

# APSE Case study: Tees Valley Combined Authority

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(Former Tees Valley Nature Partnership Manager)



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# Planning Advisory Service

- PAS is part of the Local Government Association
  - Since December 2004
  - Team of 17 plus peers and suppliers
- Funded by DLUHC, Defra, Natural England
  - 13 projects
  - Helping local planning authorities understand and respond to planning reform + providing excellent services
- Growing environmental team
  - BNG, nature recovery, protected sites, nutrient pollution
  - Wider thinking about role of local authorities

‘The Tees Valley Combined Authority has been nominated the Responsible Body for the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) across five local authorities.

The emphasis alongside the development of the LNRS is under the Net Zero theme of the TVCA Economic Strategy demonstrating the versatility of the regulations.’

<https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/business/net-zero/>

# TVCA does not have any natural environment function 'in-house'

(with the exception of Trees on Tees)

**TEES VALLEY**

About Business Work Visit Travel

Our Region Leadership Transparency, Policy & Procedures Events, News & Resources Contact

X f in @

# ABOUT

The Tees Valley Combined Authority was created in April 2016. Our purpose is to secure investment, create jobs and grow the economy. We are Tees Valley – where anything is possible.

We are a partnership of five authorities; Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees, working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership, wider business community and other partners to make local decisions to support the growth of our economy.

The screenshot shows the Tees Valley website interface. At the top left is the 'TEES VALLEY' logo. A navigation menu includes 'About', 'Business', 'Work', 'Visit', and 'Travel'. A dark blue header bar contains links for 'Invest', 'Growth Support', 'Teesside Freeport', 'Net Zero', 'Business Board', and 'Events, News & Resources', along with social media icons for X, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube. The main content area features a large landscape image of purple heather under a dramatic sky. A teal box highlights the breadcrumb trail: 'Home » Net Zero » [Tees Valley Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)'. Below this, the title 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy' is displayed in large black text. A small accessibility icon is visible in the bottom left corner.

# Let's remember why we need the new measures NOW

## ENGLAND

With its diverse landscapes spanning from the iconic white cliffs of Dover to the lush green hills of the Cotswolds, England is a land of remarkable natural beauty. From coastline to mountain, moorland to lowland bog, this patchwork of habitats is home to an amazing array of wildlife.

[Read the England report](#)



<https://stateofnature.org.uk/>

**32%**

**Wildlife in England has declined in abundance by 32% on average since 1970.**

**13%**

**Of 8,840 species assessed, 13% are classified as threatened with extinction.**

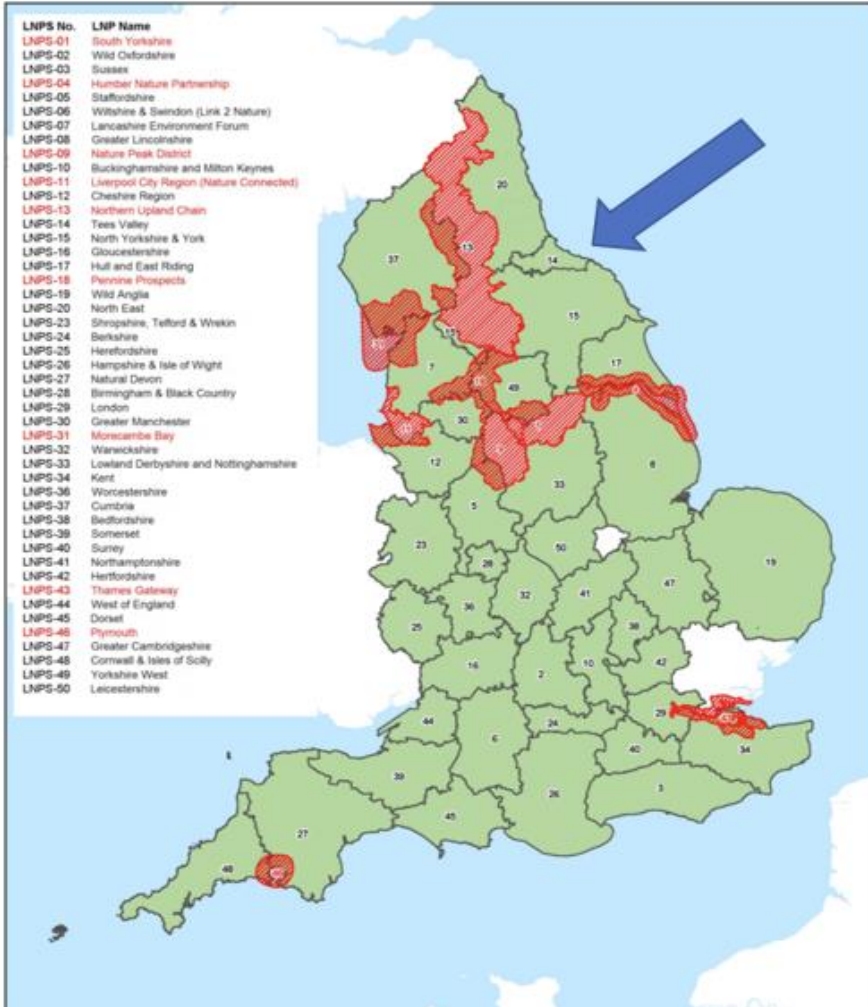
**68%**

**Over half of plant species assessed have seen decreases in distribution.**

**18%**

**Distributions of invertebrate species have decreased by 18% on average since 1970.**

# Tees Valley Nature Partnership has a robust network of natural environment expertise & community links needed for the LNRS



We are the Local Nature Partnership for the Tees Valley. With over 40 organisations, we work together to support nature so it can support us.

Part of a 'family' of 47 LNP's designated by the Secretary of State in 2012.

Needed now more than ever to help areas address the ecological crisis through new means –

- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Natural Capital Accounting
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies



Relaunched in 2016 with a new Manager, Chair & Steering Group

The same year TVCA was launched

# The 5 Unitary authorities have been key to TVNP success



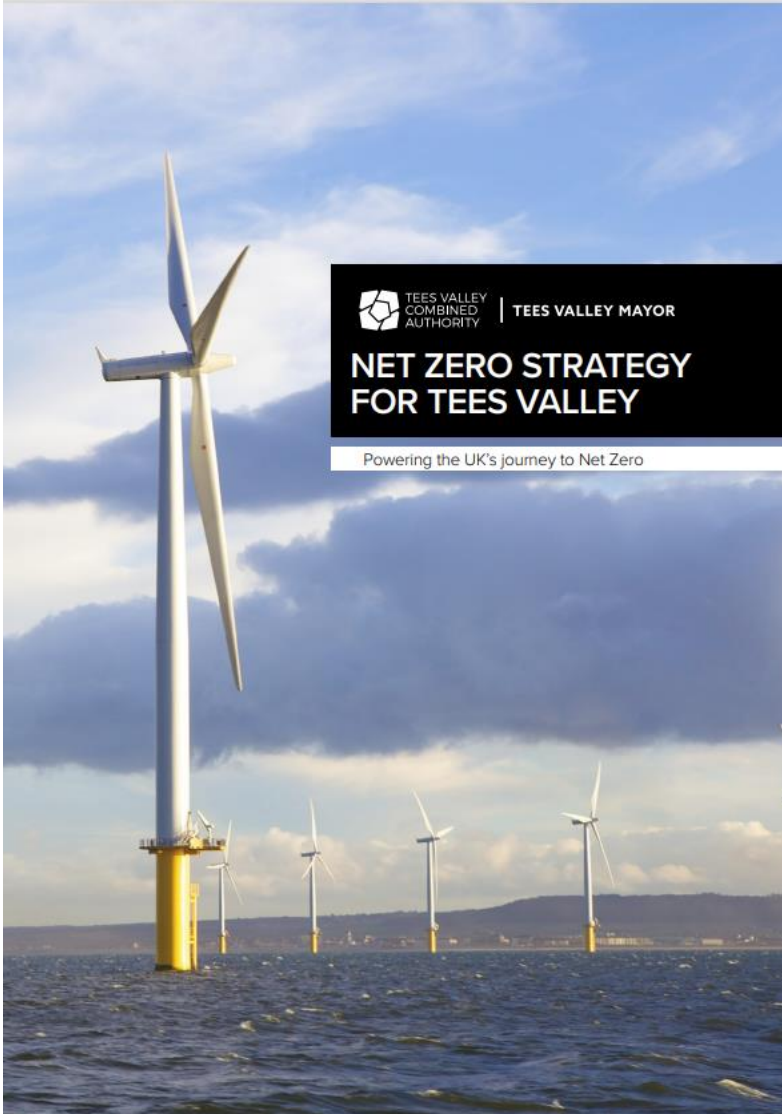
40 Partners, 4+ aligned programmes



**YOU'VE GOT THIS.**



# Net Zero Strategy for Tees Valley



## THE FIVE STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

For our region, achieving Net Zero can be broken down into 5 distinct challenges



Heavy  
Industry



Public  
Organisations



Homes &  
Communities



Transport



Nature &  
Resources

We will engage with key stakeholders to develop action plans for each of the themes separately and link the plans together under the overarching Net Zero strategy. Each area is at a different point on the journey to Net Zero and the actions plans will reflect this. Having separate action plans will enable us to consult widely whilst remaining focused on key areas of challenge and opportunity.

- 5. Natural and resources** – We will work with the Environment Agency, local nature organisations and local authorities to develop an action plan. We will work with existing policies and strategies and explore how to maximise the use of our Natural Assets. We will also work across different sectors to ensure a balance is maintained between economic growth and natural environment.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### This strategy:

- Articulates our overall vision for a Net Zero Tees Valley and sets out a practical roadmap for how we intend to achieve it
- Is a catalyst to bring together all the necessary partners to enable our region to reach Net Zero and lays the groundwork for a future built around sustainable industries and more resilient natural environment
- Brings together a range of existing strategies and activities and individual organisational targets into a single shared ambition
- Will be used to inform future investments and economic interventions

**Tees Valley – Powering the UK’s journey to Net Zero is a strategy for our region** – a clear high-level statement of intent, that sets out how partners across Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Redcar & Cleveland can deploy their distinctive strengths to power the national transition to Net Zero, while delivering prosperity and opportunity locally.

It is designed to support organisations and households to change their operations to become carbon neutral and to adopt new technologies to achieve net zero. It is by no means definitive - each organisation detailed within this strategy will have its own individual path to achieving that ambition and set its own targets. This strategy seeks to align that work where feasible and does not supersede any existing organisational plans.

The strategy builds upon aligns with the organisational Net Zero strategies agreed by the Tees Valley Local Authorities – and their key themes such the transition to sustainable and low emission powering of assets and vehicles, improved energy efficiency of local buildings and the improvement of natural assets – and is designed to support their delivery. It does not supersede these strategies.

Crucially, this strategy represents a collective move towards a Net Zero Tees Valley fuelled by a revitalised economy built on clean energy and Net Zero manufacturing.

Our Local Industrial Strategy set an overarching ambition - “Tees Valley will be a global leader in clean energy, low carbon and hydrogen. The area will achieve a Net Zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040, providing good jobs with long-term prospects that local people can access”

This strategy outlines how we will reach Net Zero by 2050, abating or capturing more than 11 Mega Tonnes (MT) 33 of Carbon Dioxide (CO2). It first sets out the overall challenge, then breaks it down into five distinct areas of in-depth analysis and priority:



Heavy Industry



Public Organisations



Homes & Communities



Transport



Nature & Resources

Some areas of this work – particularly industrial decarbonisation – are further progressed than others. Detailed action plans will be developed setting out a regional approach to address each of these strategic areas, where such a plan does not already exist.

### Conclusion

We have set out an ambitious plan to achieve Net Zero as a region by 2050 – from the starting point of emission levels today.

Our aim is for a sizeable proportion of the region's emissions – predominantly those relating to industrial emissions – to be eliminated by 2030 through the delivery of a local large-scale carbon capture, utilisation and storage system.

We have identified five key areas which will be our focus and we will work in partnership with a wide range of local and national partners to develop roadmaps and to implement interventions in each area.

## OUR TEN POINT PLAN FOR A NET ZERO TEES VALLEY

We will identify the necessary steps to reach Net Zero in the Tees Valley and produce an action plan setting out how this can be achieved by 2050.

### Our top priorities include:

1. Delivering the UK’s first decarbonised heavy industrial cluster by 2040.
2. Delivering large-scale carbon capture, utilisation and storage and over 4GW of hydrogen production by 2030
3. Creating a National Hydrogen Transport Hub, supporting the transition to zero emission transport.
4. Supporting Teesside International Airport to be Net Zero in its operations by 2030 and supporting the development of Sustainable Aviation Fuels to pursue Net Zero flights by 2035 – making it the UK’s first Net Zero Airport.
5. Using our natural capital and responsibility for the Local Nature Recovery strategy to help mitigate the effects of climate change, support flood resilience and improve access to green and blue spaces – including by promoting tree planting by residents and community groups and working with private landowners on larger tree planting schemes.
6. Increasing the number of public Electric Vehicle charging points in Tees Valley by 200% by 2025 as part of a plan to deliver a Net Zero local transport network by 2036
7. Supporting the national target of all homes being rated to EPC C and above by 2035.
8. Support all public sector organisations in the delivery of their own Net Zero strategies and supporting more than 1000 businesses to adopt new practices and achieve carbon savings by 2035
9. Provide online services to help residents monitor and reduce their environmental impact
10. Deliver training and employment opportunities aligned to the new green economy

Detailed action plans will also be developed for each of key strategic challenges set out in this strategy, where such plans do not already exist.

# Net Zero Strategy for Tees Valley

## NATURAL ASSETS

84,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> is sequestered in the Tees Valley's Natural Assets every year – but our natural environment currently emits 157,000 tonnes, making it a net emitter overall.

Nature plays a vital role in the Tees Valley's economy, supporting our visitor economy, agriculture – including feedstocks for industry – liveability and health. But currently only 6% of our region is woodland and 98% our population live in an urban area.

We will also work with partners to help improve recycling to ensure as a region we recycle and re-use as much of our waste as possible.

- We have 11% more ecologically 'bad' and 'poor' waterbodies compared to the rest of England
- We have 6% tree cover, 3% less than the national average
- Only 11.4% of land in the Tees Valley is currently working for nature (including protected sites, agri-environment schemes, local authority sites and nature reserves)

In 2021, the Combined Authority worked with Natural England to produce a Natural Capital Account for the Tees Valley which set out the monetary and non-monetary benefits which flow from our region's natural assets.

The account found that Tees Valley has a "unique mixture of natural assets" with a quantifiable value of more than £100m

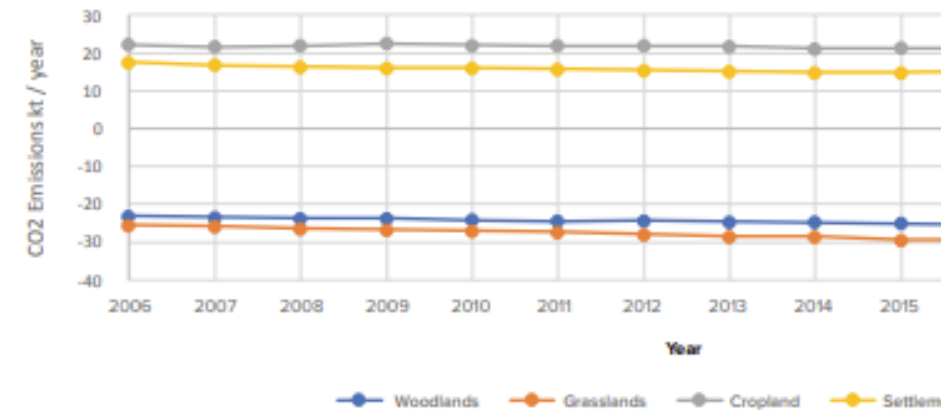
We will also bring together partners and stakeholders to develop our local resource and waste system, developing our circular economy, improving resource efficiency and increasingly eliminating the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill.

Green spaces are important for both the environment and our resident's wellbeing, we will work with key organisations and local authorities to maintain existing and develop access to more green spaces. We will also commission an independent mapping of local sites available for off-setting activities and biodiversity net gain. We will promote and support off-setting and biodiversity net gain for local development and we will work to minimise the negative impact of national offsetting schemes on the region.

We will support partner organisations to continue to preserve and grow Sites of Special Scientific Interest and promote the balance between industry and nature. An example of this at work is the Industry Nature Conservation Association, a charity set up by industry to promote natural environments for wildlife co-existing around industrial sites.

Through the development and implementation of our Local Nature Recovery Strategy we will, along with our partners, realise more nature for more people in Tees Valley. Promoting a balance between industry and nature we will create, restore, buffer and provide connections needed to

Tees Valley Emissions from Land Use in kt / year (2006 – 2015)



### Key deliverables:

- Development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Promoting tree planting by residents and community groups and working with private landowners on larger tree planting schemes.
- Commissioning of independent research into the local availability of off-set and biodiversity net gain sites
- Working with partners to optimise the allocation of the region's biomass and bio-resources

- to operational advance can produce low-carbon feedstock and energy
- Working with the Environment authorities and local over-arching action plan our Natural Assets to a and help mitigate the change
- Work with the Environment the use of natural sites especially coastal floor

### Our partners

# TVNP has been commissioned to deliver the Stakeholder Engagement for the LNRS



## 1. Scope

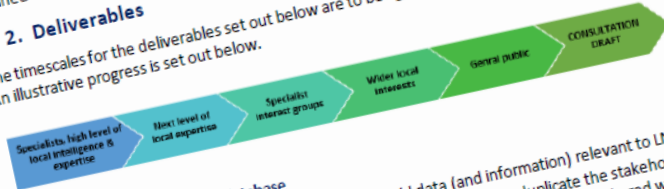
In accordance with [Local nature recovery strategy statutory guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) stakeholder engagement is required to inform the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Tees Valley. Appendix 1 summarises the approach Responsible Authorities should take.

As identified in the commissioning brief the development of the Tees Valley LNRS is an iterative process and is reliant on the work of both the main LNRS contractor and the mapping and data commission (believed to be the Environmental Records Centre – North East (ERIC-NE)). It is not possible therefore to define all activities and timescale in detail at this stage, this will be set out in the LNRS Engagement Plan, the first deliverable of this commission following the inception meeting.

Building on the LNRS readiness activities and the extensive experience of the Nature Partnership the following approach to meeting the anticipated activities identified by the Responsible Authority are outlined under deliverables below.

## 2. Deliverables

The timescales for the deliverables set out below are to be agreed following the inception meeting. An illustrative progress is set out below.



### 2.1 LNRS stakeholder database

Identification of the stakeholders and partners who hold data (and information) relevant to LNRS development. This will include partner contact details, build on and not duplicate the stakeholder engagement work undertaken as part of the LNRS readiness activities. These will be shared with the Responsible Authority subject to GDPR requirements being met. As TVNP acts as a network further contacts will be added to the database as the LNRS process develops.

TVNP holds the following contact information that can be built on:

Stakeholder type	Location	Approximate numbers
TVNP member representatives	Excel spreadsheet taken from Outlook	45+ people directly involved in TVNP (see appendix 2) 415
TVNP direct professional contacts (local, regional & national)	Excel spreadsheet taken from Outlook	450+
TVNP supporters	TVNP newsletter/Mailchimp	2,079
	Meta (formerly Facebook)	425 followers
	X (formerly Twitter)	907 views
	TVNP website	



PHOTO CREDIT: R Murtagh TVNP Conference 2019

## Tees Valley has a unique model of LNRS delivery centring on 3 commissions:

- Mott McDonald managing the process & delivering final 'product' over sees -
- TVNP stakeholder commission
- ERIC-NE (Environmental Records Centre North East) Mapping commission

# The Journey - building trust & confidence with TVCA



Tees Valley Nature Partnership | 2019

**Tees Valley Nature Partnership**

*A Tees Valley where more people are connected to bigger and better wildlife rich spaces*

Business Plan  
2019-2022

Bring People Together & Build Strong Relationships in & Across Communities

- Activity 5.3: Design a programme to engage and involve greater numbers of people in the work of the partnership. *TVNP Business Plan 2019-2022*

<p><b>THEME 1:</b> NATURAL ASSETS Protecting &amp; Enhancing the Natural Environment</p>	<p><i>Our aim: Support policies and projects that ensure the protection and enhancement of the Tees Valley's natural environment</i></p>	<p><i>Objective 1: Protect What We Have</i></p> <p><i>Objective 2: Enhance What We Can</i></p>
<p><b>THEME 2:</b> NATURAL GROWTH Nature &amp; Economy Working Together</p>	<p><i>Our aim: Embed a natural capital approach across the Tees Valley</i></p>	<p><i>Objective 3: Promote Our Natural Assets</i></p> <p><i>Objective 4: Support Our Mayoral Combined Authority</i></p>
<p><b>THEME 3:</b> NATURAL HEALTH &amp; WELL-BEING Reconnecting People &amp; Nature</p>	<p><i>Our aim: Help more people realise the health benefits of engaging with the natural environment</i></p>	<p><i>Objective 5: Further Involvement &amp; Ownership</i></p> <p><i>Objective 6: Improve Health &amp; Wellbeing</i></p>
<p><b>THEME 4:</b> STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP &amp; MANAGEMENT Ensuring the Partnerships Future Success</p>	<p><i>Our aim: A strong, functioning local nature partnership for the Tees Valley</i></p>	<p><i>Objective 7: Ensure Sustainability of TVNP</i></p> <p><i>Objective 8: Secure Partner Engagement &amp; Ownership</i></p>



# The first joint piece of work



Tees Valley Nature Partnership | 2019





Local Government Association

# Supporting the 5 unitary authorities as well...

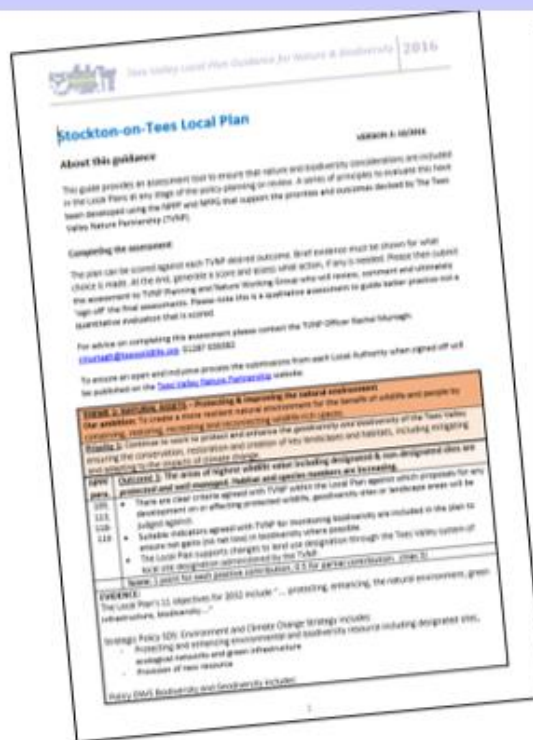


planning advisory service



## Tees Valley Nature Partnership 2019

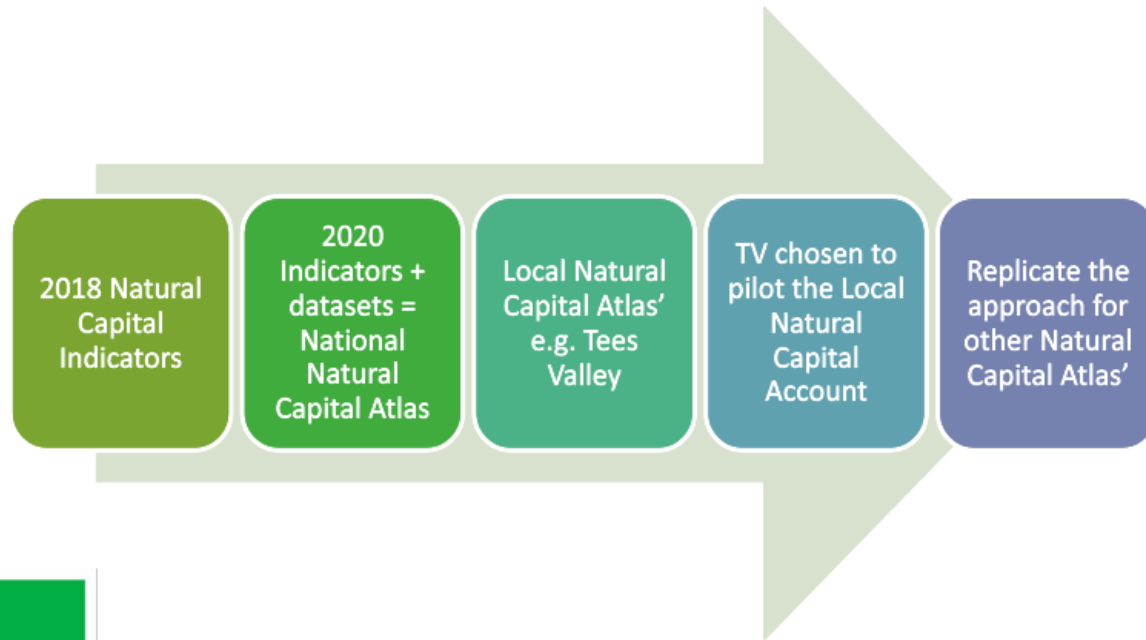
### Local Plan Assessment for Nature & Biodiversity



Helping to fulfil Local Authorities 'Duty to Co-operate'



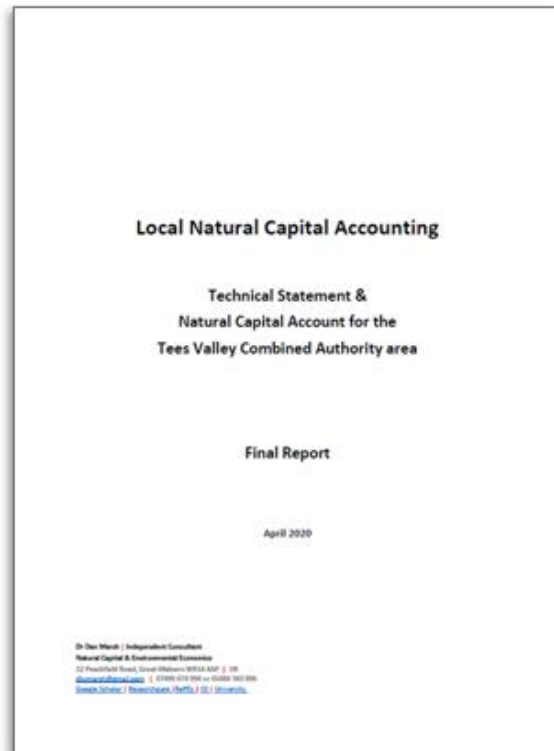
# Natural England developed natural capital resources for every part of England. They approached Tees Valley to evolve this resource & pilot a natural capital account







## Tees Valley Nature Partnership | 2020



‘The aim of the Local Natural Capital Accounting Project was to produce a natural capital account, in the form of an extended balance sheet, for an example Combined Authority level Natural Capital Atlas, namely the Tees Valley Combined Authority.’



### What is it?

- viewed as supplement for the local atlases
- drawn on the same data and indicators as the atlases
- Could provide the starting point of the development of more detailed local natural accounts based on local research, data and analysis.



### In addition:

A case study on applying the account 'Natural Capital Accounting and Net Carbon Zero'.

### Includes:

- tabulated account
- supporting technical statement
- Recommendations for further work



### Top findings

**£100 million** per annum - monetary benefits to society from recreation

**£5 million** per annum social cost of net emission of 73,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent from natural capital assets in the TVCA area per year.



Society values natural capital for the enjoyment people gain from these assets and the benefits they provide. Where possible the report estimates their monetary value.



# Looking to the Future...

**The Natural Capital Account & Case Study were major 'hooks' to build data, trust & confidence between TVNP & TVCA for the LNRS work**



Photo credit: Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

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  - Team of 17 plus peers and suppliers
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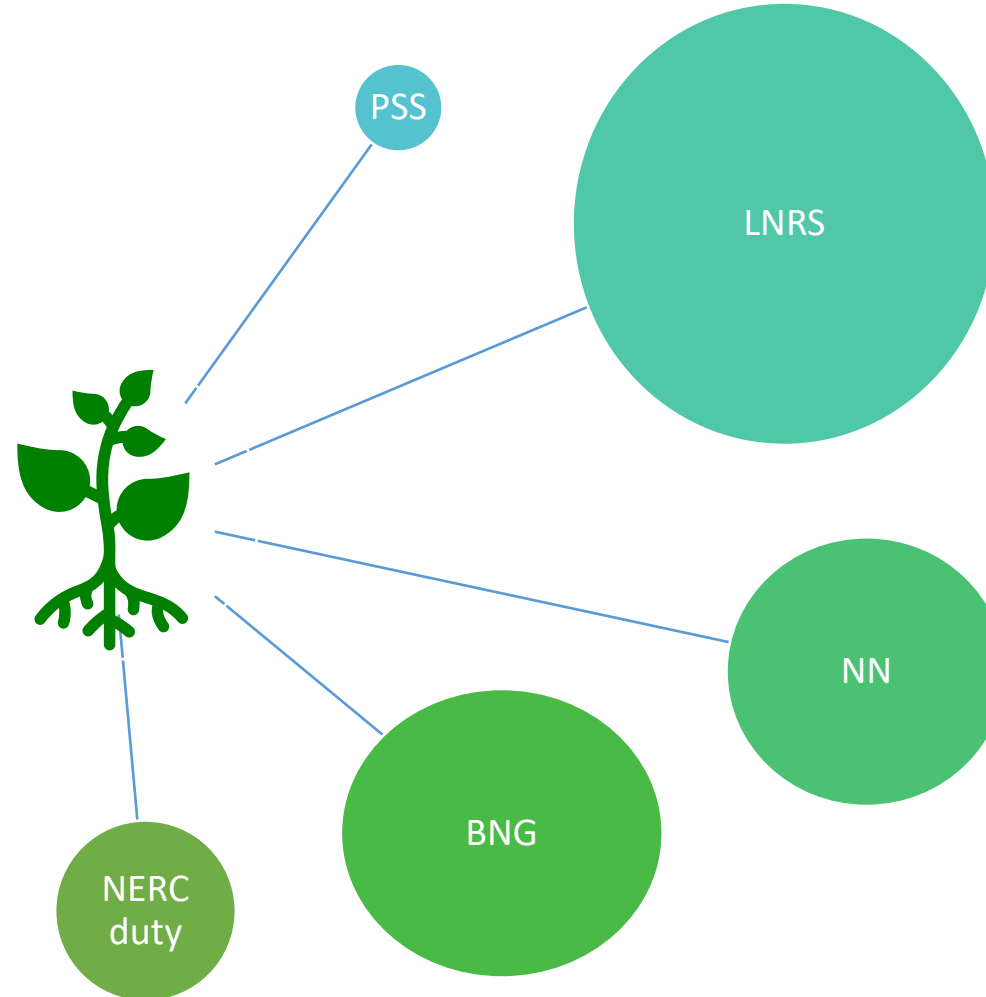
# Environment

We have four key workstreams on planning and the environment: Biodiversity Net Gain, Nutrient Neutrality, Nature Recovery and Protected Sites Strategies. We are also looking at how to help councils join this all together to plan for a better environment.



[Privacy settings](#)

# Busy space for LAs – lots of TLAs!



- <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/environment>
- <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/environment/protected-sites-strategies>
- <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/environment/nature-recovery-local-authorities>



# Nature recovery resource pack for local authorities

A helpful pack of resources to help local authorities understand and respond to the government nature recovery reforms

August 2023

[local.gov.uk/pas](https://www.local.gov.uk/pas)

# “Nature Recovery Toolkit”

Help councils understand a complex world by providing:

## A framework for:

- Supporting corporate objectives through the new duties including BNG, Biodiversity Reporting and LNRS
- Understanding the statutory (must do's) and opportunities (could/should do's)
- Deciding what to do (who contributes, objectives, the evidence base, funding, making it happen etc)



Getting local authorities interested



Pre work and inception meeting



**Design and deliver 3 x workshops**



Useful workshop outputs and relationships



Ideas to take forward

## Workshop template

- Priorities and opportunities
- Barriers and solutions
- Funding and delivery

## Slidedecks and briefing notes

## Appendices

- Action template - council activities, assets and responsibilities
- Useful data layers
- Key headlines
- Priority steps and checklist

## A process:

- Engaging the right stakeholders
- Working with stakeholders to decide what to do
- Understanding the oversight and governance requirements for your chosen priorities

Environment Act 2021

CHAPTER 30

PART 6 NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY

Conservation

110 Protected Site Strategies



- 1) Natural England may prepare and publish a strategy for—
  - a) improving the conservation and management of a protected site, and
  - b) managing the impact of plans, projects or other activities (wherever undertaken) on the conservation and management of the protected site.

# Thank You

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