

Nature North is a collaboration between environmental organisations in the North of England, which have come together to drive climate resilience and green growth through nature recovery.

Vision: A thriving environment across Northern England, with nature acknowledged by policymakers, the public and businesses as key to the prosperity, wellbeing and resilience of communities in the North.

Outcomes:

- The natural environment and its role in climate resilience and clean growth is at the heart of northern policy.
- Public, private and third sectors regularly work together for a well funded, well-planned and strategic approach to restoration and enhancement of the natural environment.
- The North is recognised as an environmental leader in nature recovery driving green growth and climate resilience and influences others.
- A North in which there are measurable improvements in the state of the environment, climate resilience and green growth.

Actions:

- Engage, collaborate with and advocate to key partners across the Northern Powerhouse including, combined authorities and local authorities, the NP11 and the business sector with the aim to embed the natural environment in the North's levelling up agendas.
- Support greater amounts of investment into nature recovery projects at the landscape scale across the North of England.
 - Encourage and facilitate greater collaboration on funding bids across members and partners.
 - Support members and partners to engage with private sector investment and explore the possibilities of blended finance to deliver at scale.
- Support existing, and develop new landscape scale, investable concepts for nature recovery. This will support more investment in nature, better and collaborative project delivery, and achieve improved cross-regional environmental outcomes.
- Enhance collaboration in nature recovery across the North of England, so that members and partners work together in more efficient and joined up ways to:
 - Facilitate sharing information and building of a cross regional evidence base to inform investment in nature recovery.
 - Share contacts and networks.
 - Facilitate more collaborative fund raising and delivery for nature recovery.
- Build a Northern community for nature recovery, incorporating the private, public and third sector. This will lead to greater opportunity, investment, and innovation for nature recovery activities. It will also lead to a greater appreciation of the benefits of nature recovery.

History: In response to the need for collaboration to achieve nature recovery in the North, senior leaders of environmental organisations came together at a Northern Nature Leaders workshop in December 2019 in Leeds. It was here the concept of Nature North was born. This resulted establishment of the Nature North Steering Group in early 2020, made up of senior leaders from nine organisations. In parallel IPPR's Natural Assets North series final report (IPPR 2020) highlighted the need for "*Northern leaders and organisations with a strategic interest in the health of nature in the North, [to] create a joint forum for discussion ... and where appropriate, aligned decision making across the North*". This report recognised Nature North even in its early stages as being the foundation for this. In November 2020 the role of Nature North Development Manager was established to steer Nature North into its next phase of strategic development.

Progress and activities:

- Nature North has established awareness of its existence across key stakeholders in the environmental sector and beyond through promotion and advocacy.
- Nature North has built a strong relationship with a range of key partners. For example, it has established an excellent relationship with NP11 which has resulted in co-hosting a meeting in April 2021, a joint submission to COP26 and the Green Investment Summit and an agreement for Nature North to support development of the Norths 10 Point Plan for Green Recovery.
- Nature north is developing a business case for Nature Recovery in the North.
- Nature North has begun work on a set of new cross regional investable concepts for nature recovery. It has begun to engage with the wider community on these through a workshop held in April 2020.
- Nature North has begun work to develop a list of the existing work and projects that could contribute to a spatial evidence base for informing investment in Nature Recovery in the North. This could inform a future natural capital audit and investment plan for the North of England.
- Nature North has begun work to bring together a Nature North Community including organisations across a range of sectors linked to Nature Recovery.
- Nature North has made progress in establishing a brand and website (website to be launched soon).

Next Steps:

Nature North is now moving to its next phase of development. Through this, it will look set out short, medium and long terms plans to achieve the vision for nature recovery in North.

Nature North Steering Group member organisations (as of end April 2020):

