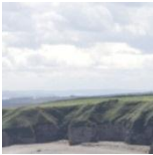


### The Durham Heritage Coast, Durham Heritage Coast Partnership

The area of the Durham Heritage Coast has made a remarkable recovery since 1993, when it was still used as a dumping site for waste from the local coal industry. However, through the project “Turning the Tide” the coast has entered into its own and has embraced its geological, natural and historical heritage which supports increasing numbers of tourists. Through this project the spoil heaps have been removed from the shores, foot and cycle paths have increased access to the area and the re-creation of biotopes has increased the flora and fauna. The improvement of the inshore waters has been a main priority and these efforts have also been extended to integrate adjoining areas to create an Integrated Coastal Management Zone. The social needs of the area are the focus of constant attention, and the sustainable economic development is supported by a social and economic regeneration involving public participation and tourism. Guided walks and tourist paths do not only introduce visitors to the value of the Durham Heritage Coast but also allow the local population to reconnect to their home and fully appreciate their heritage.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe conferred a special mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention for the 2nd Session of the Award 2010-2011 on the organisers of the project, considering that it is a fine example of the rehabilitation and regeneration of a coastal area previously marked by distinct degradation. Characterised by sustainable territorial development, exemplariness, public participation and awareness-raising, the project achieved extraordinary results through mobilising local populations and creating a regenerated landscape and a new identity. It forms an excellent model for the regeneration of other degraded coastal areas.

[www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-UK.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/prix/2011-UK.pdf)