



LIFE WADER

Foreshore fencing

In the next couple of weeks you will see some small fenced areas being installed on the foreshore of Bamburgh beach. This is a small trial to help restore dune plants and strengthen the dunes. These areas have been specifically chosen to encourage plants to grow and establish where they have been lost to trampling.

Recent high tides have shown how vulnerable the coastline is to erosion from the sea with much of the foredune being cut away leaving a steep slope. The fencing will also help to reduce this erosion by breaking up the wave energy before they hit the foreshore. At the same time sand will be trapped behind the fencing, adding to the volume of the dune system. The roots of newly established plants will hold on to sand reducing the amount lost back into the sea on high tides.



Figure 2 Bare foreshore at Bamburgh dunes



Figure 1 A good example of foreshore vegetation - Holy Island

The fenced area will also have the added benefit of providing a refuge for nesting shorebirds that are in severe decline. There has been a 60% drop in breeding numbers of Ringed Plover on the Northumberland Coast in the last 30 years.

The work is being carried out as part of a multi-million pound EU LIFE project known as LIFE WADER, in consultation with Bamburgh Castle Estates and Natural England. LIFE WADER is a five-year project co-funded by the European Union, that will improve the condition of the river, intertidal and marine habitats of the Northumberland Coast and Tweed Catchment for the species that depend on them. The project focuses on several key issues including water quality, recreational disturbance and tackling invasive species.

For more information about the LIFE WADER project please visit. www.lifewader.co.uk

