Tees Valley
Wildlife Trust

The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust's Strategy 2030:

Bringing Nature Back

Photo: Dan van den Toorn

Photo: Mark Hamblin/2020VISION

Photo: Nick Upton/2020VISION/naturepl.com

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Our time is now

The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust was established 43 years ago in response to a growing threat to wildlife and natural habitats, particularly from industrial expansion on the Tees estuary. Times and circumstances have changed, but the Trust's mission has become increasingly relevant and pressing in light of a growing ecological emergency; the precipitous decline in biodiversity which is unprecedented in its magnitude, pace and severity.

This Ecological Crisis is evidently linked to climate change and it is becoming increasingly clear that one crisis cannot be solved without tackling the other; nature is both threatened by a rapidly changing climate, but it also provides a means of storing carbon and protecting us from extreme weather events.

It is also clear that people have become increasingly disconnected from nature and that in order for nature to recover, we need many more people on nature's side. Fixing the human-nature relationship is an important factor in motivating positive behaviours towards the natural world. Research also shows that spending time in nature leads to improvements in people's physical and mental health. Simply having green spaces and trees in urban areas decreases hospital admissions, reduces stress and lowers blood pressure. Thriving, wildlife-rich environments benefits people physically and mentally; people with nature on their doorstep are more active, mentally resilient and have better all-round health.

To achieve nature's recovery, it is no longer enough to just think about slowing the loss of the natural world and protecting what remains of our wildlife, we need to change our relationship with the natural world. We must put nature in recovery, at scale and at pace, to help restore biodiversity, stabilise the climate, ensure food security, protect the health and wellbeing of billions of people. Ultimately, our global economy is dependent on nature and not the other way around.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Bigger, better and more connected

Nature reserves are a critical part of our strategy for nature's recovery because they are the refuges without which many species would already have been lost and from which they can re-populate a recovering landscape. Nature reserves are also the best examples of quality natural greenspaces, they provide the model for the future management of areas of parks, school grounds, gardens and green infrastructure.

Photo: Pyramidal orchid at Cattersty Gill by Dan van den Toorn ; Woodland scene by Vanessa on Unsplash; Couple holding hands by brooke-cagle on Unsplash; Highstreet scene by Ian Greig.

Our Vision

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Our vision is of a thriving natural world, where our wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, and people are inspired and empowered to take action for nature.

Our Mission

Our mission is to bring wildlife back, to empower people to take action for nature, and to create a society where nature matters.

The Tees Valley

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

The Tees Valley is characterised by the urban area stretching across Stockton and Middlesbrough to Redcar and Hartlepool; settlements which grew rapidly to service the burgeoning iron, chemical, shipbuilding and port industries during the industrial revolution. Many of these industries suffered from a slow decline through the second half of the last century, although the Tees estuary is still characterised by large industrial installations which continue to influence public perceptions of the area.

Away from the urban and industrial core, the Tees Valley becomes rural in character. This includes the farmland of the Vale of Mowbray in the west, the edge of the North York Moors to the south, the remote wooded valleys of East Cleveland and a varied coastline comprising high cliffs, sand dunes and the mudflats of the Tees Estuary.

The natural environment suffered greatly during the industrial era, both from pollution and development. The impact of people on nature is nowhere more evident than in the Tees Valley and this has guided the work and challenges of nature conservation since the Trust's inception.

Photo: View from Redcar looking upriver

Photo: Container terminal, Teesport by Nick Garratt

Photo: View from Roseberry Topping by Adam Young

Photo: Coastal survey at Saltburn-by-the-Sea

Photo: Coatham Marsh after arson by Dan van den Toorn

Photo: Cowslips in a previously burnt meadow

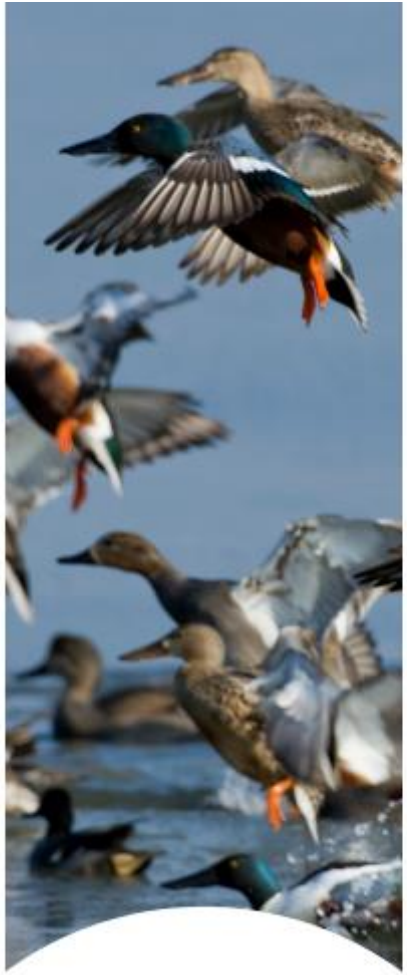

Photo: Flock by Bertie Gregory/2020VISION

The Wildlife Trusts

Tees Valley is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts covering every part of the British Islands and which together with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) form a federation known as The Wildlife Trusts.

By working together as The Wildlife Trusts and harnessing our collective impact, we are able to imagine, campaign and advocate for change in support of the global movement for nature's recovery.

By closely aligning our mission and goals with The Wildlife Trusts Strategy 2030 we can ensure that our local action here in the Tees Valley is part of a national movement for change.

Tees Valley Nature Partnership

We believe that achieving our goals is going to be critical to sustaining all forms of life. They are ambitious and we cannot deliver them alone.

Partnerships are central to our work; we will continue to develop and deliver our work alongside a wide range of voluntary, private and public sector organisations and groups.

Many of these are brought together through our Tees Valley Nature Partnership.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Goal One:

Nature is in recovery, with abundant, diverse wildlife

30% of the land in the Tees Valley to benefit wildlife by 2030

This goal is in line with global and national commitments to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. We will actively reverse ecological decline across our region. We want to see wildlife increasing as a result of direct action to protect, restore and create a connected network of nature-rich spaces.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

What we will do

- Manage our nature reserves as the refuges for wildlife from which nature can recover.
- Restore and enhance wildlife habitats and secure investment to enable the long term management of sites.
- Acquire more land and establish new nature reserves that help create an interconnected network for wildlife.
- Secure positive changes to management of local green spaces and support others to create new sites for wildlife and people.
- Work to protect and restore populations of threatened species such as barn owl, great crested newt and water vole.
- Help other landowners to manage and restore wildlife habitats, contributing to the Tees Valley's nature recovery network.
- Support the production and delivery of a statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

Goal Two:

People are taking action for nature and the climate

1 in 4 people to be taking action for nature by 2030

In order for nature to recover, we need many more people on nature's side. Evidence shows us that if 1 in 4 people take meaningful action it will lead to a social 'tipping point' where the majority will follow. To achieve this, we need to enable a huge growth in activity, scaling up our impact by supporting and empowering new audiences to play their part in nature's recovery.

This is what 1 in 4 people are doing in their spare time.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

What we will do

- Work in and with communities to ensure that nature's recovery addresses the issues and concerns that are most important to them.
- Provide every resident with a positive and meaningful connection with their local natural environment.
- Develop 'Team Wilder', a community-based approach to inspire and enable unprecedented numbers of people to take independent action for wildlife.
- Ensure children have enjoyable and memorable first experiences of nature and wildlife on their doorstep through our school and outdoor learning programmes.
- Work with teachers and youth leaders to give them the skills, knowledge and confidence to include environmental aspects of outdoor learning in their work.
- Expand the role of young people as key stakeholders and future custodians of our local environment.
- Inspire a network of gardeners to create a living landscape by making space for wildlife in their gardens and shared outdoor spaces.

Goal Three:

Nature is playing a central and valued role in helping to address local and global problems

Nature's role in health and wellbeing, stabilising climate, water management, and food production to be recognised and in use across the Tees Valley

It is clear that the climate and ecological crises are inextricably linked and that nature's recovery is vital for tackling climate change. The natural environment also provides critical solutions to problems such as flooding, pollution, the provision of clean water and food. There are marked declines in the physical and mental wellbeing of people, particularly in more vulnerable parts of society and there is increasing evidence of the benefits that regular contact with nature has for people's physical and mental health.

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

What we will do

- Work with our partners to provide accessible, high quality, wildlife-rich green space for all.
- Design and build nature-based solutions into our site management, biodiversity enhancement and habitat restoration projects.
- Promote, develop and test projects which deliver a range of nature based solutions such as sustainable urban drainage, natural flood defences and carbon sequestration.
- Demonstrate through data and evidence that our work for nature's recovery locally helps to address the global ecological and climate crises.
- Use tried and tested methods such as "*5 ways to wellbeing*" to deliver measurable improvements for our communities' health and wellbeing.
- Promote action by others including our members and partners to adopt pro-nature and pro-climate behaviours.
- We will become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.

Tees Valley
Wildlife Trust

Get Involved

Become a member
www.teeswildlife.org/how-you-can-help/membership/

Donate
www.teeswildlife.org/how- you-can-help/donations/

Volunteer
https://www.teeswildlife.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer/

Help us bring nature back to the Tees Valley

You are crucial to achieving this goal. Working together we will create opportunities for abundant, diverse wildlife and natural processes, creating wilder land and seascapes where people and nature can thrive.

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