



Intertidal Interactive
SeaScapes 'Sea Watch' Observer
Project Information

About the project:

SeaScapes is a four-year partnership and community approach to protecting and celebrating the fascinating stretch of coastline and marine environment between the Rivers Tyne and Tees. Thanks to lottery players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, SeaScapes will showcase the coastal and marine heritage, offer opportunities to explore beneath the waves, and strengthen our understanding of the sea and our relationships with it.

Through the 'Intertidal Interactive' project being delivered by Durham Wildlife Trust, SeaScapes is collaborating with the Sea Watch Foundation to raise awareness and understanding around marine mammals, in particular cetaceans, and increase public involvement in monitoring the locations and activities of cetaceans along the Tyne to Tees coast through citizen science.

By becoming a SeaScapes 'Sea Watch' Observer, you will provide important information about how, where and when cetaceans use our coastal waters, enabling us to better protect these animals using conservation measures.

Cetaceans are a common sight in UK waters, with regular sightings of minke whales, harbour porpoise, white beaked dolphins and even humpback whales, off the North East coastline. Despite this, cetaceans face numerous threats from human activities. If we are to further the protection of cetaceans in our waters then more information on their numbers and locations is required.

Anyone can become an Observer: all you need is enthusiasm, a pair of binoculars (these can be provided) and a little patience. If you enjoy spending time by the coast regularly, why not take time to record what you see – and what you don't?!

Durham Wildlife Trust will provide full training on how to undertake dedicated cetacean surveys for all volunteers. Liaising with the project co-ordinator, you will decide on a 'watching station/s' on the coastline from which to regularly conduct surveys.

Attendance at the SeaScapes Sea Watch Observer training course is **essential**. The next online course will take place on **Saturday 12th March 2022** and will be a half day course from approximately **9am until 1pm**.

Although any information on cetaceans is useful to us, it is essential that Observers regularly collect "effort related" data. "Effort-related" data means that observers time their watch and collect environmental data every 15 minutes during the watch. There is no set time for a watch period, as long as time, date and location are carefully noted, along with any sightings information.





About each organisation:

Durham Wildlife Trust.

Durham Wildlife Trust works to conserve our marine wildlife and habitats, with the aim of contributing to achieving The Wildlife Trust's national vision for our seas. Our vision is for:

- Marine wildlife to **recover** from past decline as our use of the seas' resources become environmentally sustainable.
- The natural environment to **adapt** well to a changing climate, and ocean processes help to slow down climate change.
- People to be inspired by marine wildlife and **value** the sea for the many ways in which it supports our quality of life.

SeaScapes.

The 'SeaScapes' Scheme is an exciting coastal heritage and conservation partnership that explores the story of the Tyne to Tees Shores and Seas seascape from prehistory to present day. Characterised by unique magnesium limestone geology 250 million years in the making, and from industry to war, pre-history to the modern day, the heritage of this dynamic seascape is born from the sea.

Building upon 20 years of partnership working along the coast, SeaScapes seeks to collaborate with coastal communities, sea users, land owners, managers and other partners over the next three years to reveal and better manage the natural, built and cultural heritage of this unique coast.

By continuing to foster a community approach to protecting and celebrating this fascinating coastline, SeaScapes seeks to bring this often overlooked stretch of the coast to life and tell the stories of our seascape whilst also creating opportunities for learning, access, enjoyment and increased stewardship of the seascape by local communities.

The Sea Watch Foundation.

The Sea Watch Foundation (SWF) is a national marine environmental charity working to improve the conservation of whales, dolphins and porpoises in the seas around Britain and Ireland. SWF's aims are to:

- Involve the public in scientific monitoring
- Raise awareness and understanding of marine mammals and the threats they face and
- Educate, inform and advise for better environmental protection

