Tyne Catchment Partnership – Catchment Management Plan 2025–2030

Executive Summary

Purpose. This revised plan sets out how the Tyne Catchment Partnership (TCP), hosted by Tyne Rivers Trust, will protect and enhance the River Tyne and its tributaries from 2025 to 2030, aligning delivery to national and local policy while scaling up nature-based solutions, community involvement, and investible projects.

Who we are. The TCP convenes over 20 partners across statutory agencies, local authorities, water company, academia, NGOs, businesses and community groups, working from source to sea (North Tyne, South Tyne, urban tributaries and the estuary).

What we deliver. In 2024/25, the partnership delivered, initiated, or supported 11 projects representing ~£1.96m of cumulative funding; ≥80.15 km of river were protected and ~14.98 km enhanced; ~11.67 ha of new/restored habitat was created; with ~141 volunteers and ~65 farmers/landowners engaged. These projects include mine-metal pollution mitigation, NFM, wetlands and paleochannels, peatland grip blocking, saltmarsh design, citizen science, and an estuary partnership programme. This pipeline underpins our 2025–2030 targets and scaling strategy.

The Partnership will undertake a detailed strategic review and plan refresh in 2026/2027.

1. Introduction

Since 2014, the TCP has coordinated integrated action across the Tyne catchment to address water quality, habitat loss, flood and drought risk, and climate/biodiversity crises. The 2025–2030 plan builds on a decade of partnership work and responds to new opportunities (ELM, BNG, private finance) and challenges (climate extremes, legacy mining pollution, urban growth).

2. Vision

Our shared vision: *Work together to protect and enhance our rivers and wildlife to improve the wellbeing of people across the region; promote the vital reliance of communities on a healthy and functioning Tyne catchment ecosystem.*

3. The Partnership (who we are)

The TCP is open, multi-sector and collaborative. We include statutory agencies, local government, Northumbrian Water, research institutions, NGOs, community organisations and businesses. We operate at Tyne scale and via sub-catchment working groups for focus and delivery efficiency.

In 2026 we will liaise more closely with other catchment partnerships in the region, exploring potential for a regional approach on relevant themes.

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4. The Tyne Catchment (source to sea)

The North Tyne rises at Deadwater Fell; the South Tyne at Cross Fell; they join at Watersmeet west of Hexham and flow to the North Sea at Tynemouth. The 4,400 km river network drains ~3,000 km², traversing peatlands, forestry, historic mining landscapes, urban tributaries and a working estuary. Long-standing pressures include channel modification, land drainage, diffuse pollution (soil, nutrients, metals), abstraction/low flows and urban misconnections, compounded by climate change.

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5. Achievements & Track Record

Over 10+ years the partnership has coordinated habitat restoration, mine-legacy mitigation, urban SuDS demonstrations, riparian planting and community science, achieving more than partners could in isolation and establishing a strong foundation for scaling.

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6. Strategic Priorities (to 2030)

The partnership affirms seven priorities.

1. **Climate resilience:** Improve the resilience of our catchment and its watercourses to the known impacts of climate change, anticipate further effects and mitigate them. (Aligning with the Water Industry Environment Programme)
2. **Biodiversity & habitats:** Protect existing and increase quality and quantity of biodiversity. This follows the global target within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at COP 15 to protect 30% of the planet for nature by 2030
3. **Water quality:** Improve water quality and reduce incidents / impact of water pollution (Clean Water is a clear aim of the UK Government's 25- Year Environment Strategy)

4. **Natural processes & morphology**: Protect and restore the function and natural processes of our watercourses (Natura 2000)
5. **Evidence-led planning:** Increase confidence in the evidence for the benefits of prioritising water and catchment within planning processes and decision-making.
6. **Access & people:** Improve access to nature.
7. **Education:** Engage with and educate, schools, communities and businesses so they value and protect the Tyne catchment to achieve all the above.

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7. Evidence & Data

What we use. EA Catchment Data Explorer; CaBA data package; Rivers Trust sewage/CSO datasets; NWL storm overflow map; citizen science (Riverfly, MoRPh, barriers, invasives); data from academic partners (Newcastle, Northumbria).

New datasets from recent projects.

- Sediment fingerprinting – River Rede: source attribution underpinning peat blocking and farm measures.
- Hydrological & channel surveys – Acomb NFM: performance of in-channel features and floodplain reconnection.
- Electrofishing & macrophyte recovery – Tipalt WEIF: outcomes of wetlands/paleochannels.
- Estuary drone & ecological baselines – Tyne Estuary Partnership: before/after monitoring for nature-based retrofits.

How we prioritise. At the sub-catchment level, we combine pressure mapping (sediment/nutrients/CSOs/metals), opportunity layers (riparian, floodplain, SuDS retrofit), LNRS and community priorities into a multi-benefit opportunity model to sequence delivery annually.

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8. Five-Year Delivery Programme (2025–2030)

8.1 Flagship Projects (baseline year 2025)

- Diffuse Metal Mines – North Pennines: £432,887; 80 km protected; wetlands at Tindale/Firestone; revegetation and revetments preventing metal-rich sediment delivery to Tyne/estuary. Partners include Mining Remediation Authority, Tyne Rivers Trust, universities. Status: ongoing.

- MaST – Species Recovery (North Tyne & Rede): £243,776 (+ match); 3.1 km enhanced, 1.87 ha created; raised riffle, fencing, leaky dams, hedgerows; benefits to FPM/salmon/trout. Status: completed.
- Rede WEIF – Fine Sediment Programme: £80,011 (+ £49,632 match); 8.88 km enhanced; peat/grip blocking, wetland at Dargues Burn; crayfish/FPM benefits. Status: ongoing.
- Tipalt WEIF – Water Quality Restoration: £70,000 EA + £50,000 NWL; 3 km enhanced; wetlands, ponds, paleochannels; electrofishing baselines. Status: ongoing.
- Acomb NFM – Red & Birkey Burns: £56,222; in-channel features and floodplain reconnection; farmer agreements. Status: completed.
- Native North Tyne (community & riverworks): £51,483 NLHF (+ match); 0.15 km protected; 75 volunteer days, willow spilling, mental health benefits. Status: completed.
- Tyne Estuary Partnership: £72,000; baseline ecology, drone imagery; community links with rowing clubs. Status: ongoing.
- Ryton Willows – Saltmarsh Feasibility: £30,000 (LA); feasibility and community engagement; delivery stage from 2026 subject to consents. Status: design.
- Hadrian's Wall Wetlands (Landscape Recovery – Dev.): £165,874 Defra + £13,069 Historic England; 50 farmers, 20 landowners, 100 others engaged; 4,400 ha LR pilot. Status: ongoing.
- Adopt-a-Stream (citizen science): £3,000 + £4,333 + £800; monthly sampling by active volunteers; low-flow observations. Status: ongoing.
- Team Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme (with WFD/eco enhancements): ~£686,066 in 2024/25 design work; stakeholder engagement across TVTE; FBC planned. Status: ongoing design.

2024/25 summary totals (from CaBA M&E submission).

- 11 projects; ~£1,959,521 recorded funding; 80.15 km protected; 14.98 km enhanced; ~11.67 ha habitat; ~141 volunteers; ~65 farmers.

8.2 2026–2030: Pipeline Focus & Sequencing

We will maintain a rolling pipeline aligned to the strategic priorities in Section 6, updating annually with evidence and funding opportunities.

Priority clusters:

- Mine metals & sediments (expand WAMM-style stabilisation; wetlands; source control)
- Peat & headwaters (grip blocking, re-wetting, peat restoration)
- Invasives & Protected Species
- Floodplains & wetlands (reconnection and storage in rural/urban)

- Urban rivers & SuDS (Don, Ouseburn, Team Valley; misconnections, access, flood risk management)
- Estuary nature-based solutions (vertical surfaces, intertidal habitat, saltmarsh).

During 2026 we will collate information on our activities and priority areas in a GIS Storymap which we will publish online.

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9. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (M&E)

Approach. Every project will have: baseline and impact indicators; and a reporting cadence (quarterly internal; annual CaBA Benefits). Methods include: electrofishing; macrophytes; sediment fingerprinting; drone & fixed-point photography; flow surveys; citizen science chemical testing; social value tracking.

Key KPIs (tracked annually):

- Hectares of invasive species cleared
- Hectares of new habitat created
- Km of rivers opened up to migratory fish
- No of fish barriers removed
- No. of volunteers, farmers, landowners, community members and others engaged.

Publication. M&E results will be published on the TCP webpage and the CaBA plan page, with open data where feasible.

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10. Policy & Plan Alignment

The programme aligns delivery to policy drivers and local strategies (see matrix below and Appendix B for details): EIP23/25YEP, Local Plans, LNRS, ELM/SFI, Farming Rules for Water, BNG, Nutrient Neutrality, DWMP, WINEP, WReN, Climate adaptation/Net Zero, Flood Risk Management.

Policy / Plan	TCP delivery examples
Defra Water White Paper Feb 2026	Catchment Based Approach utilised in the Tyne Catchment Partnership to address pollution control
EIP23 / 25YEP	Water quality uplift via wetlands, mine-metal mitigation; biodiversity via riparian/peat restoration; access & engagement.
LNRS / Nature Recovery Network	Prioritise riparian corridors, peat/wetland mosaics (Rede, Tipalt, MaST).
ELM/SFI & FRfW	Farm soil/chemical management; fencing; buffer strips; peat blocking; farmer training.

BNG & Nutrient Neutrality	Habitat units from wetlands/woodland/hedgerows (MaST; Ryton saltmarsh design); nutrient gains from WQ projects (Tipalt).
DWMP / CSO reduction	Urban SuDS pilots and misconnections work (to be scaled in Don/Ouseburn/Team Valley).
WINEP / EA MTP	Tipalt, Rede WEIF, Estuary baseline leading to WFD mitigation.
FRM Strategies	Acomb NFM and Team Valley FAS integrate flood risk and ecology.
Net Zero	Peat/wetland restoration and riparian woodland for sequestration/avoidance.

11. Nature Investment & Private Finance

Investment thesis. TCP projects are generating investible outcomes across carbon (peat/woodland), BNG units, nutrient reduction, and water quality credits.

This is a priority area for development of investment-ready projects.

12. Community, Engagement & EDI

The Partnership has a strong track record of working with a range of communities, from rural landowners to urban community groups with benefits for wellbeing, skills and stewardship.

We will develop EDI principles for community engagement, as a checklist to ensure projects are inclusive, engaging and delivering benefits for diverse communities.

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13. Governance, Operating Model & Contacts

Host: Tyne Rivers Trust.

Governance: The Partnership is refreshing its governance and meeting structures. A new Steering Group is being created. Thematic and Sub-catchment groups will be extended as the main delivery bodies. The Partnership will carry out an annual plan review.

Contact: tcp@tyneriverstrust.org

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14. What Next (2026 Roadmap)

During 2026, the Partnership will:

- Refresh governance structures and Terms of Reference
- Develop EDI principles for community engagement
- Carry out a strategic refresh the catchment management plan, informed by evidence, data and modelling, and the evolving national and regional policy environment.

- Publish an ARC GIS storymap showing priority areas and interventions.
- Commence scoping and development of investment-ready projects.
- Review and establish appropriate metrics for baselining and tracking progress.

Appendix A. Evidence Sources & Tools (selected)

- EA Catchment Data Explorer; Ecology/Fish Data Explorer; CaBA Data Package; Rivers Trust sewage map; NWL storm overflow map; Tyne RT StoryMaps; citizen science datasets (Riverfly, MoRPh, AMBER, invasives); plus project-specific studies (see Appendix C).

Appendix B. Policy Alignment Matrix (overview)

TCP theme	Policy hooks
Water quality & mine metals	Defra Water White Paper, EIP23; WINEP; FRfW; LNRS; Local Plans; DWMP; NN where applicable.
Flood resilience & NFM	FRM strategies; ELM/SFI; LNRS; Local Plans; Net Zero.
Habitats & biodiversity	25YEP/EIP; LNRS/NRN; BNG; protected sites management.
Urban rivers & SuDS	DWMP; Local Plans; CSO/Surface water strategies.
Estuary & coasts	SMPs; port operations synergies; BNG/nature markets.

Appendix C. 2024/25 Project Pipeline (summary table)

#	Project	Status	Protected/Enhanced	Km	Habitat (ha)	Volunteers	Farmers	Key funders (amounts)
1	Tyne Diffuse Metal Mines 24–25	Ongoing	Protected	80.00	1.00	12	5	Mining Remediation Authority (£432,887)
2	Acomb NFM 24/25	Completed	–	–	–	5	2	EA (£56,222)
3	Tipalt WEIF 24–25	Ongoing	Enhanced	3.00	8.00	–	1	EA (£70,000), Northumbrian Water (£50,000)
4	Team Valley FAS	Ongoing	–	–	–	–	8	GiA Summer Economic

	24/25 (design)							Fund (£686,066)
5	MaST 24–25	Completed	Enhanced	3.10	1.87	23	12	DEFRA/NE (£243,776)
6	Native North Tyne 24	Completed	Protected	0.15	–	30	10	NLHF (£51,483)
7	Rede WEIF/Sampling 24–25	Ongoing	Enhanced	8.88	0.80	3	5	EA (£80,011), match (£49,632)
8	Adopt-a-Stream	Ongoing	–	–	–	18	–	Ninevah (£3,000), TRT (£4,333), EA (£800)
9	Hadrian's Wall Wetlands LR (Dev)	Ongoing	–	–	0.00	50	20	Defra (£165,874), Historic England (£13,069)
10	Tyne Estuary Partnership	Ongoing	–	0.00	0.00	–	1	EA (£72,000)
11	Ryton Willows (saltmarsh feasibility)	Design	–	–	–	–	1	Gateshead Council (£30,000)

2024/25 totals: 11 projects; c. £1.96m; 80.15 km protected; 14.98 km enhanced; ~11.67 ha habitat; ~141 volunteers; ~65 farmers.

Appendix D. Partners (2026)

Durham Wildlife Trust • Environment Agency • Forestry England • Gateshead Council • Groundwork NE & Cumbria • Mining Remediation Authority • Natural England • National Trust • Newcastle City Council • Newcastle University • NFU • North Pennines National Landscape • North Tyneside Council • Northumberland National Park Authority • Northumberland County Council • Northumbrian Water Limited • South Tyneside Council • Sunderland City Council • Tyne Rivers Trust • Woodland Trust • plus additional collaborative partners via estuary and landscape recovery initiatives.

Document control

- Author: Tyne Catchment Partnership (hosted by Tyne Rivers Trust)
- Review cycle: Annual (next review due: Q4 2026)