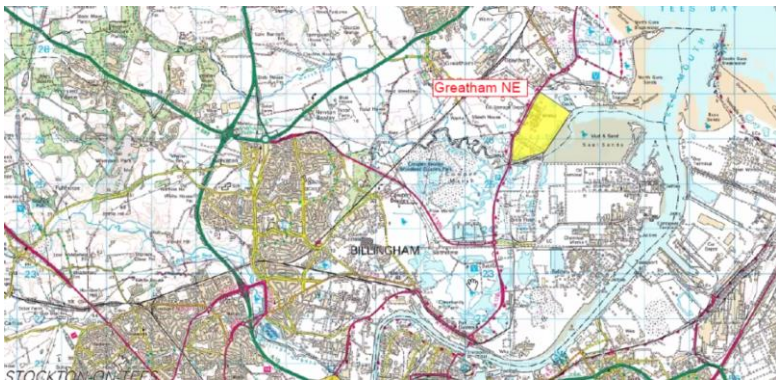




## TVNP Strategic Projects Group Meeting Minutes 1.00pm, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 via videocall

<b>In attendance</b>	<b>Graham Clingan</b> Stockton Borough Council; <b>Jeremy Garside</b> Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; <b>Chris Hood</b> Environment Agency; <b>Kate Lowes</b> and <b>Chris Hood</b> Environment Agency; <b>Rachel Murtagh</b> Tees Valley Nature Partnership; <b>Lucy Chapman</b> Groundwork North East; <b>Jim Cokill</b> Durham Wildlife Trust;
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Clare Deasy</b> Northumbria Water;
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Graeme Hull</b> Environment Agency
<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Rachel Murtagh</b> Tees Valley Nature Partnership

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
<b>Background</b>	<a href="#">TVNP Business Plan 2019-2022</a> . <b>Activity 1.3:</b> Establish a 'Large projects subgroup' to enable cross sector support on identifying and promoting/supporting the development of key strategic projects. <b>Activity 4.1:</b> Work with TVCA and the Mayor on large strategic projects including the Mayors 'River Tees Initiative' to develop local exemplars of sustainable development.	N/A
<b>SP/02.04.20</b> <i>Ongoing strategic project updates</i>	 <p>Alleviation work developing near seal sands, 2 existing developments Greenabella sea wall and Greatham creek development</p>	

Want it to be more than flood alleviation, want it to include environmental enhancement, want to create some intertidal habitat at Greenabella marsh

Currently working with arrow with this to formulate options. Will then shortlist and have stakeholder workshops. This will come up around June.

Have done some phase 1 habitat survey and baseline habitat surveys and winter bird surveying. Have planned preliminary ground survey works to see if Greenabella sea wall materials can be reused

Part of a wider programme of works trying to re-establish intertidal habitats along the tees

Have also started work near Portrack. This scheme a bit behind Greatham, not in contract with Arrow yet but hope to be progressing this soon. Both flood risk and environmental improvement.

This area is at risk from tidal flooding from Billingham beck and fluvial risk from Lustrum beck. Also, some surface water flooding, all of this will be combined

Looking at creating some intertidal habitat at Portrack marsh.

Discussion on linked projects and developments in Billingham beck

**Tees Tidelands** - decision due mid-March, around the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. This includes resilience to flood risk, using home fleet project as example, habitat bank.

**Discover Brightwater** - got a couple of years left. Working on river and wetland restoration. Have got key site near Bishop Midlam and Bishops fen. Working on a legacy, looking very much at catchment restoration.

**Living Levan** - in engagement phase at the moment, scoping out what was intended to be similar to a landscape partnership, development phase next year and delivery after that. Lottery application kicked back for not including enough job creation. Assessing flood risk in Levan as part of this

**Borderlands** - arts council programme targeting communities with low engagement with arts and culture. Run by MIMA to engage with communities around the South Tees around environment, developed by communities.

**Climate Action Middlesbrough** -MEC includes TVWT and other partners. TVWT have appointed 2 people. EA wanting to work with this on Ormsby Beck.

	<p><b>YGT</b> - sports engagement in the south tees to get people in most inactive areas more active.</p> <p><b>River Tees Initiative</b> - Starting to get to point is relaunching, will hopefully be ready to launch sculpture trail as we're coming out of lockdown. Looking for match funding at the moment now we're coming out of Covid-19 crisis. Hoping to relaunch with River Tees Rediscovered partners. Rachel has spoken to Paul Booth recently (chair of the LEP) and he was wanting an update.</p>	
<p><b>SP/03.04.20</b> <i>Potential projects</i></p>	<p><b>Teesworks</b> - looking for biodiversity offsetting, authorities have been approached by INCA to see if they're happy for sites to be identified for biodiversity offsetting. This concept of mitigation is also the basis of the Tees tidelands works so they could work together.</p> <p><b>Festival</b> - waiting to hear by mid-March</p> <p><b>NW end of year review</b> - looking to improve a lot of treatment works, mainly about taking phosphorus out, e.g. Billingham beck starts at the point of... treatment works so may see improvements in this. It also includes..., ..., and the Skern. Have their own proposal for the water environment improvement fund. Have made this part of their operational agreement so this is not just voluntary. Could be another source of funding for accessible water environment improvements.</p>	
<p><b>SP/04.04.20</b> <i>Funding opportunities</i></p>	<p><b>Green recovery fund second round</b> - now looking at smaller community work LC has flagged up work such as the big Tess Tidy Up and river initiative.</p> <p>Had put in with the VONNE bid in first round but feedback has been that they are looking at community work. No estuary style bids were successful whilst many tree planting bids were accepted. Also possibly local authority bids did not seem to be accepted as often as small landowner bids.</p> <p>Looking at plastic free tees (including other rubbish but this is the main focus).</p> <p><b>Environment readiness fund coming up</b> - have recognised that we need to address a lack of expertise (ecology experts in local authorities). Have the concept built, in conversation with TVCA, could ask TVCA for funding but could ask Environment readiness hub. Should be combined authority that puts in the bid. Issue with not having ecologists and net gain, either consultants will make a lot of money. Strong case for authorities to have this expertise in house</p> <p>Environmental land management - currently one on for landscape recovery test and trial.</p>	

	<p>Between April 2021 and March 2022, when making funding decisions, NLHF will prioritise heritage projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• boost the local economy</li> <li>• encourage skills development and job creation</li> <li>• support wellbeing</li> <li>• create better places to live, work and visit</li> <li>• improve the resilience of organisations working in heritage</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SP/06.04.20</b> AOB</p>	<p>Will freeport impede or improve public access?</p> <p><b>GH</b> wondered if we created a 1 page template on each project who's leading, map of area, current year focus, what the projects are. Could have catalogue of these so we don't have to go through each one each time. Could combine the maps to see all our strategic projects. Would also be great for feedback to local authorities</p>	<p><b>LR</b> to create a template</p>
<p><b>SP/07.04.20</b> Date of next meeting</p>	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> June 1.00pm</p>	