

APSE Northern Region – From Concrete to canopy

Local authorities providing green spaces that boost community wellbeing and mitigate the impacts of climate change



Wednesday 29 April 2026

Preston Park, Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3RH

Programme

10.00 Registration and coffee

10.30 Session One

Welcome by the Chair

Councillor Tracey Dixon, Leader of South Tyneside Council

Opening address

Councillor Lisa Evans, Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

The Stockton-on-Tees Approach

- Reflecting on the area's industrial heritage
- How the council is transforming urban environments through green space creation
- Current and emerging projects shaping a greener future

Neil Mitchell, Head of Environment and Green Infrastructure, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Blue-Green Infrastructure

- Definition and core principles
- Blue and green components, including integrated systems
- Key benefits and practical applications

Seraya Sigsworth, Product Specification Manager, Green-tech Specifier

Audience question and answer session

11.15 Refreshments and Networking

11. Session two

Is the Land We Own and Manage Sequestering?

- The council's pathway and targets for achieving carbon neutrality
- Conducting a carbon land audit: methods, insights and challenges
- Translating data into meaningful environmental action

Margaret Enstone, Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer, and

Lauren Gibson, Ecologist, Darlington Borough Council

Wildflower Meadows and Soil Type

- Choosing wildflower species suited to specific soil conditions
- Why many standard seed mixes may not be appropriate for your site
- Common mistakes that can negatively impact meadow health and soil ecology

Justin Smith, Director, Green Pigeon Consulting Ltd (APSE Approved Partner)

APSE Update

Vickie Hacking, Principal Advisor, APSE

Audience question and answer session

12.30 Networking and Lunch

13.00 Close

Booking Information

About the Seminar

This **APSE Northern Region** event brings together expert speakers to explore how local authorities are using nature based solutions and high quality green spaces to enhance community wellbeing and respond to climate change

Delegate Packages The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation and lunch/refreshments.

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance and delegates' documentation.

APSE Northern Region Members Delegate Fee:	FREE OF CHARGE
APSE member delegate fee (Non-Northern Region)	£199 + VAT per person
Non member delegates fee:	£299 + VAT per person
Commercial delegates:	£432 + VAT per person

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK NOW](#)

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to **MButterworth@apse.org.uk**. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for non-attendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or venue should this become necessary.

Venue

Preston Park
Yarm Road,
Eaglescliffe,
Stockton-on-Tees,
TS18 3RH.

Getting to the venue

Parking

Free parking is available in both the main and overflow car parks.
Designated disabled spaces are located within the main car park next to Café Tees.
There are 2 electrical vehicle charging points.

By train

Preston Park Museum is about a 12-minute walk from Eaglescliffe Railway Station. [Visit the Northern Railway website for more information.](#)

Grand Central also run services between Sunderland and London that stop at Eaglescliffe Railway Station.

By bus

The museum is on a well serviced bus route. The Arriva North East bus service 7 and 7A Stockton High Street to Yarm stops outside the entrance to the park.

For more information about public transport you can contact Stockton-on-Tees tourist information by phone on 01642 528130.

Teesside Princess river cruise

The cruise sails up and down the River Tees from Yarm and Stockton-on-Tees and stops at the jetty in the park. [Check the sailing times on the Teesside Princess website.](#)