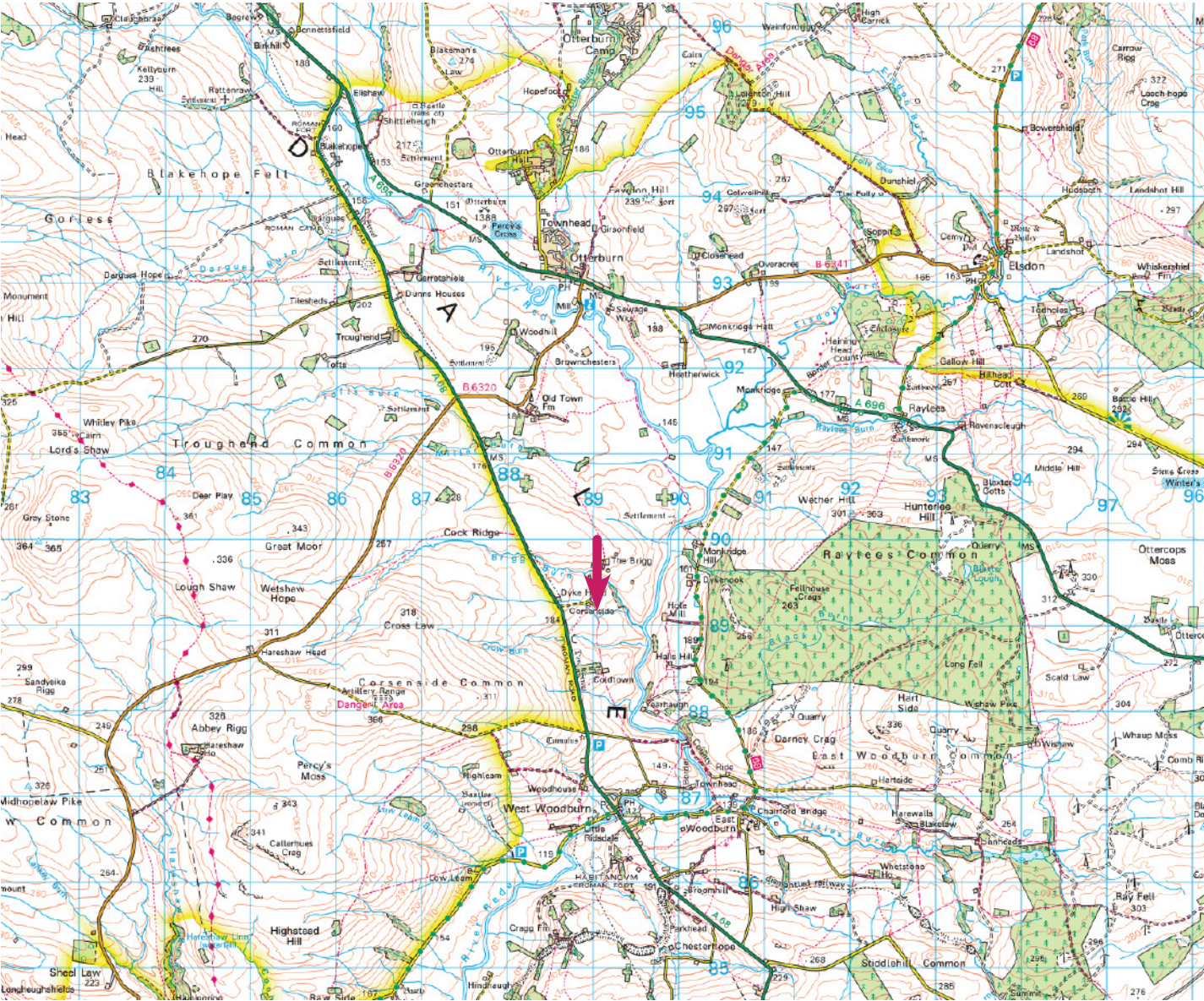
The proposed locations for all interpretation features have been selected for the minimum impact on archaeological features, e.g. away from known buried deposits. The design of below-ground fixings has been developed to minimise ground disturbance whilst still providing a robust and sustainable foundation, e.g. shorter legs with support plates in areas of known shallow substrate. Where any archaeological layer or feature is encountered it will be protected from any introduced concrete foundations.

## Details of interpretation features at St Cuthberts Church, Corsenside

- Interpretive panel mounted on a lectern
- Way marking will also be installed leading from the gate at the top of the access road to the Church, these will consist of directional posts.



# ST CUTHBERTS CHURCH, CORSENSIDE LOCATION



Interpretive panel mounted on a lectern

Latitude 55.197447 Longitude -2.174473

What 3 Words reject.comedy.cleaned



# INTERPRETIVE PANEL MOUNTED ON A LECTERN

Situated at the outside of the churchyard wall left of the gateway into the churchyard

**Landowner** - Gillian Scott, The Brigg

**Natural Heritage Considerations** - The lectern will stand by the track against the wall. There are no wildlife designations on this site.

**Cultural Heritage Considerations** - The Church is a grade 2 listed building, and so the panel has been kept outside the church yard to minimise any impact on the landscape setting of the building.

**Access Considerations** - The panel stands at the end of the access road to the church close to two rights of way.



# EXISTING SITE PLAN





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