



The north east coast has a variety of recreational opportunities. Its coastal features, designated with heritage coasts, areas of outstanding natural beauty and a National Park, encourage activities such as coastal walking, leisure time at the beach, swimming, surfing and diving.

Communities bordering estuaries and tidal rivers have undergone large scale social and cultural investment. The quays, harbours and riverbanks are socially and historically important to the area providing tourist shops, restaurants and bars.

The north east has some of the most socially deprived communities in the UK, particularly in coastal areas with poor health and wellbeing.



Opportunities

- O1. North Yorkshire Moors National Park, Northumberland Coast Area Of Natural Beauty, Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast European Marine Site and heritage coasts provide a strong sense of place and base for tourism and recreation, including boating. 90% of the 48 bathing beaches have 'good' or better water quality [1] [2]
- O2. social opportunities are being provided through the development of the North East 'Renewable Energy Coast' and 'Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy' [2]
- O3. Coastal Communities Fund is a catalyst for community-led regeneration such as that in Redcar-Coatham and North Shields Fish Quay [2].
- O4. Tourism creates social benefits (employment) and challenges (changing character). Scarborough and Berwick-upon-Tweed are two of the top 20 towns visited by UK residents

Challenges

- C1. Many coastal communities are areas of deprivation with poor health and wellbeing [2]
- C2. employment opportunity diversification from traditional industry (ship building and fishing [2]) in the most deprived communities on the coast, rural areas [3] and Tyneside, Teesside and Sunderland [4]. The plan areas have a much higher proportion of people living in social rented accommodation and experiencing lower employment, skills and jobs growth than the national average [5].
- C3. Changes to surfing conditions (waves) could affect tourism and recreation opportunities [2]



Evidence sources

[1] Sub-national policy review

[2] Sustainability appraisal report cards

[3] 2015 IMD

[4] Coastal typologies

[5] Strategic Scoping Report