

Nature North

A Strategic Investment Plan for Nature recovery in the North of England

[Nature North](#) is a collaboration of organisations in the North of England that have come together to drive green growth and climate resilience through nature recovery. Steering Group Members include; Environment Agency, Natural England, The Northern National Parks, The Northern AONB's, RSPB, National Trust, the Woodland Trust, the Northern Wildlife Trusts and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Nature North has been awarded half a millions pounds from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The project will run from April 2022 – April 2025. Our project aims to secure the North's natural heritage through adopting a coherent, strategic and investment-focused approach to enhancing nature, enabling it to fulfil its potential to deliver ongoing environmental, economic, health and community benefits.

Our target outcomes:

1. Improved readiness to benefit from public and private investment to delivering measurable improvements in the state of the environment, climate resilience and green growth in the North of England.
2. Development of at-scale evidence-based investment propositions across the North of England through public, private, third sector organisations and communities working together.
3. Increased prioritisation of the natural environment, the North's role in climate resilience and green growth within Northern policy and decision-making.

Natural heritage is a northern hallmark, from the Lake District and Pennine landscapes to local parks and city green spaces. However, nature is at risk and underutilised, neglected in investment decisions despite its well-documented benefits. By developing stronger partnerships for nature across a wide range of stakeholders: conservation NGOs, statutory agencies, regional and local authorities, health bodies, and industry, we aim to protect and enhance the norths natural assets, driving climate resilience and green growth through nature recovery.

The project will comprise of 5 workstreams:

1. Investable Propositions: we will build 5 new and support 2 existing cross-regional propositions as mechanisms for leveraging increased finance for nature: Thriving Northern Coasts, Green Northern Connections, Green and Liveable Northern Towns and Cities, Healthy Northern Rivers, Resilient Farming North, Great North Bog and Northern Forest. We will build a multi-sector coordinating group for each new proposition. We will explore blended finance funding options and governance. This will draw on existing regional investment plans and the spatial evidence base.
2. Advocacy, Community Engagement and network-building: we will coordinate engagement with decision-makers, stakeholders, investors and communities to build support and understanding of the significance of nature recovery.
3. Strategic Investment Plan: this will draw on the evidence base, opportunity mapping, and lessons learned through development of the investable propositions. The plan will identify models, opportunities and prospects for investment in the North's nature and articulate its multi-sector benefits. It will also make recommendations for effecting nature recovery in the region.
4. Building the evidence base: we will collate a spatial evidence base to inform other workstreams, and make the case for investment in nature recovery.
5. Project management and governance: Assuring appropriate management and decision-making structures for the project, with a focus on ensuring project legacy and improved resilience, capacity and capability within the nature sector.