

# Proceedings of the Tees Nature and the Climate Emergency Conference

November 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2020



# Coordinating Organisations



We are the local Nature Partnership for the Tees Valley, designated by the Secretary of State. With over 40 organisations, we work together to support nature so it can support us.

Here in the Tees Valley, like everywhere, we are dependent on nature to live. Nature provides our natural resources, our places to play, relax and be inspired, offers protection from flooding, can lock away carbon, and helps us to thrive. Unfortunately, nature is under threat and is being degraded, lost and fragmented, squeezed out and neglected by our human demands for roads, housing, and food.

We've taken from nature for too long and now we must help nature to recover, with good quality bio-diverse green and blue spaces throughout our region. The good news is that there is a lot that we individually and collectively can do, that will make a real difference for nature. The more us of who are involved, the better the outcome will be.



The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) is an inclusive, civil society-led initiative that works in partnership with Government, Local Authorities, Water Companies, businesses and more, to maximise the natural value of our environment.

From the source of our rivers to the sea, across our towns, cities, countryside, and coasts – a healthy water environment is essential to all of us. It provides us with the water we need to live and to run our businesses efficiently. It reduces the risk to our homes and livelihoods of flooding.

A healthy water environment means better places to live, where people and wildlife flourish. In the past, management of the water environment has fallen to Government, private companies, and landowners, often operating in isolation.

**All green text after this denotes links to conference clips or relevant webpages**





## **Executive Summary**

**Timothy David Crawshaw MRTPI FRSA**

**Chair of Tees Valley Nature Partnership**

This timely conference came at a time when we perhaps all have had time to consider our relationship to nature. Denied many of the certainties of social gatherings and free movement many of us have been on something of an inner journey, with peace and solace found in the natural environment. At a local level nature has found a space to recover whilst our roads and skies became quieter.

The challenge of the Climate Emergency has not gone away, and this event was, for many, a beacon of hope in what seems like a collection of intractable problems. Yes, there was a recognition that much has been lost and that the scale of the challenge is indeed intimidating as we tackle not only our public health crisis, throwing into relief structural inequalities, but also ecological collapse and the accelerating global warming. But what was apparent was the ingenuity and creativity in relearning a more nurturing approach to our relationship with the planet, and, by association, each other.

**Day 1**, covering Ecology set the scene for our joint imperative to address ecological collapse, the loss of habitats and the need to find different ways to adapt to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. From our keynote speaker onwards those working at the leading edge of innovation and understanding gave an insight into the approaches that support nature recovery, whilst also performing well in terms of carbon sequestration and reducing emissions from farming. Complementary and aligned to the Tees Valley Combined Authority's drive towards zero carbon the natural capital accounting pilot provided some surprising insights into the role of the natural environment in terms of climate change. This was further highlighted through the PechaKucha talks that have become a feature of the TVNP conference approach. The financing of nature-based solutions was explored in the final session of the day and this important session highlighted the need for a clear investment plan and bankable returns on investment.

**Day 2** provided us with an in-depth view of the impact of nature-based solutions in creating positive impacts for people. Accepting that there is no division in terms of creating a healthy habitat in which to thrive between humans and non-humans is a powerful realisation. As we have experienced ecological collapse and with the existential threat of climate change health and wellbeing outcomes in our most deprived communities are persistently poor in comparison to the wealthy. Nature-based solutions, including improving access to quality natural environments are cost-effective in comparison to the costs to the economy. The breakout sessions were a clear demonstration of actions at various scales from individual actions to and psychological process to landscape-scale interventions that are making a difference to people, the planet and nature. Time to reflect at the end of the day was provided to ensure that the conference ending with people 'checking in' and having a chance to discuss the conference and its implications.

This conference is reflective of the strategic partnerships that we have in the Tees Valley and this conference will further invigorate what is becoming an innovative and leading body of practice. We were privileged to host and witness the launch of Climate Action Middlesbrough. Through projects like this, the Tees Valley is gaining recognition for leading the charge in healing our relationship to the planet, ourselves and the natural environment.

## Day 1



### Keynote Speaker

**Dr Craig Bennett** Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts

Craig started as Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts in April 2020, with the ambition of putting a third of the UK's land and sea into nature recovery by 2030. He has a BSc (Hons) in Human and Physical Geography from The University of Reading and an MSc in Biodiversity

Conservation from University College London, and an Honorary Doctoral degree from University College of Estate Management.

Craig was previously CEO of Friends of the Earth where he refocussed the organisation on its unique role of empowering communities to take action to tackle the climate and ecological crisis. This resulted in a step-change in the scale and impact of the movement with over 200 new Friends of the Earth community groups set up during his tenure. Craig led Friends of the Earth to numerous campaign victories including on bees, fracking and against the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

### Keynote Address

The world is facing a climate and ecological emergency and we need to urgently turn this around. One of the biggest concerns are the positive feedback loops within the earth's system. For example, the shrinking arctic ice cap, this reflective ice is being replaced with dark water which absorbs more of the sun's energy and retains more of that heat than ice meaning as the ice cap shrinks the northern regions will warm faster than they normally would. If we don't act fast enough, we could see climate change speeding up even if we cut emissions to net-zero after hitting that tipping point. We must roughly halve carbon dioxide within the next decade and then bring this to zero by the middle of this century at least.

Then there's the ecological emergency, this goes way beyond the loss of the natural world. David Attenborough puts this well in saying we need to put nature into recovery. WWF recently published a report that states we've lost an average 68% of wildlife populations since 1970. Here in the UK the State of Nature report suggested that we've lost 41% of our wildlife species since the early 1970s. Scientists are clear that we need to roughly put around 30% of our land and sea into recovery by 2030.

The government agreed to sign up to a pledge to do just this however they suggested that we are already at 26% in the UK. Although this includes all our national parks and AONB's, many of these areas are in a poor condition. We need more space for nature, but also nature connected to where people live to help improve people's physical and mental well-being. Nature and climate are inextricably linked, and nature-based solutions are a key part of dealing with climate change, but this also needs to be supported by cutting emissions.

## Impact

### Future Flooding Predictions

Chris Hood - Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor, Environment Agency

In November 2018 the Met Office published an updated set of climate projections for the UK = UKCP18. Based on cutting edge climate science UKCP18 has provided the most up-to-date and authoritative assessment of how the climate of the UK is expected to change over the course of this century. The projections confirm and refine our understanding of the climatic changes we face between now and the year 2100. In a nutshell we are likely to see wetter winters, heavier rainfall, and rising sea levels – which will undoubtedly mean more frequent and more extreme flooding in future. It is important to remember that this is not just a future threat, climate change is happening now – we are already seeing the effects of climate change in the UK; including significant events such as the 2013 east coast tidal surge, the 2013/14 winter flooding in the south of England, the 2015/16 winter flooding in the north of England.

### How Climate Change Impacts Biodiversity

Simon Duffield – Senior Specialist, Climate Change Natural England

The importance of climate and the sensitivity of natural systems is self-evident. For example, as temperatures warm in spring flowering, birds laying, and other seasonal events driven by the annual cycle of temperature are affected. If we have cold springs you get later blossoms, warm springs mean that plants bloom earlier. There is evidence that migration patterns are changing too, with evidence of shorter migrations and some species becoming permanent residents. This will have implications for the demands that species place on habitats and hence the habitat condition necessary to meet those demands. Changes have also been observed in North Sea phytoplankton with marine species moving 5-800km per decade. Lastly, a changing coastline puts flood defence and property at risk. Whilst this is fine from a conservation perspective, people and property may take priority in future legislation and guidelines

## Response

### Tees Valley Natural Capital Account Zero Carbon Case Study

Geraldine Brown - Strategy, Policy & Intelligence Manager TVCA

Tees Valley Combined Authorities Economic intends for Tees Valley to be a global leader in clean energy, low carbon & hydrogen; to achieve a net-zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040, and to provide good jobs with long-term prospects that local people can access. To do this...Clean Growth. Industrial decarbonisation – a pioneer region for CCS & clean energy. Hydrogen – growing market opportunities & building the supply chain; National Hydrogen Transport Hub. Offshore wind assets & opportunities. Local Energy & Green Homes Grants. Place priorities – establishing a global reputation for Tees Valley as a vibrant & thriving place to be. TVCA has been working with TVNP and Natural England on a natural capital account the annual benefits in Tees Valley include: Recreational visits - £100m p.a., Clean air - £7m p.a., Fisheries/aquaculture - £360,000 p.a. On the other hand, the annual social cost of carbon emission in Tees Valley is estimated at £5m p.a.

### Nature-Based Solutions for Net-Zero

Ian Crosher - Senior Specialist, Climate Change Natural England

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is an increasingly prominent concept to describe actions that address societal challenges, such as climate change, in ways that benefit both people and biodiversity. Woodland is critical to achieving net-zero because of its potential to take carbon out of the atmosphere however, major Emissions Reductions are still imperative. It is also much more complex than just planting trees. Other habitats such as grassland and heathland are also important, and we need to restore these open habitat networks and avoid undermining their potential for restoration through woodland in the wrong place. In addition to changes in land-use patterns, there will also need to be changes to land management practices, looking to shift to lower carbon emissions wherever possible.

### Blue Carbon, Inshore and Offshore Remedies

Jean-Luc Solandt - Principal Specialist, MPA Marine Conservation society

Blue Carbon assets are an important part of any net-zero carbon strategy as they are great ways to sequester carbon around the UK Coast. These assets also provide other services such as habitats for fish, food for fish and wading birds, coastal protection, water filtration and replacing depleted habitats. These assets include: seagrass (.1% global marine habitat but provide 10% of the carbon store), mudflats, salt marsh, and bivalves. Offshore wind also offers multiple solutions with the seabed being a carbon store if these areas are not trawled. Jean-Luc goes into detail on the plans for increasing and improving these assets concerning the Tees Valley coast.

## PechaKucha talks

### 1. Natural Solutions – It's Not Just Trees

Jeremy Garside – Chief Executive, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

We have been talking for a long time about tree planting as being a major way of reducing carbon from the atmosphere. However, there is a vast imbalance between the amount of carbon produced worldwide and the amount of carbon that can be stored that the current amount of vegetation on the planet. Peatlands also seem like a great habitat, however these need to be in a good condition, if they dry out, they start emitting carbon and methane back into the atmosphere. Besides, if habitats are not managed properly carbon can soon be released into the atmosphere. Natural solutions are not the sole answer, carbon emissions also need to be reduced – there is no single answer.

### 2. Upper Tees Catchment – The Tees Swale Project

Chris Woodley-Stewart – Director, North Pennines AONB

This project puts farming at the heart of nature recovery and nature at the heart of farming. The North Pennines and the Yorkshire Dales are the best connected, least fragmented green infrastructure network in the country. Whilst it is the best connected it's not always in the best condition and more can be done. The project covers nearly 850 Km<sup>2</sup> and 300 farms, 70% is SSSI and priority habitat. The project plans to restore habitats such as peatland and wetland and restore water environments. The programme engages to work on a transformational scale engaging new audiences to collaborate and change behaviour for the future.

### 3. Local Nature Recovery Strategies

Adam Stewart – Local Delivery Team DEFRA

LNRS's will cover the whole of England, they are tools developed from the Environment Bill to help drive more coordinated and focused action to help nature and support the delivery of biodiversity net gain. Each strategy and area will be considered on a case by case basis considering local circumstances. Each LNRS will be delivered with mandatory net gain which will be embedded into local plans. This approach is currently being tested in Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, and Northumberland. Tees Valley is well placed to decide if it is an appropriate geography for an LNRS so it may want to consider this moving forward.



#### 4. Biodiversity Net Gain

Andrew Whitehead – Net Gain Senior Advisor, Natural England

Biodiversity net gain is an approach that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was in before. To calculate it you need to know the size, condition, location, ecological connectivity, and distinctiveness of the habitats. From this, the required 10% increase can be calculated. It isn't an opportunity to lose high value and replace with large areas of lower value habitat, it must be like for like improvements only. There are also social benefits including improvements to mental and physical health. The Tees Valley has had biodiversity opportunity areas mapped to identify priority habitats that can be expanded, there is an opportunity to develop a Tees Valley wide strategy from this.

#### 5. Restoring Nature Through Environmental Markets

Louise Martland – Conservation Director, The Environment Bank

Biodiversity net gain is part of the Environment Bill with a 30-year compensation requirement where the offset is assessed using the same metric as the impact. This must be additional to what's already happening at that land. Habitat banks are 40+ ha areas of land dedicated to biodiversity restoration. These can be designed collaboratively with local organisations to contribute to local conservation strategies. It's a suite of packages with a set of different options to allow for different types of development. Developers can pay with a one-off payment. These can then be paid in instalments to the local authorities overseeing the habitat bank, developers can see where their money is going, and proper funding for conservation projects.

**The PechaKucha talks were followed by a panel discussion with a panel consisting of the PechaKucha speakers. [You can watch the full panel discussion here](#)**

**[Not all the panel questions were answered during the panel, you can find these questions here.](#)**

## Day 2



### Keynote Speaker

#### **Paul Allen B.Eng. (Hons) FRSA – Zero Carbon Britain**

Paul joined the Centre for Alternative Technology in 1988, developing a wide range of renewable energy systems including solar-powered medical systems for use overseas. Offering 30 years' experience initiating 'ahead of the curve' research projects, backed by strong technical and practical experience, Paul has led the ground-breaking Zero Carbon Britain research for over 12 years; leading on the development of six reports and liaising directly with Government, business, public sector and the arts to share their findings. He has a wide breadth of public speaking experience from UNFCCC COP conferences to local council training.

In 2013 Paul was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship grant to explore rapid decarbonisation research across the USA. He was a member of the Wales Science Advisory Council (2010-14), the Climate Change Commission for Wales (2007-2015) and a board member of the International Forum for Sustainable Energy (2008-2013)

### Keynote Address

It's increasingly clear that we face an extinction crisis and we face a climate crisis. To unpick it we need to recognise it as a wicked problem – our external infrastructure is locked into a high carbon way of doing things exerting a powerful influence on our lives. This is also true culturally; we have become increasingly more material in our culture and mindset. If we can't imagine a positive future, we won't be able to create it. The current greenhouse gas emissions are about 540 million tonnes. ~80% is from burning fossil fuels, ~9% from industrial process and ~10% from land use. Powering down – We are using far more energy than is needed. We use about 1700TWh in a typical year. This breaks down into 4 key categories: heating buildings, lighting and appliances in buildings, industry, and transport. By rethinking this we can make a 60% overall reduction.

Firstly, we need to reduce buildings heat loss and heat demand, by travelling less and improving efficiency we can reduce energy demand for transport by 78%. Powering up – modelled energy needs using hourly data from 2002 – 2011. 74% of the time supply exceeds demand and 26% of the time supply does not fully meet demand. Short term storage and creating synthetic gas are both viable means of storing this surplus energy. Switching to a healthier frees up land, with more land used to grow food for human consumption.

Combining all of this makes Net Zero possible. Multi solving is especially important as this means that climate solutions can have multiple positive benefits.

## **Decarbonizing Industry on Teesside**

**Sarah Wilford – HSS Manager, Net Zero Teesside**

Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) is a proven and safe process that removes CO<sub>2</sub> from emissions (e.g. from a power station or chemical manufacture process) and then compresses the CO<sub>2</sub> so that it can be transported to safe and secure underground storage. It's one of several technologies currently in use to combat global warming. It is recognised that renewable energy has a large role to play in reaching net-zero and that carbon capture works well alongside this. It is injected into rock several kilometres underground where the CO<sub>2</sub> is prevented from being released into the atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> will be exported down a pipeline ~145 Km offshore. This has a significant role to play in decarbonising industry by 2050. Teesside is an area that represents just over 5% of the UK's industrial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but is a relatively small area. CCUS can therefore connect relatively easily with local industry and provide clean power into the network. NZT is working towards a submission for March 2021 for the first phase of NZT. Looking to integrate with the Teesworks sustainability strategy and develop the BP sustainability strategy. They're now working on collaborating with Zero Carbon Humber to connect a pipeline to Humber to create an East coast decarbonisation opportunity. This would give a combined amount of about 27 million tonnes of stored carbon across both projects

## **Breakout sessions**

### **1. Community Rewilding and Pollinator Parks**

**Sharon Lashley - Climate Action North**

### **2. Investing In The Water Environment For People Through A New Partnership Approach**

**Clare Deasy - Northumbrian Water**

### **3. Climate Change & Young People - Views and Responses**

**Laura Bush - Youth Focus North East**

### **4. Why Our Feelings About The Climate Crisis Matter**

**Rebecca Nestor - Climate Psychology Alliance**

### **5. The Renaturalisation of The Emscher Canal**

**Ori Atana - Oberhausen (Middlesbrough's twin town)**

## Launch of Climate Action Middlesbrough

Mark Fishpool - Director, Middlesbrough Environment City

Simon Blenkinsop - Environmental Sustainability Manager, Middlesbrough Council

## World Café led by Matthew Laurie

Using seven design principles and a simple method, the World Café is a powerful social technology for engaging people in conversations that matter. Based on the understanding that conversation is the core process that drives personal, business, and organizational life, the World Café is more than a method, a process, or technique – it's a way of thinking and being together sourced in a philosophy of conversational leadership.

World café aims to make sure conversation is prioritised so that everyone's thoughts and insights are heard. People move between small breakout groups discussing key questions. As people move from one conversation to others it enables us to learn, explore possibilities, and co-create together.

With the number of breakout rooms, it was not feasible to record the world café however you can read the feedback from the breakout groups [here](#).

## Tees Valley Natural Capital Summary



Tees Valley Nature Partnership | 2020

### Natural Capital Greenhouse gas emissions in the Tees Valley area

- Total carbon emissions from Tees Valley is est. at **8.1 million tonnes** of CO2 equivalent in 2017.
- Natural capital of the Tees Valley currently emit ~ **73,000 tonnes** of CO2 equivalent per year.
- Total emissions from arable & horticulture of around **157,000 tonnes**, comprise around 2% of total emissions.
- Partially offset by sequestration of around **84,000 tonnes** of CO2 equivalent in other habitats.

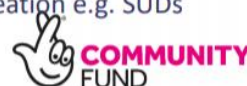
### Emissions reduction scenario for natural capital assets in the TVCA area

- **64% reduction** in emissions from arable and horticultural land in the TVCA area, by 2040.
- **Conversion of 10% of agricultural land** to forestry/agroforestry over a phased programme from 2020 to 2030 (5% from arable, 5% from improved grassland).

#### Further consideration for:

- Restoration & expansion of other habitats e.g. saltmarsh, semi-natural grassland, heathlands seagrass?
- Role of mosaic of urban habitats including habitat creation e.g. SUDs

Source: Local Natural Capital Accounting Case Study for the Tees Valley Combined Authority Area Natural Capital Accounting & Net Carbon Zero. Commissioned by Natural England with Tees Valley Combined Authority & Tees Valley Nature Partnership 2020. Awaiting publication.





## Conference Feedback

### Poll 1

## What changes do you think need to happen nationally?

More resources in the right places to get practical action done

more joined up thinking, a number of speakers referred to projects down south but didn't know what was happening or who to contact in our region. National connectivity,

More money spent on protecting the natural environment and investing in a truly green economy.

More public awareness of the urgency towards tackling climate change /carbon footprint

Education around what is happening and what changes we can make to reduce the impact . Not just in schools either, the information needs to reach adults too

The government need to start doing something rather than just paying lip service to climate changed. Covid should be seen as an opportunity to reform radically at all levels.

shift in mindset at all levels of the society for environmental friendly actions

Greater awareness of the importance of our relationship with the natural world.

More habitat creation in urban and brownfield areas and conservation of brownfield areas that have already developed interesting biodiversity. Not just tree planting. Restoration of urban rivers and marshes

coordination with land use planning in an around towns

Reduce dependency on fossil fuels and plant more trees

The new environmental watchdog needs teeth

Education of climate awareness - it is still deemed to be over the hill

Cancel HS2

Larger education campaigns for the general public

More collaboration between all partners locally and nationally to ensure delivery of projects can happen and be supported/mobilised quicker

Funding and policy. Environmental issues are not a last consideration and less than perceived economic benefits.

Increase woodland cover both broadleaf / conifer and mixed multi objective.

Get the message over that Nature Recovery underpins any future economic recovery\_or future

A reduction in the reliance upon fossil fuels, and a move towards more renewable forms of energy generation.

Clear and CONSISTENT targets and actions from government- recent work by the Natural Capital Committee shows a long way to go on some key aspects

Ban peat compost and use in horticulture

Have multiple benefits on all schemes and consider the environment and relevant environmental legislation from the outset at the initial discussions and design stage

More education, more focus on the environment in all government policies, we live in a throw away culture more emphasis on products bought to last

Environmental Education through school university, providing qualifications and employment opportunity to manage the necessary changes outlined. More community involvement

## Poll 2

### Based on what you've just heard what should we be focusing on in the Tees Valley moving forward?

bankable projects based on science, innovation and partnerships

Projects that can be delivered easily and make a real difference quickly - direct climate action alongside more wider strategic work would help the climate emergency.

Collaborative, integrated tree planting scheme, working throughout the Tees Valley. Lots of hedgerows too!

Local area targets e.g. to be carbon neutral

Zostera (sea grass) re-introduction

Continue to engage all communities in what is happening

Identifying areas for planting hedgerows and creating woodlands, educating the public

Ensuring that the importance of nature in tackling climate change is emphasised in local climate / green strategies (and it is more than planting trees)

Work together to enhance and expand the nature friendly areas that we already have to make a little difference in the interim

As well as all the nature recovery plans, a BIG campaign to raise hope and ambition amongst all Teessiders that we can absolutely be world-leading on this!

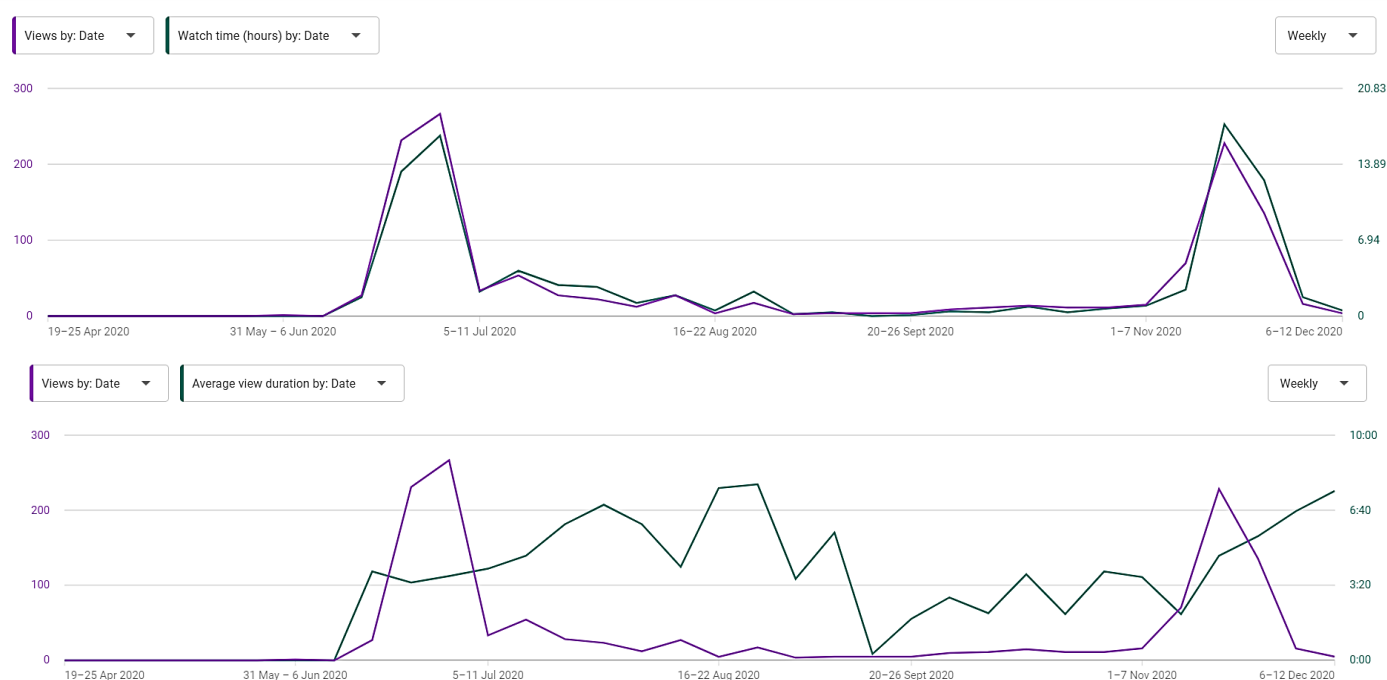
Planting more trees appropriate for C storage and the environment. Producing a ppt presentation for schools at KS4/5 that they can show in assembly to promote solutions to climate change and what we can do collectively and individually.

Getting the general public involved, every garden can have a tree large or small, how many extra trees will be growing?

Arriving at a shared vision plan (as part of a LNRS) for how we use nature-based solutions in the Tees Valley to address the climate emergency, i.e. the right interventions in the right places so we can effectively target resources, e.g. net gain

## Views

Below are the analytics from the Tees Valley Nature Partnership YouTube channel showing views by date compared with watch time and average view duration, this spans over both the 2020 conferences to give an accurate picture of the statistics from both conferences.

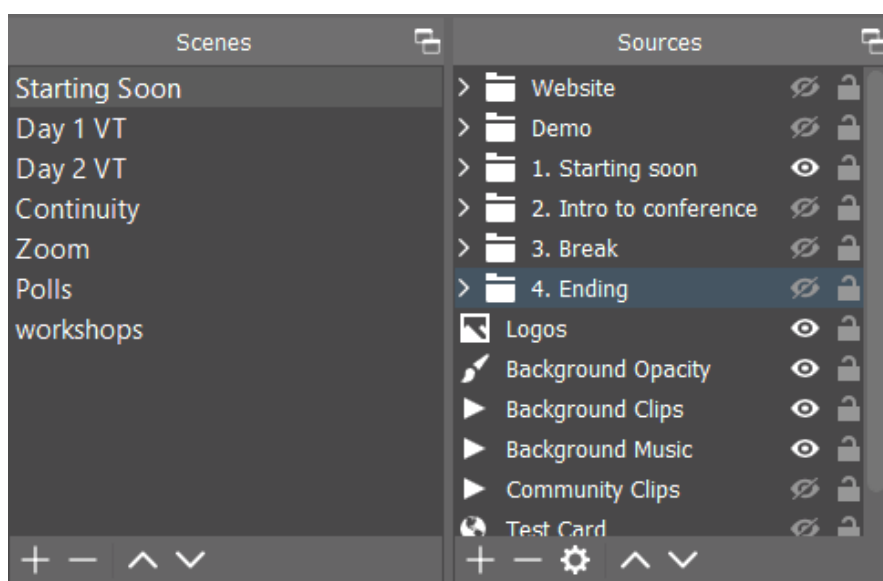


## Programmes Used

### OBS

Free and open-source software for video recording and live streaming. OBS was the main 'backstage' piece of software used. This was used to switch between different 'scenes'.

Each scene contains different layers, these included recorded talks, live zoom and discord talks, text, logos and music. This made it easy to switch between live and recorded footage and then switch from the break footage to the conference chair live.



### Lightworks

Video editing software which was used to edit the recorded videos.

### BigBlueButton

An HTML5-based open-source application that enables teachers to engage and collaborate with their students online through chat, audio, video and much more.

### Twitch

Twitch is a live streaming platform; this was used to live stream the conference content to the website

### Conference Website

A custom-built website built to play recorded holding footage on the lead up to the website and to then be the platform for the live stream

### Discord

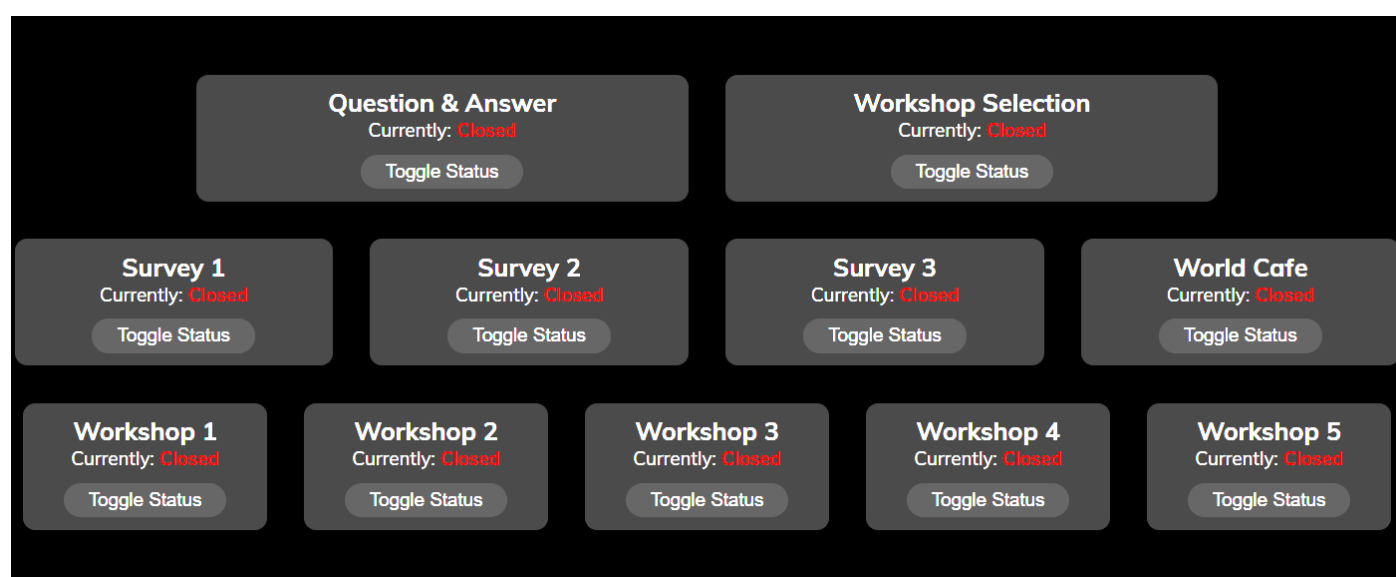
Discord is an online platform for group calls. This was used by the conference team to keep up to date with what was going on during both days. This was also used for some of the talks during the day as we couldn't run zoom calls concurrently.

## Zoom

Zoom was used to both record talks including the PechaKucha's. It was also used to broadcast live talks and the panel. This was broadcast through OBS as mentioned earlier.

## YingaTech Conference Dashboard

This was a conference dashboard software that was built by YingaTech for the June 2020 conference. This allowed for buttons and text boxes to be brought up onto the screen when needed and then be tucked back away once they were no longer needed. Again, this was easy to use alongside the OBS software to quickly allow for buttons to pop up on screen.



## Conference Organisation & Facilitation

Our thanks for the support and inspiration of: Timothy Crawshaw, Chair Tees Valley Nature Partnership; Mark Fishpool, Director, Middlesbrough Environment City; Graeme Hull, Tees Programme Co-ordinator, Environment Agency; Graham Clingan, Greenspace Strategy and Partnership Manager, Stockton Borough Council; Margaret Enstone, Sustainability and Climate Change Lead, Darlington Borough Council; Ben Lamb, Director, Tees Rivers Trust.

Louise Richards, Nature Partnership Officer

Rachel Murtagh, Nature Partnership Manager

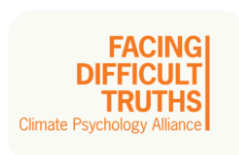
[You can view the full Conference Biographies here](#)



## Participating Organisations



Climate Action North is run by Sharon Lashley, Jennifer Clair Robson and Julie Harrison taking action in the climate emergency through a range of projects including Pollinator Parks, Global Wilders, Wear and Tees Action for Rivers and encouraging communities, businesses and individuals to be inspired to make One Small Change to help the climate and biodiversity crisis.



Climate change is an urgent, frightening, systemic problem involving environment, culture, and politics. It forces uncomfortable dilemmas and challenges all of us in modern societies both personally and politically. To work with these dilemmas the Climate Psychology Alliance (CPA) draws on a broad range of perspectives including philosophy, the arts and humanities, ecology and systems thinking.



DEFRA is the UK government department responsible for safeguarding our natural environment, supporting our food, and farming industry, and sustaining a thriving rural economy. Their broad remit means they play a major role in people's day-to-day life, from the food we eat, and the air we breathe, to the water we drink.



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.



The Environment Bank works with the full range of public and private sector clients across the country to deliver practical and effective net gain solutions for biodiversity in the planning system thereby achieving positive and large-scale outcomes for nature conservation.



The Marine Conservation Society believes too much is being taken out and too much is being put into our seas. Our scientists, campaigners, volunteers, advocates, data experts, fundraisers, divers, and researchers are all passionate about creating a sustainable future for our seas.



Middlesbrough Council, formerly known as Middlesbrough Borough Council is the local council of Middlesbrough. It is a unitary authority and borough council in the Tees Valley sub-region of the North East of England.



Middlesbrough Environment City was formed in 1992 and became an independent charity in 1997. They work partners from the council, the public, voluntary, community and private sectors, to deliver a diverse range of projects each year, including food growing, energy efficiency, cycling and outdoor play, using the One Planet Living approach



The National Lottery Community Fund believe that 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 are proud to award money raised by National Lottery players across the UK.



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.



Net Zero Teesside is a Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) project, based in Teesside in the North East of England. It aims to decarbonise a cluster of carbon-intensive businesses by as early as 2030 and deliver the UK's first zero-carbon industrial cluster. Working in partnership with local industry and with committed, world-class partners, the Project plans to capture up to 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent to the annual energy use of over 3 million UK homes.



The North Pennines AONB team works with others take action to conserve and enhance this special place. Our priorities are firstly nature recovery – we are committed to working with farmers, land managers, conservation organisations and communities to protect what remains and restore what has been lost. Secondly helping people make an emotional connection with nature – as well as helping people to understand more about our natural heritage, we know that people who make an emotional connection with nature go on to act for conservation



Sustainability is at the core of our purpose. This means seeking to protect and enhance the environment in everything we do; being the best we can in meeting our customers' needs and having a positive impact on the communities where we operate; and making a financial return so we are economically viable long into the future.



Teesside University generates and applies knowledge that contributes to the economic, social, and cultural success of students, partners, and the communities we serve. Through education enriched by research, innovation, and engagement with business and the professions, we transform lives and economies.



The Tees Valley Combined Authority was created in April 2016. Our purpose is to drive economic growth and job creation in the area. We are a partnership of five authorities; Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees, working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership, the wider business community and other partners to make local decisions to support the growth of our economy.



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.





We are a grassroots movement that believes we need nature and it needs us. More than 850,000 members and 35,000 volunteers work together with their Wildlife Trust to make their local area wilder and make nature part of life, for everyone. Every Wildlife Trust is an independent charity.



Youth Focus North East is an independent charity with the overall vision to improve the lives of young people through high-quality youth work. We exist for the benefit of young people and the organisations which support them. Working together we, invest in the lives of young people, to create lasting change in their own lives and the communities in which they live. Our organisation is rooted in the values of good youth work.



The Zero Carbon Britain Innovation Lab tackles the specific barriers to transforming the complex economic, social and political dynamics here in the UK, and beyond. Working with others, we test and prototype solutions, and create routes for a sustainable future for all. They provide local authorities, businesses, institutions and community groups with the confidence, skills and understanding to help achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

