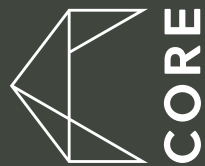


REVITALISING REDESDALE

Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership

Design, Access & Heritage Statement
Blakehopeburnhaugh



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



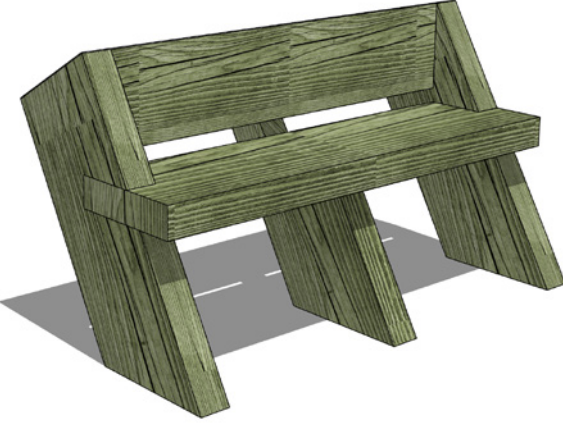
Toposcope



Directional Post



Influencer



Toposcope Bench

BLAKEHOPEBURNHAUGH



HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

This tranquil forest was once a hive of activity. The early 50's saw mass employment by the Forestry Commission as the trees were planted. A forest was created to bring new industry to the Redesdale Valley. So vast was the workforce that nearby Byrness was built to house the workers who came from far and wide. At 60,000 hectares Kielder Forest remains one of England's largest and most important commercial forests and harvests around half a million cubic metres and is still a major employer. Kielder Forest is also an important tourism destination with a wide variety of trails for walking and cycling, art works and opportunities for wildlife watching and star gazing.

The forest is home to a wide variety of wildlife some of which you may not easily find elsewhere in England. Kielder has the largest population of red squirrels in England as well as varied bird life and insects for those who enjoy looking more closely. Among the towering Larch and Scots Pine you can find little gems like Hindhope Linn waterfall. A reminder to stop and relax and take in the beauty of this natural heritage.

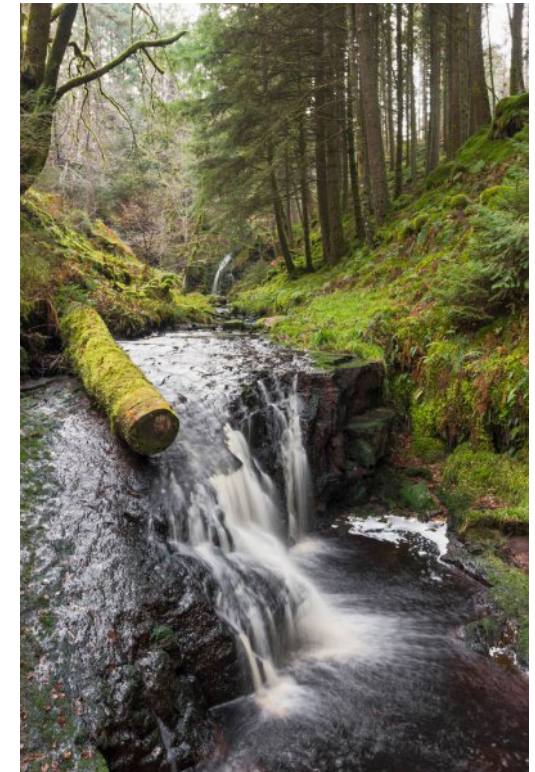
This site is more ancient than the trees and there is evidence of Bronze Age communities burying and commemorating their dead. The 'Three Kings' are the three remaining standing stone from a set of four stones that mark the burial of an important figure.

Taking the forest road will bring you past the high point of Blakehope Nick where views of the valley stretch out for miles. If you're lucky you may see osprey soaring or hunting over Kielder water. The largest UK population of naturally populating osprey on the UK's largest man-made lake.

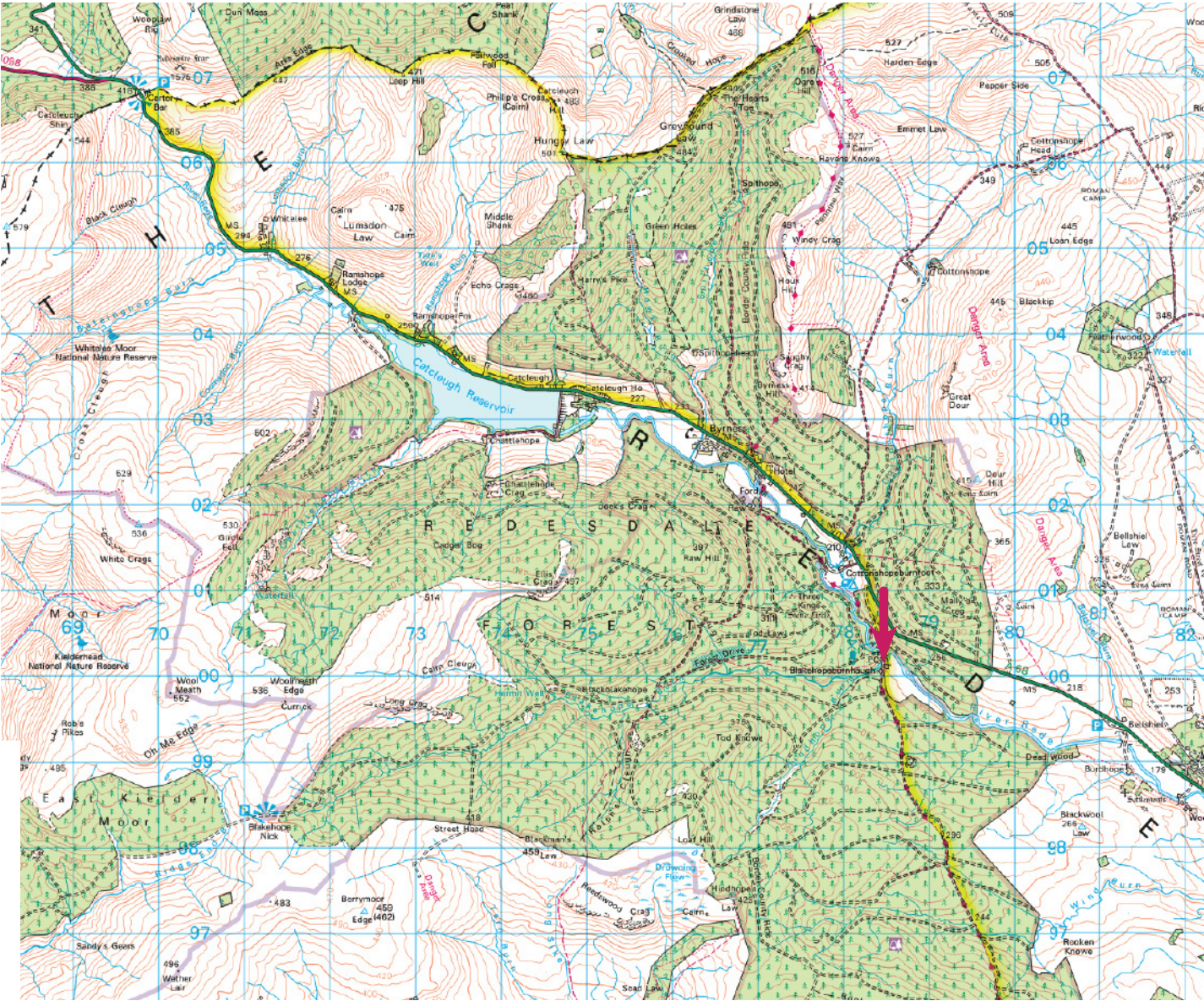
The proposed locations for all interpretation features have been selected for the minimum impact on archaeological features, e.g. away from known buried deposits. The design of below-ground fixings has been developed to minimise ground disturbance whilst still providing a robust and sustainable foundation, 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 Blakehopeburnhaugh

- Wall mounted sign on the existing toilet block which will provide background to the Forest and provide details of two short walks that can be taken from the car park.



BLAKEHOPEBURNHAUGH LOCATION



Wall mounted Sign

Latitude 55.295555 Longitude -2.340727

What 3 Words
vowed.fonts.padlock

WALL MOUNTED SIGN

Situated on the front of the toilet block

Landowner - Forestry England

Natural Heritage Considerations - There are no nature conservation designations in the immediate vicinity of this site

Cultural Heritage Considerations - There are no historic designations in the immediate vicinity of this site

Access Considerations - The toilet block is based an established parking site at the beginning of the Forest Drive linking Redesdale to Kielder Castle. Installation of the interpretation panel is likely to occur during the winter/ early spring when the toilet block is closed and will therefore have minimum impact on any visitors using the site.



EXISTING SITE PLAN





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