

Tees Nature Conference 2020



Local Nature | Local People



Keynote Speaker Stephanie Bird-Halton

Stephanie Bird-Halton is the Area Manager for Natural England and heads up a team of 55 staff helping to protect and enhance a broad range of habitats and species, from coastal and estuarine, to upland peat bog and everything in between. Steph has worked with Natural England for 10 years and prior to that studied at Newcastle University obtaining a master's degree in Town and Country planning. When Steph isn't working for Natural England, she enjoys exploring the outdoors on foot with her husband and dog, or on horseback.



Chair Timothy Crawshaw BA(Hons) MA MRTPI FRSA

Chair of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership, Timothy Crawshaw works as an International Planning and Development Consultant. He has worked on projects for the UN Development Programme in the fields of Energy, Climate Change and Green Urban Development and is a presenter and trainer for Trevor Roberts. His interests include integrated urban planning approaches, innovative financing models and ecosystem services as a response to climate change, and in support of health and wellbeing. <http://crawshawurbandesign.com>

Panel for Local Nature



Panel Chair Rachel Murtagh

Rachel, Manager of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership brings over 25 years' experience in the environment sector including work for local government, National Park Authorities, Wildlife Trusts and freelance. She has a background in environmental science, countryside management, and sustainable development. A keen wild swimmer, canoeist and trail runner Rachel is passionate about the cultivation of ecological awareness engaging hearts and minds in the personal and social change needed to ensure a vibrant future for our planet.



Natural Assets

Mike Leakey

Mike joined INCA following a 25-year career with Natural England, most of which was spent looking after Teesmouth National Nature Reserve. Mike's main interests are ornithological he was the Local Organiser for the Tees Estuary Wetland Bird Survey for 23 years, overseeing 285 monthly Sunday counts His other interests include walking, running (slowly and not very far!), Northern League football and real ale.



Natural Growth

Eddie Halstead

Eddie, Tees Programme Manager for the Environment Agency is a chartered Town Planner, a member of the RTPI and the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). He is a member of the North East European Strategic Investment Fund Sub-Committee. His career has included working in the public sector at local, regional, and national level and has covered environmental policy, planning, economic strategy, and project delivery.



Natural Health & Wellbeing

Dr Susan Antrobus

Susan works with the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust supporting and developing community action for urban green places. She has worked with local and national third sector organisations and government specialising in developing community participation and volunteering in hard to reach communities A plant ecologist she researched genetics of colonisation of bryophytes in the Antarctic with the British Antarctic Survey and herbaceous perennials at Oxford Brookes University.

Participating Organisations:



Barefoot Kitchen

Barefoot Kitchen CIC is a social enterprise that works at the grassroots level to create revolutionary, regenerative, and resilient communities in the Tees Valley through food growing, cooking and sharing initiatives - from plot to plate! Their work is underpinned by their values: for people, communities, society, and the Earth. 'Barefoot' describes the way we like to work - with minimal damaging impact.

Email: barefoot.bellis@gmail.com



Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Cleveland Beekeepers Association are a friendly, thriving association of over 100 beekeepers living in the Cleveland, North Yorkshire and County Durham areas of the North East of England, on the northern edge of the North Yorkshire Moors. Our website name www.teesbees.co.uk derives from the River Tees, which flows through the region.

Email: info@teesbees.co.uk



Environment Agency

The Environment Agency's work helps to protect and improve the environment to make it a better place for people and wildlife in England. This includes reducing the impacts of flooding, promoting sustainable development and delivering UK environmental policies.

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk



ERIC North East

ERIC North East works with wildlife recording groups and individuals to collate environmental data which is used to inform nature conservation. Whether you are an environmental consultant, wildlife recorder, biodiversity professional or interested individual, we can help by providing you with information and assisting with data management.

Email: eric.ne@twmuseums.org.uk



Festival of Thrift

The award-winning Festival of Thrift shows you how to live sustainably with style. It's a weekend of family activities for all the family geared towards saving you money. The festival has won a multitude of awards including Best Event Teesside (in 2015 and 2017), Gold as North East Tourism Event of the Year and the Observer Ethical Awards for Arts and Culture.

Email: info@festivalofthrift.co.uk



National Lottery Community Fund

Currently the main funders of the TVNP they believe people understand what is needed in their communities better than anyone. We listen, collaborate and fund so that good things happen. That is why we're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players across the UK.

Email: general.enquiries@nlcommunityfund.org.uk



Natural England

Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide. Natural England is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk



Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is a charity dedicated to saving wildlife and wild places and helping people to get closer to nature. They manage over 60 nature reserves and help to create wildlife-rich landscapes and seas by working in partnership with other organisations, landowners, and communities.

Email: mail@northwt.org.uk



Tees Rivers Trust

From Fell-side to Teesside, Tees Rivers Trust is a charitable organisation committed to improving and conserving the River Tees. Their work is varied and covers the whole of the catchment from Cross Fell to the North Sea. Their key areas of work are research, education, and practical habitat improvements. The Trust is also proud to be the host organisation for the Your Tees Catchment Partnership.

Email: benlamb@teesriverstrust.org



Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is part of the influential UK-wide partnership of 47 Wildlife Trusts. The Trust has worked for more than 40 years to protect wildlife and wild places, and educate, influence, and empower people. We manage 15 Nature Reserves and help others to manage their countryside sites. Our work is helping to secure the future of many important habitats and species, which might otherwise be lost.

Email: info@teeswildlife.org



Tees Valley Sport

Tees Valley Sport is one of 43 Active Partnerships in England. They work with partners across the Tees Valley which includes the local authority areas of Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton on Tees, Middlesbrough, Darlington, and Hartlepool. Active Partnerships are tasked with rolling out the local delivery of Sport England initiatives and, in some cases, the dissemination of Sport England Funding.

Email: c.woods@tees.ac.uk



Tees Valley Wild Green Places

The Tees Valley Wild Green Places Project is a five-year project, led by the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and others. Their mission is to “Increase appreciation and understanding of the natural heritage of public open spaces in the Tees Valley and increase the skills of local people to record and care for this heritage.”

Email: info@teeswildlife.org



The Water Hub

The Water Hub is a driver for change, enabling the sustainable use of the planet’s natural resources through creating collaborations between its network of partners, businesses, and communities. They create new opportunities for businesses, communities, and end-users to join with government organisations and research institutes. Together, our partnerships co-develop the solutions to key water and environmental challenges in these areas.

Email:



West of England Nature Partnership

The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) is a cross-sector partnership working to restore the natural environment in the West of England through embedding the value of nature in decision making across spatial planning, public health, and economic development.

Email: info@wenp.org.uk