



# Tees Valley Nature Partnership

Margrove Park Heritage Centre  
Margrove Park  
Boosbeck  
Saltburn  
TS12 3BZ

[www.teesvalleynaturepartnership.org](http://www.teesvalleynaturepartnership.org)  
[rmurtagh@teeswildlife.org](mailto:rmurtagh@teeswildlife.org)

01287 636382

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Mr Adrian Miller, Head of Planning,  
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council,  
Regeneration Services Directorate,  
Redcar & Cleveland House,  
Kirkleatham Street, Redcar  
Yorkshire,  
TS10 1RT.

Dear Adrian Miller,

## **Duty to Co-operate – Redcar and Cleveland local plan**

Thank-you for undertaking the Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) Local Plan Assessment for Nature and Biodiversity.

This is an assessment tool to ensure that nature and biodiversity considerations are included in the local plans at any stage of the policy planning or review. A series of principles to evaluate this have been developed using the NPPF and NPPG that support the priorities and outcomes devised by the TVNP. Full details of the assessment including the 9 guiding principles, the assessment forms and links to all the relevant strategies can be found at:

[teesvalleynaturepartnership.org.uk/resources/local-plan-assessment-for-nature-biodiversity/](http://teesvalleynaturepartnership.org.uk/resources/local-plan-assessment-for-nature-biodiversity/)

We acknowledge that Redcar and Cleveland's Local Plan process was well advanced when the TVNP launched the assessment in September 2016. Despite this the plan has still scored a rating of 'Good' and the work put in by the planning authority will help to aid the development of the other Tees Valley Local Plans that follow on behind Redcar and Cleveland. There is still potential to increase your score, to do so we recommend a two-point approach: -

1. At this advanced point of the local plan process, we would recommend the following minor amendments to the policy wording in the plan.
  - a. Modify the wording regarding Local Sites Partnership to reflect that this has been integrated into and is now part of the TVNP.
  - b. Reference to BOAs Biodiversity Opportunity Areas where identified in the assessment feedback e.g. policy N4. (a paragraph has been supplied)



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- c. Clearer wording regarding PDL and a 'commitment to a continual working arrangement with the TVNP' e.g. Stockton's policy ENV 5 2 '...creation or improvement of habitats to meet the objectives of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership.'
2. The following issues we would like to see progressed through Supplementary Planning Documents and if necessary incorporated into future revisions of the local plan. These include points relevant across the whole of the Tees Valley regarding initiatives in development.
- a. Tees Valley wide biodiversity indicators.
  - b. The development of a Biodiversity offsetting policy linked to a Tees Valley policy (agreement) including options for cross boundary strategic mitigation where appropriate.
  - c. Future regard of any Tees Valley local guidance for buildings' sustainability standards'.
  - d. Shoreline Management Plan, although specific reference has been considered not necessary in the local plan we recommend regard and reference to this is made with any future interest for example from a Landscape Partnership which is being investigated for the coast from Saltburn to Sandsend.
  - e. Clearer reference to Local Green Space – commitment to promoting this to communities at the next revision of the local plan and if and when developed any Neighbourhood Plans.

Once again thank you for taking the time and effort to undertake the assessment. To complete the process, we would appreciate a written response on how you intend to implement our recommendations. If you have any further queries in the meantime please do get in touch.

We look forward to a continuing positive working relationship with you where we can all work to realise the partnerships vision of 'A rich and healthy natural environment in the Tees Valley that sustains a vibrant place for people to live work and learn'.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Murtagh  
TVNP Officer  
On behalf of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership

CC Fiona Hurworth, Principal Planning Strategy Officer