

# Wilder Coast

Lead Partner

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust



**Tees Valley**  
Wildlife Trust

Location	Bluespaces improved	Delivery Year	Project Value
Redcar, Marske, Saltburn-by-the Sea	9.3km	2021 to 2024	£100,000

## Project Overview

9.3km of Bluespaces along the Tees coastline and associated coastal streams has been improved through the Wilder Coast Project in 2021 and 2022. A new Wilder Coast Project Officer has been working across the area, bringing a renewed focus. This work has involved the protection of internationally important coastal birds including their feeding and nesting habitats. 1166 customers have been engaged throughout the project, by means of environmental activities and educational events. The continuation of the project until 2024 will deliver further improvements and a lasting impact across this often-overlooked area of the North East coast.

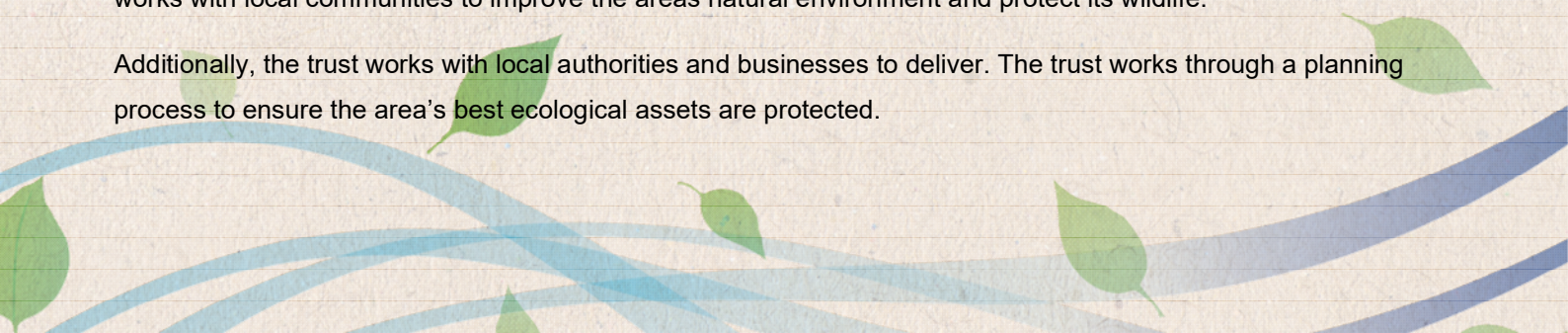


**Bluespaces improved highlighted in purple**

## Partnership Information

The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is an independent, local charity and works across five unitary authorities of the Tees Valley. There are 20 employees and 120 volunteers including long term support from 5000 members. The trust works with local communities to improve the areas natural environment and protect its wildlife.

Additionally, the trust works with local authorities and businesses to deliver. The trust works through a planning process to ensure the area’s best ecological assets are protected.





## Project Achievements

### Access, facilities and recreation

- At Coatham Marsh, a neglected boardwalk was removed and replaced, along with the construction of a timber footbridge. This has provided visitors with a raised surface to walk over that takes them directly past the open water habitat.
- A Wilder Coast Project Officer has been employed and customers have been engaged through the project, while events have taken place such as, beach cleans, educational activities, litter picks etc.



**BinTheWipe public engagement event.**

### Wildlife and biodiversity

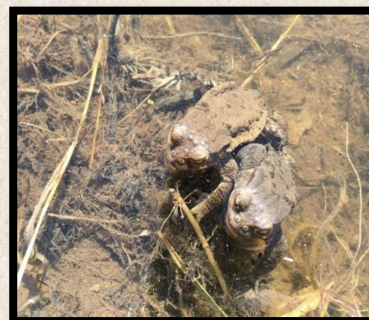
- The Wader Watch Team conducted a series of winter season disturbance studies.
- Contractors, Wildlife Trust staff, and volunteers delivered habitat enhancements to 0.3ha of silted reed swamp – rebalancing the extent of reed swamp and open water habitat in the area.
- Wetland enhancements have created more habitat for ducks, toads and wading birds.



**Timber footbridge construction at Coatham**

### Water quality

- Beach clean events took place between Redcar and Saltburn.
- Awareness has been raised for Northumbrian Water schemes such as BinTheWipe, and pollution awareness.



**Common Toads using cleared out ditches following the habitat works**

## Testimonials

*“Support from the Northumbrian Water Group for Wilder Coast has been incredibly beneficial. This is not only because it has provided financial support to a project which has addressed threats and opportunities facing an incredibly important and beautiful wildlife asset, but also because NWG and its customers are such important stakeholders in the coastal and marine environment; there can be few situations where people’s choices and actions can have such direct impact on so valuable a natural environment.”*

*“Support from the Northumbrian Water Group has proved invaluable by enabling us to restore and enhance public access to Coatham Marsh, one of the last remaining areas of nature-rich habitat on the south side of the Tees Estuary. Not only is this reserve of international importance for its populations of water birds, but it also provides people from Redcar and the South Tees conurbation access to quality green and blue spaces. It is increasingly recognised and valued for its contribution to people’s physical health, mental wellbeing and general quality of life.”*

**Jeremy Garside, CEO, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust**