



## Single Focus meeting: From Vision to Strategy Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2013

### 1. Context

The TVNP has a vision statement, broad objectives and a vision document. Our vision and objectives are very broad and non specific as you expect them to be for a partnership with a wide remit and membership. They are not significantly different from those of other LNPs. They were developed by the partnership through workshops during the development of the TVNP- so they are very much owned by the partnership. These provide the partnership a clear and strong sense of purpose.

To be an effective partnership that makes a difference locally we need to maintain a strong focus to maintain momentum, have a clear understanding of the natural environment that we are seeking to campaign and strengthen, a clear ambition for what an improved natural environment looks like, and ways that the TVNP can contribute to achieving this and have a mechanism to measure and monitor progress.

#### How to achieve this?

The TVNP board and management groups have been considering how to build on the vision and objectives to develop a strategic plan/work plan, which various approaches suggested. Working strategically can mean different things to different people and at different times so far we have lacked clarity on what the purpose of plan, who it is aimed at, and the format and level of depth and detail. I think this is because we are partnership of many different organisations from different types of organisations with different structures. Also the plan is for the strategic partnership which is not an organisation or a delivery body and therefore is different from the strategic plans we are used to working within. Also there is the question of if the plan captures work that is been delivered by partner organisations that contribute to the vision /objectives of the partnership or if it is the work done by partners through the TVNP e.g. nature mapping, local sites partnership etc .

At a board meeting in April the following broad work areas for the TVNP were agreed

## **The basis of developing a work programme**

**Developing a strong partnership**

**Championing the role of natural environment**

**Clear knowledgeable voice for natural environment**

**Opportunities for people to experience access and enjoy and benefit from natural environment**

**Partnership working for an improved natural environment**

We need two separate but inter-related things to take us forward;

- a. A statement of ambition for the Tees Valley's Natural Environment
- b. TVNP work plan

### **A. An ambition statement for the Tees Valley's Natural Environment**

- A long term ambition.
- Outward facing document.

**Key questions:** What does an improved natural environment look like? What is it that we want for our natural environment? And why it is important (ie how it fits in with other agendas ?

These key questions are important because we are the partnership for the Natural Environment in the Tees Valley, we need to have a good understanding on what are natural environment is , how and what the needs are to improve it – yes we need to think about other sectors e.g. economy and health and wellbeing and where the natural environment and the TVNP fits into these but to this we need to have well thought out ambition for how it should look. Describe Natural environment now, major threats and challenges. We also need to think about what opportunities there might be to enhance the natural environment.

It needs to take a landscape scale approach. What are our key habitats and species, how we increase connectivity? Increasing biodiversity in urban areas and countryside (different challenges). Describe Natural environment now, what are the major threats and challenges.

What are the broad things that need to happen? What role will the TVNP be able to play in helping to achieve these? Also identify who else (other sectors) that may be able to play a role in contributing to making things happen.

We can use the natural network opportunity mapping as the starting point. This provides an excellent evidence base – a description, a visual picture at a landscape scale of what we have now, in terms of biodiversity as a starting point. This needs to be used as a tool, to look at how we increase habitat, connectivity, address areas of deficit, identify priorities and opportunities.

The TVU ambition document is a good as a source for format and approach as in that takes a similar view but for economic environment e.g. It describes assets, where they are heading, key ambitions for the economy and making the ambition a reality.

Our Ambition for the Tees Valley Natural Environment will be a document that will help partner organisations to develop projects that contribute to the ambitions and create a wider understanding of the natural environment and the role it plays in the Tees Valley for other sectors.

**b. The TVNP work plan**

- Short and medium term planning
- Inward document (for partners)
- Sets out activities of the partnership, who is doing them, time frames, milestones, outputs.
- Will enable us to review effectiveness of partnership
- Use format in diagram has set out under the priorities or use the five headings that the board agreed on as work areas, these are less wordy and more snappy that the objectives.
- We need to decide if plan captures work that is been delivered by partner organisations that contribute to the vision /objectives of the partnership or if it is the work done by partners through the TVNP.

**2. Objectives of meeting**

1. To build consensus on what the Partnership considers an improved natural environment in the Tees Valley to look like (in landscape terms),
  - Describe what we are looking for in an improved natural environment (identify top 10 asks?)
  - to consider the wider environment that we will be operating in ( identify threats, challenges, opportunities for natural environment)
  - identify activities to achieve an improved environment
  - Who can help achieve this- what are we able to do as partnership organisation. What can the TVNP do at a strategic level to aid this
2. Involve wider partnership in the strategic planning of the Partnership- to help strengthen the partnership by increasing ownership of the strategies and plans and make use of expertise within partnership

**3. Attendance list**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Richard Hall	Natural England
Doff Pollard	Tees Valley Rural Community Council
David Tarttelin	Environment Agency
Nick Brodin	Natural England
Phil Roxby	Darlington Borough Council
Jo Fearey	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

Bob Pailor	INCA
Ian Bond	Hartlepool Borough Council
Rona Charles	North York Moors National Park
Vic Fairbrother	BTO Regional rep /Teesmouth Bird Club
Jenny Craven	Natural England
Kate Hawley	Forestry Commission
Jim Cokill	Durham Wildlife Trust
Anne-Louise Orange	Groundwork
Rob Brown	TV Local Access Forum
Anne Gladwin	Middlesbrough Council
Amanda Miller	RSPB
Sarah Scarr	Hartlepool Borough Council
Graham Clingan	Stockton Borough Council
Malcolm Steele	TVU
Ben lamb	Tees Rivers Trust
Graham Megson	Teesmouth Bird Club

#### 4. Workshop notes

#### Q. What are the key natural assets in the Tees Valley?

Habitats/species/landscapes	Locations, key places	For people to enjoy/experience
Limestone ridge	Saltburn Gill beach	Access routes e.g. National Cycle Routes
'Ordinary' open landscape	Saltholme (x2)	Saltburn Coastal Experience
River Tees (x3)	Lowland Heath (Eston Hills)	East Cleveland woods
Cleveland Hills	Summerhill Hartlepool	Liverton
Brownfield habitats/sites/open mosaic (x3)	Tees Barrage	Skelton
River Skerne	East Cleveland wooded valleys/woods (x3)	Saltholme (x4)
Coast/coastline (x3)	East Cleveland cliff walks and geo history	South Gare (x3)
Species-rich ancient hedges	Urban green space – Green infrastructure	Country Parks
Species rich roadside verges	Local wildlife sites (!)	Nature Reserves (x3)
Saltburn Gill	River corridors	Coastal areas, beaches – Skinningrove. Hummersea
Ancient spruce hedgerows	Industrial sites	River Network
Moorland	East Cleveland	Rights of way networks
Tees Estuary – major intertidal habitat	Teesmouth (x2)	Guisbrough Forest & Walkway
Woodland - Ancient semi-natural woodland - Ancient Gill woodland - Loftus Gill woods (East Cleveland)	South Gare (x2)	Flatts Lane country park

Sand dunes/Dune systems (x3)	Cleveland coast	Eston Hills
River network	Greatham Creek (x2)	Cleveland Way
Estuary (x2)	Tees Estuary	More woodland cover throughout
Mudflats	Seal Sands (x2)	Urban Local Nature Reserves
Eels on Ormesby Beck	Beck Valleys	Community Woodlands
Wetlands (x2)	Marton West Beck	Seal Sands
Meadows	Ormesby Beck	Beck valleys
Large water bodies	Easton Moor	Trust nature reserves
Fens	Guisbrough Forest	Riverside
	North York Moors (Fringe)	Maze Park
Heathland	River Tees (x3) - 'The Mighty Tees'! - and tributaries	Teesdale Way (x3)
Reedbeds	International designated SPA, EMS (x2)	Guisbrough
Wild Beck sides in middles of towns	National designators	Loftus
Saltmarsh	Bowlby cliffs - Geology and landscape	S.W. Ironmasters (Middlesbrough)
Restoration projects – Pickard's meadow	Seaton Common/dunes	Stewart Park (x2)
Hedgerows (especially East Cleveland)	Hartlepool Headland	Albert Park
Coastal	Leven valley woodlands	Community Woodlands
Grassland	Liverton and Warpley Moors	South Burden
	Brownfield Moths and Fens	Beach Fronts
Dingy Skipper (x2)		"Exploring the old industrial heritage of the Tees below the barrage and down to South Gare"
Great Crested Newts (x3)		Marton West Beck
Farmland birds		Tees tributaries
Wetland birds		"Looking from the Cleveland hills down over the South Gare and beyond"
Water vole (x2)		Urban river corridors
Seals (x3)		Hartlepool headland - Sea watching - Migrant birds
Migrating fish		Public Parks
Otter		Eston moor wildlife
Moths/Butterflies/Dragonfly		Scaling Dam – reservoir - bird hide
Protected Species - EPS - UK only		Coatham Stob woodland – it's huge
Birds (x2)		Tees Barrage
Kittiwake colony (Saltburn)		Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park
Special protection areas assemblage and		Billingham Beck valley country

notified species		park
Red Grouse		Wynyard Woodland park
Little Terns breeding		Archaeology
Linked wetlands for birds (breeding, passage, wintering)		Geology coast – great for fossils
Urban wildlife		
Water Voles (x2)		
Golden-ringed Dragonfly		
Waders		
Little Terns		
Sea birds		
Grayling		
Breeding waders		
Sandwich Tern (passage)		

### Q. What do we want Tees Valley Natural Environment to look like in 20 years

<b>( Grouped)</b>
<b>General</b>
Enriched farmed environments - More farmland, birds, hedges Connecting habitats
Agreed shared development and natural areas - Joined up local authority Tees Valley wide plan
Provide green spaces in all new development - both residential and commercial
Significance of Brownfield sites and links to other areas Identify pressure for development and work with industry to retain them
Strategic approach to accessible areas allowing for private buffers
Appropriate development retaining access to natural areas
Identify value to wellbeing or monetary value of retaining wildlife areas within Brownfield sites - Clear plans and direction for business so seen as integral to their work
Joined up approach for all agencies and organisations regardless of changes within
Natural Green space delivered through development
Need more GI strategies - Vision being implemented
Better quality green infrastructure - Link with development e.g. Darlington Cinema Complex
Statement of biodiversity - so not 'net' loss at
What do we want nature conservation organisations to look like in 20 years? - land management

(LA's, NGO's, Defra)  
Public Relations

### Communities / Access

Responsible dog walking – respect and understanding

Consider integration of natural/urban environments for improved health and wellbeing

Improved access for all within regions/sites etc. particularly those close to communities. Identify locations where access could be developed to an area/feature – not necessarily a footpath

Change of perceptions regionally/nationally on value of Tees Valley area and raise local awareness

Design wildlife spaces to accommodate public use without conflict with vulnerable species

Enhance green spaces in urban areas

Places for people to experience wildlife close to where they live

Aware of assets and can access

- Connectivity between environments, people and business

Strong footpath managed network

School grounds wildlife friendly

Local communities appreciate nature around them (x2)

Google countryside maps

- Provision of armchair access to encourage people to explore

- More positive awareness and engagement

Raised awareness of existing sites to encourage use

Greater integration of communities with wider offer – more appeal

There's a place for private, people-free wildlife sites

Coastline and moorland

- Good for promotion of area

Unbroken access to green areas e.g. access to River Tees, coastal paths etc.

People feel safe and welcome in green spaces

Buffering extending habitat in farmland environment

Winning hearts and minds

- so people care and act to conserve and enhance natural environment

### Habitat Management

Growth from what we have got

- Rural areas but hard to achieve

Tees marshes out with designated sites managed and secure

Improved gardens and parks for wildlife

Secure management of sites and expanding habitats to link

Maintain quality of sites – air and water quality to retain and improve biodiversity

Wetlands, water storage and flood alienation

Non-designated sited sites and semi-natural areas

-more

- better quality

- recognition in planning context

Ecosystem approach – multiple benefits

Good water quality (x3) – rivers and streams, delivery of WFD (x2)

Climate change resilience built into all plans

Cross-connections from sewer outlets - problem solved in 20 years - Look at suburban areas
Hen Harriers breeding in the NYMNP
Brownfield biodiversity on industrial sites secured through development
Fingers of habitat connecting to important sites
Enhanced designated sites
Community forest site
River valleys in urban areas
Revitalise, protect and enhance river valleys (x2)
Water slowed to benefit habitats and reduce flash-flooding

<b>Maintaining Current Position</b>
Integrating sites – connectivity
Lustrum Beck - Flood storage in rural areas
Safeguard high status and quality sites of biodiversity – develop network beyond that
Protected green spaces accessible to urban communities - Green Space strategy and infrastructure
Designated sites managed and sustainable in favourable condition
Secure existing sites - Try to increase hectares
- Woodland rot (?) - quality and quantity - Minimum maintenance and management

**What needs to happen (activities) and what can the LNP do?**

<b>Activities that need to happen</b>
Put value on natural environment to industry, health and other sectors – Natural Capital Use Enterprise Zone
Look at toolkits and methodology to identify best practice and what is relevant to the Tees Valley Planning system – Local authorities, private sector, developers – To get best deal for biodiversity Embed value into system - Develop toolkit
Talk to other nature partnerships
LEP – links with catchment-wide work and other NNP’s – identify linkages
Environment agency – flood alleviation – benefits to nature through flood management Regional Flood Risk Committee National Rivers Authority Local water quality issues e.g. mine water pollution issues FC grants Planting as mitigation
Environmental Stewardship
Partnership with Natural England



Food and farming network NFU National park
Link housing and other developments to green infrastructure (local plans)
Develop biodiversity offsetting locations
Prioritisation of sites
Explore many funding sources – understanding their streams and conditions
Better understanding of activity of individual partners
Identify key local players
Find new ways to empower communities
Re-integrate rural communities and landowners – incentivise
Learning from other LNP's (knowledge exchange), particularly those closest to us
Make links with health and wellbeing
The LNP needs to: Ensure visibility of relevant plans Identify project opportunities (through sub-groups?) Communicate progress and generate positive publicity (collectively) – championship and promotion Stimulate action
Prioritising opportunities/activities to deliver an enhanced environment
Deliver a socio-economic assessment of the natural environment in the Tees Valley
Provide a network for community groups to be a part of
Take priorities to partners to deliver opportunities/activities
Create a network of community green spaces - explore and influence
Developers – building enhancements into developments
Planners – influence local policy development, working strategically across borders
Government – policy direction
Communities – volunteers delivering projects
Prioritising opportunities/activities to deliver an enhanced environment - Take priorities to delivery bodies e.g. water companies, industry, health sector

Drivers                      Constraints                      Challenges                      Opportunities			
<b>Governance changes</b>	New legislation	Plan with clear long-term objectives – TV centre with achievable outcomes ...action plan developed from this	Climate change
<b>Conflicting demands</b>		LEP plans and investment opportunity to make our case	New environment land management scheme
<b>Land ownership and values</b>		Individual members take away actions and report back to develop projects/themes	Local authorities reduced in size
<b>Funding</b>		Develop document in	Health sector

		partnership with board rather than presented with papers	
<b>Housing pressures</b>	Economic/finance	Loss of natural heritage	Tourism
<b>Lack of buy-in from industry</b>	Baseline and quality data	Climate change	Agencies working together – more collaboration
<b>Structure</b>	Natural environment land management scheme	Competition for funding	Flood defence/water framework – added value in investment
<b>Response to cases</b>	Intensification of land uses e.g. moorlands	Greater Public Understanding	Asset transfer
<b>Opportunities for delivery</b>	Development pressure e.g. housing	New environment land management scheme	Climate change
<b>Climate change</b>	Climate change	Keeping data up-to-date and relevant	
<b>Government reviews</b>		Local authorities reduced in size	
<b>Streamlining effects on funding etc...change of government</b>		Partnerships create opportunities not competition	
<b>Local Plans</b>		Asset transfer from local authorities	
<b>Climate change</b>		Climate change	
<b>Local communities (Big Society?)</b>		High levels of deprivation	
<b>New environment land management scheme</b>		Link natural environment to economics of the Tees Valley	
<b>Water Framework Directive</b>		Renewable energy	
		Natural environment contributing to economic growth	
		Biodiversity offsetting	
		Ecosystem services as part of toolkit	