

Dear members of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership,

We are writing to highlight the activities of our research group and with the aim of forging new collaborations in the Tees Valley. We are a group of 11 academics at Teesside University focussing on ecology and the environment, with experience in biodiversity, ecosystems services, and collecting evidences for policy that in the field of expertise as follows: soils, freshwater systems, grazing, environmental chemistry, botany, zoology and microbiology.

What can we offer?

Firstly, we are keen to offer our advice base on our field of expertise and our know-how with analysis, statistics and publishing. For complex issues and longer-term support, we would also be happy to provide consultancy or collaboratively develop project.

Secondly, we have a growing number of students graduating every year from our courses: Environmental Science, Animal Science and Welfare, Biology and Geography. Each students (currently >30 a year) are not only potential volunteers for your organisation but they are also completing a 3<sup>rd</sup> year project that amounts to a total of >200 hours of work. We believe that collaboration on designing student projects addressing a useful question for your organisation would be a win-win situation.

In summary, we are extremely keen to develop links with all TVNP partners and we are expecting that our expertise and our final year's student project will be relevant to your activities.

Looking forward to hearing from you, Best Wishes

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