



PEREGRINI  
Lindisfarne  
Landscape Partnership

# Summary Evaluation

January 2015 - December 2016

**Katherine Williams, Consultant**



Through **partnership**, Peregrini Lindisfarne will **protect, restore, enhance** and **manage** this special place as **one environment**. We will draw upon our community's close connection to its **landscape, seascape, heritage** and **history** to make the area a better place to **work, live** and **visit**.

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fundraising | project development | project management | evaluation

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# Introduction

The Peregrini Lindisfarne Landscape Partnership Scheme brings together the natural and cultural heritage of the unique and special landscape of Holy Island and the North Northumberland coast. Over three years, the programme aims to protect, restore, enhance and manage this special place as a single, connected environment shaped by a rich heritage of both natural and human forces. The project is supported by a Landscape Partnership £1.4million grant from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), with additional funding contributed by partners and funding bodies.

The Peregrini landscape embraces the coastal plain including the tidal Holy Island of Lindisfarne and the seascape area along the coast and encircling the island. It stretches north to Cocklawburn and south to Budle Point. To the west, it is bounded by the east coast mainline for much of its length.

Over the first two years of the project, Peregrini Lindisfarne has supported some 250 volunteers in projects which range from archaeological digs to costume making to

gorse cutting. Come rain or shine, volunteers have been out in all weathers, working together to improve the landscape and protect local heritage. More than 5,000 people of all ages have been engaged through events including the Holy Island festival, art activities, school visits, walks, talks and workshops.

***"I remember, one morning I came over to the island early. I was the first person up on the Heugh, the tourists hadn't arrived yet and it was a beautiful, calm, sunny day - there was just me and a pod of seals in the water below me and I thought, 'it just doesn't get any better than this'."***

**Peter Slater, Peregrini volunteer**

The Peregrini Lindisfarne project is supported by seven partner organisations, working together to protect, restore, manage, enhance and celebrate heritage across a unique and very special landscape.

This report celebrates the achievements of the programme over the first two years of delivery. It also looks to the final project year and makes recommendations for delivering a robust legacy for Peregrini beyond the current funding period.



**Above: Peregrini project land and seascape (shown in green)**

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# Project Progress

Sixteen heritage projects are identified in the Peregrini Landscape Conservation Action Plan. Together these aim to protect, restore, enhance and manage a unique and special landscape. After two years, fourteen of these projects are in progress or completed.

## MILITARY DEFENCES

In 2016, 20 volunteers joined project staff at Scremerston and Newtown gun emplacements to tidy up, clear gorse and barrow windblown sand and debris out of the structures. During 2017, the 'facelift' will continue with walls cleaned and interpretation created.

## OLD LIFEBOAT HOUSE

Phase 1 of this project has been completed with the Old Lifeboat House building now restored and watertight. New interpretation will be installed in 2017 to tell the story of the Holy Island lifeboats and rescues.

## CONSERVING BUILDINGS OF HISTORIC INTEREST

Eight historic buildings/features on Holy Island have been identified to be preserved and protected. A conservation architect has completed condition assessments and restoration work is set to go ahead in 2017.

## DUNE GRASSLANDS GRAZING

This project is improving 20ha of dune grasslands for the benefit of species such as the unique Lindisfarne helleborine. Wardens and volunteers have enabled new grazing regimes, scrub clearance and improved monitoring of non-native species including Pirri Pirri Bur.

## BIRD HIDE AT LOUGH POND

A new hide has been designed and installed at Lough Pond. It has full all ability access, and can accommodate larger groups. Constructed to living building principles, it uses sustainable local timber and has a turf roof. New interpretation includes information about the different species visiting the site.

## CREATIVE ARTS & LANDSCAPE APPRECIATION

In 2016 this project has provided photography, storytelling, and landscape painting activities. It continues in 2017 with an art project evoking the significance of whin sill geology and the creation of willow sculptures for the Lindisfarne National Nature Trail.

## GATEWAYS TO THE LAND & SEASCAPE

Innovative and high profile interpretative installations will be created at major visitor car park locations at Budle Bay, Holy Island and Cocklawburn. This will create three new visitor gateway sites.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & VOLUNTEERING

Visitors and local residents of all ages have enjoyed learning about and helping to conserve our heritage. School groups, Girl Guides, youth groups, art groups, history societies, residents groups and more have been engaged. Some 250 people have contributed as volunteers.

### **WHIN SILL GEOLOGY & GRASSLANDS**

Initial surveys have been carried out on the unique Whin Sill area. Invasive gorse has been removed by contractors and volunteers at two sites. One management plan has been written with plans for the other six sites to be completed in 2017 along with training for land managers and new interpretation.

### **NESTING SHORE BIRDS**

The project has increased protection of Little Tern as well as other nesting shore birds by appointing seasonal wardens, reducing access by predators and using decoys to encourage birds to use new nesting sites. Media communications and talks have raised awareness about this project.

### **SACRED PLACES & MONASTIC GARDENS**

Work is yet to start on this project. In 2017 the Peregrini team will put together and implement a plan to enhance sacred places on Holy Island.

### **PIER WORKS**

Work was carried out to heighten the pier by 1 metre. It has improved access at all high tides for both fisherman and visiting boats. Pier furniture and other features have also been improved. The work directly contributes to the economic development of the Harbour and provides additional tourist facilities.

### **INTERPRETATION OF PEREGRINI**

A project website has been set up and this will remain as a long term legacy of the project to enable people to engage with, find out about and support initiatives to protect, preserve and celebrate local heritage. Fixed interpretative installations and printed materials will be produced in 2017.

### **COMMUNITY ARCHIVE**

A professional archivist has been appointed to support local volunteers to establish a new community archive. Photographs, stories and artefacts are already being collected and will form a permanent archive for local residents and visitors.

### **COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY**

Professional archaeologists have worked with volunteers to uncover the secrets of our landscape's past. Guided walks and training have been provided. Surveys and excavations have been carried out. This has included the finding of two significant buildings associated with early Christian foundations.

### **COMMUNITY GEOLOGY**

A series of geological walks have been delivered allowing members of the public to find out more about the the rich history of the landscape and discover the unique geology and fossil heritage.

# Making a Difference

The Peregrini Lindisfarne landscape partnership exists to protect, restore, enhance and manage a rich and diverse heritage landscape. Together the sixteen projects presented above, delivered by seven heritage partner organisations, are working towards shared goals which will achieve this vision.

In the first two years,

- ◆ 300+ individuals have taken part in training and skills workshops;
- ◆ New skills have been learnt which will enable continued engagement and help to sustain heritage goals in the future;
- ◆ These individuals include local volunteers who will be able to support heritage conservation and management activities in the future;
- ◆ 9 sites, with significant ecological, historical, archaeological or geological interest, have been protected, restored and enhanced;
- ◆ These sites form an interesting and diverse mosaic within the landscape and links between the different types of heritage have been improved;
- ◆ 9 management plans and 8 condition reports have been commissioned
- ◆ Many volunteers and other participants, are engaged across many different projects, thus enhancing the connection between natural, built and cultural heritage;
- ◆ New media presence (including online and social media) has raised awareness of the project and improved access to many sites;
- ◆ Footpaths, access routes and public sites have been cleared and tidied;
- ◆ 33 schools and groups have been engaged, many of whom have not accessed Peregrini sites previously;
- ◆ A range of activities, including art, a festival, special interest walks, storytelling have provided new ways for people to engage with the landscape;
- ◆ New curriculum-linked loans boxes have been created which will enable schools to engage with the heritage landscape throughout year 3 and beyond;
- ◆ New collaborative working approaches have been established which bring together different heritage disciplines.

***“Over the last twelve months, I have learned so much about the landscape, the people and the history of the county I call home.”***

**Peter Slater, Peregrini Volunteer**





## Achieving a legacy: year 3 and beyond

The priority for year 3 must be to focus on the outstanding project outputs and the delivery of outcomes which will achieve change in the landscape and our communities. Further to this, the final project year must deliver a legacy for the future; leaving behind interpretation, information and skills which will enable the varied heritage of the Peregrini Lindisfarne landscape to be shared, understood and enjoyed long after the current period of funding.

Interpretative projects and installations which are yet to be completed must now look to the future and be planned in such a way that will engage local residents and visitors in the long term. Interpretation needs to encourage the public to explore, enjoy and discover the rich heritage of the Peregrini landscape.

Management and maintenance plans must be agreed for all sites, buildings and structures to enable the continued preservation of habitats and historic features.

Resources must be invested to establish the community archive and enable this to function beyond the project end. This includes recording and archiving current project activity.

School loans boxes now need to be 'tested' with local schools and feedback collated so that a robust loans service can be set up and handed over to whichever agency will co-ordinate this from 2018. A simple business plan is needed to show how this service will work in the future.

The final year will need to collate the learning from the first two years and disseminate it appropriately. This must not just inform public understanding, but also future projects, funding applications and partner learning.

The contribution of volunteers so far has been significant, particularly within the community archaeology and archive projects. Final year activities and communication (including ongoing evaluation work) should celebrate volunteer achievements and showcase volunteer stories. Appropriate progression routes need to be identified to ensure that volunteer support is sustained and skills are not lost.

The role of partner organisations in sustaining Peregrini activities needs to be clearly established. The partnership needs to be strengthened further to enable a continued joined up approach to landscape and heritage management.



**PHOTO CREDITS:**

**Front cover (clockwise from top left)**, The Pilgrim's Way (Gavin Duthie), Geology Walk (Gillian Ridley), Berwick Youth Project (David Suggett), The Snook Flowers (Alison Wooley); **Page 6 (top to bottom)**, Arctic Tern (Iain Robson), Birdwatching (Warkworth CofE Primary School), Holy Island Crossing (Gavin Duthie), Chiswick Beach (Alison Wooley); **Page 7**, The Whin Sill (Gavin Duthie); **Page 8 (clockwise from top left)**, Peregrini festival (David Suggett), Restoration of the Old Lifeboat House (Helen Griffiths), Ringed Plover (Richard Dunn)

