

# Water Environment Improvements Project Evidence Form

## Scope & Purpose

This form is to be used by the external Water Environment Governance Group (WEGG), to review, validate and formally approve the length of bluespaces improved for the Water Environment Improvements ODI. The form will be completed by the Water Environment Team with support from project partners and presented to the WEGG. After formal approval, the km of water environment improved will be recorded against the ODI and projects will be marked as completed on the Water Environment Scorecard and illustrated as delivered in the Bluespaces Mapping Portals.

## Project Name

Wilder Coast 2022-24

## Project Lead

Company/ Organisation	Named Lead	Position
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	Jacky Watson	Wilder Coast Project Officer

## Bluespaces Improved

Year	Claimed	Proposed	Reason For Any Change
Year 4	7.7 km	7.7 km	NA

## Water Environment Assurance

This project has been reviewed internally to ensure it has delivered benefits above and beyond our baseline and regulatory obligations to improve the water environment accessible to customers across at least two out of three aspects. Following our assurance process, the project was approved by both our internal and external groups for review before delivery. This form presents evidence of project completion and the outputs achieved, to request project sign off.

Level	Project Acceptance Date	Project Approval Date	Completed Project Sign Off Date
Project Team	March 2022	NA	N/A
Water Environment Steering Group (Internal)	April 2022	April 2022	N/A
Water Environment Governance Group (External)	April 2022	April 2022	January 2025

## Project Timescales

Candidate Project Approved	Project Initiated	Project Completed
April 2022	April 2023 (Part 2 of Wilder Coast Bluespaces Project, 2022-24 phase)	July 2024

## Project Summary and Highlights

### Summary

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT) and the NWG have delivered 7.7 km of water environment improvements to the Tees Coast through the Bluespaces Wilder Coast project (2022-2024 phase). This phase of the Bluespaces work has built on the 9.3 km of benefits delivered in the 2021-22 phase, with a concentration of activity working along the coast to Skinningrove in the East Cleveland area. The two phases of the Wilder Coast programme have delivered a total of 17 km of Bluespaces, improving the water environment of the entire Wilder Coast area. The benefits of the first phase of the project have been evidenced in a separate Evidence Pack, approved in 2022, available here: [\[NWG WEI Project Evidence Form Wilder Coast 21-22.pdf\]](#). Some of this information is included here for clarity.

Wilder Coast activity has been continued on from the 2021-22 phase to July 2024 through activities led by a designated Wilder Coast Project Officer working 4 days a week to deliver water environment improvements and address issues such as the protection of coastal birds and marine mammals, sea level rise, responsible water use, drainage, reduction of plastic waste and litter including 'unflushables', soft sea defences, and biodiversity enhancements on land adjacent to the coast. Bluespaces funding comprised approximately one third of total project value. This contribution enabled the appointment of this dedicated project officer and resultant delivery of such a comprehensive suite of outputs. In this phase of the project there has been a particular focus on people engagement, expanding the successes of the first phase by encouraging people to become part of the 'Wilder Coast Team' as champions for behaviours that reduce pressure on the coastal and marine environment. Although funding for the project has now ended, volunteer members of the team are continuing with aspects of the work, including beach cleans.

A huge number and variety of events have been run by the project, including drop-in wildlife surveys on land and at sea, family-themed activities, citizen science opportunities, beach cleans and more. With over 3000 people engaged, it has given the project team many opportunities for education and encouragement of positive behaviours around the coast. Improvements to grassland habitats and access infrastructure have also taken place to build on the improvements delivered in the first phase of the project and enhance these popular coastal bluespaces for visitors.

The Defra-funded Stronger Shores project (<https://strongershores.com>), which covers the North Sea coastline from Skinningrove to Lindisfarne, will pick up some Bluespaces legacy, supporting further work on coastal resilience to climate change until at least 2026.

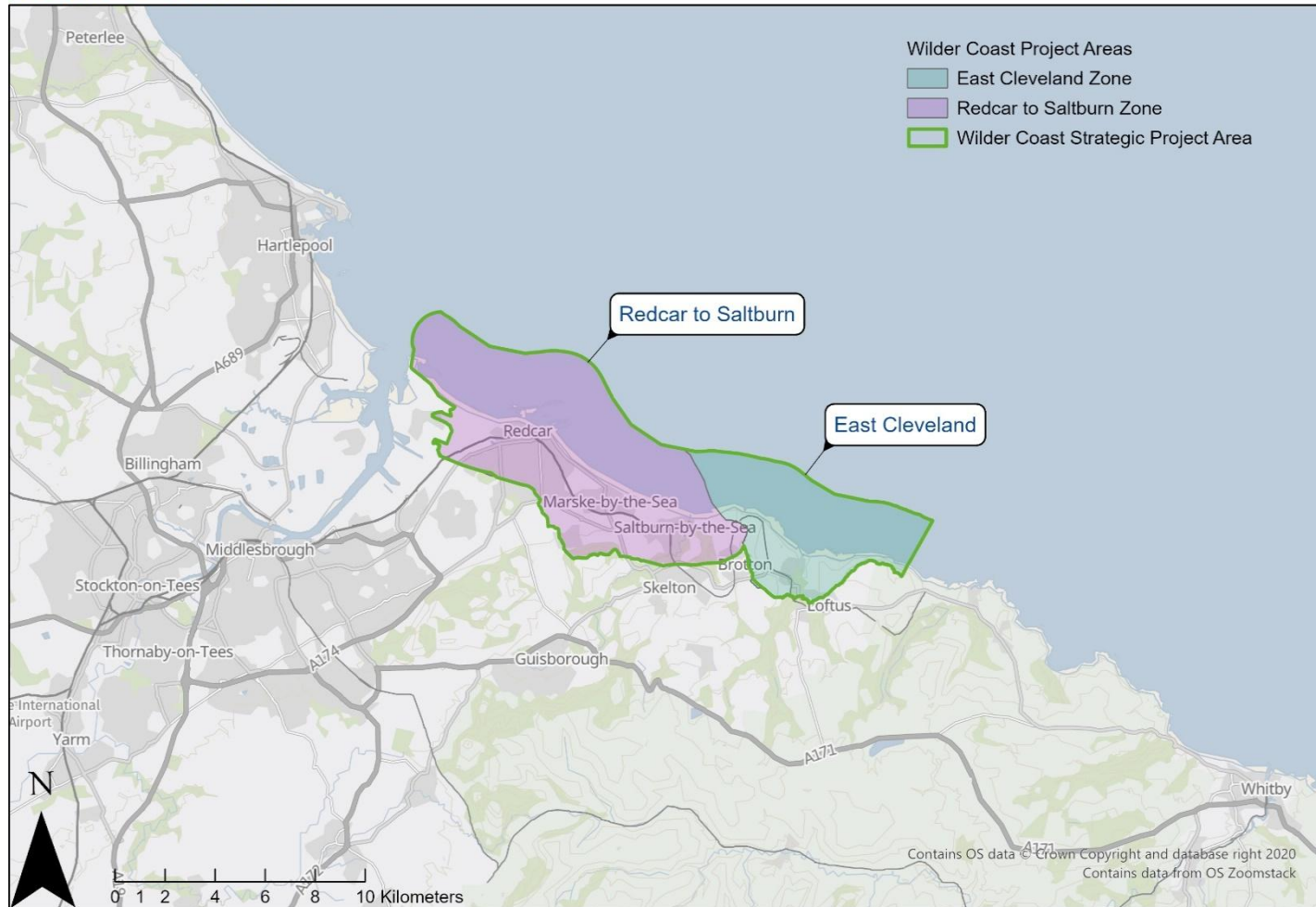
### Highlights

- 117 volunteers involved in the project (compared to 50 in phase 1), including community groups and coastal citizen scientists
- 3688 members of the public have been engaged in this phase of the project (4854 members of the public over the whole Wilder Coast programme), involving education and encouragement of positive environmental behaviours within local communities
- Access improvements and new interpretation boards at in the eastern end of the Wilder Coast project area, adding to improvements previously undertaken at Coatham Marsh, at the western end, during phase 1
- Conservation activities undertaken including hedge planting and wildflower seed collection and sowing, which were new activities for phase 2
- An expanded network of coastal community groups able to spread key messages and work together, building on initial engagement in phase 1, and strengthening TVWT's capacity to be involved with these initiatives



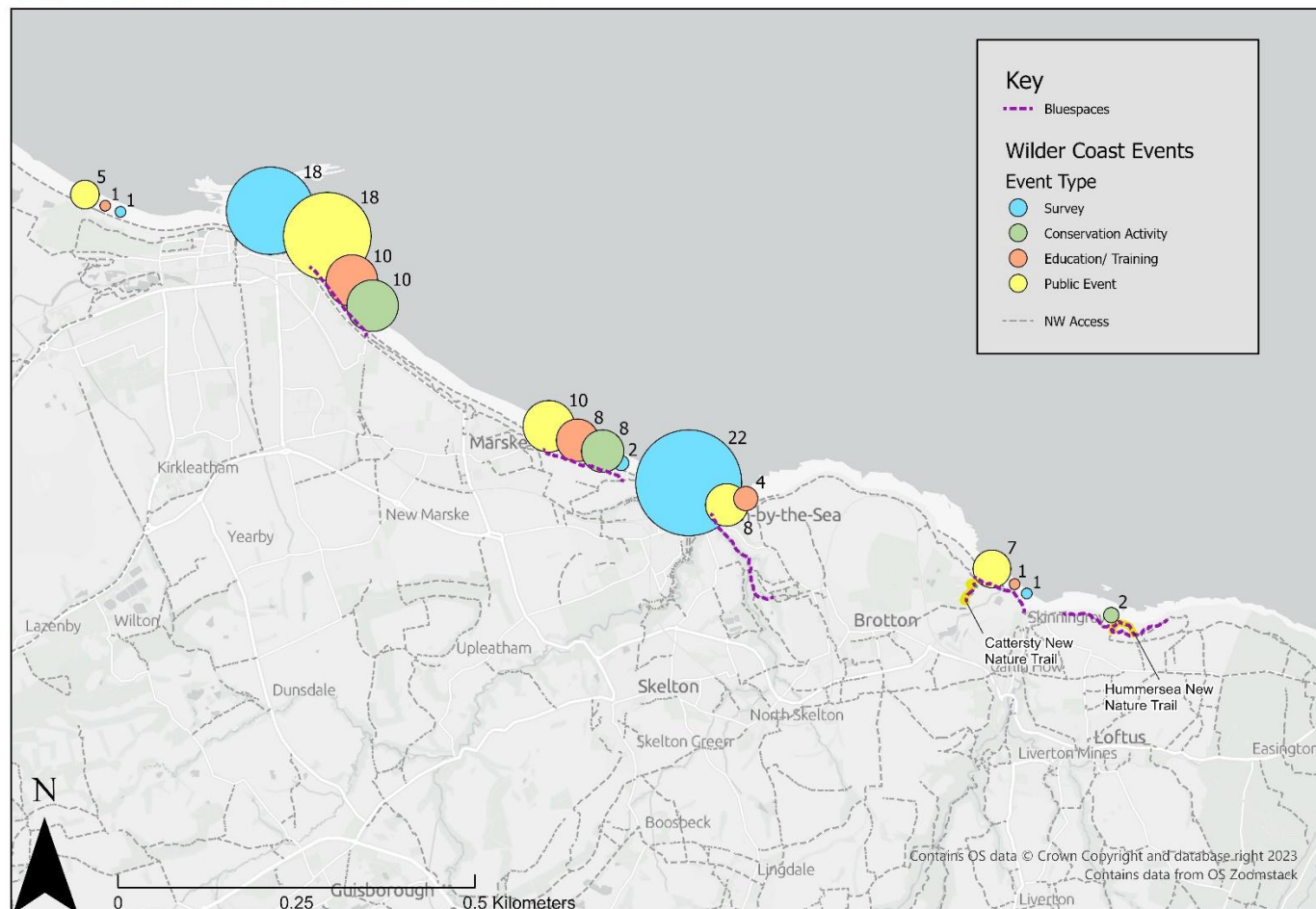
## Maps

### Wilder Coast



**Project Location**

## Wilder Coast 2022 - 2024



**Total length of Bluespaces: 7.7km**

Bluespaces improved across the Wilder Coast project area, showing the number of events and event types for each key focus area. The highlighted 2022-24 focus areas are linked by the 2020-21 focus areas previously claimed for water environment improvements.





Breakdown of Bluespaces and project features at Saltburn Gill delivered in 2022-24 (this work was carried over from the previous phase)

## Project Outputs, Benefits & Evidence Against Criteria – 2022-24

Access, Facilities & Recreation	
Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Path surface improvements will be made; steps will be repaired, and interpretation and signage will be installed at Saltburn Gill to improve the entrance and link to Cat Nab car park.</li> <li>2. Access and recreational facilities will be improved at the Cattersty Gill and Hummersea coastal nature reserves, with new circular footpaths and nature trails created, and new seating installed.</li> <li>3. The Wilder Coast Project Officer will lead public engagement at the coast including volunteering opportunities linked to project delivery, family discovery activities, pop-up events, beach cleans and surveys, walks, talks and work with schools and local groups, improving environmental engagement and health and well-being.</li> <li>4. Customer behaviours will be improved through engagement activities and social media, and participants and volunteers will be asked to join the Wilder Coast Team by pledging to behaviours that improve the water environment and reduce pressure on coastal and marine wildlife.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A1: Increases access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment</li> <li>➤ A2: Benefits health and wellbeing through:</li> <li>➤ A3: Influences positive environmental behaviours</li> </ul>
Outputs	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Path surface improvements were carried out and new steps and interpretation signage were installed at Saltburn Gill to improve the visitor experience of the site.</li> <li>2. New interpretation boards were installed at Cattersty and Hummersea. Footpath improvements created new circular trails, and new benches and a brass rubbing trail were installed in summer 2024.</li> <li>3. The Wilder Coast project officer led an extensive programme of engagement, with a huge range of volunteering and public events taking place as part of the project. 117 volunteers participated, and 3688 members of the public were engaged. A full breakdown of activities and participant numbers is given below. 3 pilot Shoresearch events were held but, after evaluation, this was felt to be unsuitable for beginners or for public engagement activities. Instead, a further 6 surveys used Natural History Museum and Marine Conservation Society methodology, with data uploaded to the former. This enabled recruitment to a new volunteer team who will migrate to the Stronger Shores project.</li> <li>4. Activities to improve customer behavior and to promote active stewardship of the coast were led by the project officer, engaging local communities and including recruitment of TVWT volunteer teams and a network of community groups along the coast (see evidence below for a further breakdown of activities)</li> </ol> <p>The development and dissemination of a 'Wilder Coast Pledge Card' (a card with specially-commissioned artwork to illustrate six areas of pro-environmental behavior at the coast) was used, and 136 separate engagement events were delivered (detailed in evidence below), all of which were designed to encourage people to join the 'Wilder Coast Team'.</p>	

## Evidence

### Saltburn Gill

Path surface improvements  
2 New sets of steps installed  
New interpretation signs



### Cattersty Gill and Hammersea Coastal Nature Reserves

Access and recreational facilities improved:  
New interpretation signs created and installed  
New circular nature trails, with brass rubbing posts  
New benches built by TVWT workshop volunteers and installed in summer 2024



### Public engagement at the coast

Volunteering opportunities



Wader Team & Ambassadors



Seaweed Team



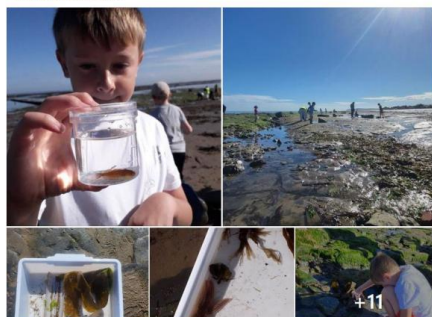


Seawatch team surveying dolphins and harbour porpoise for the North Sea Cetaceans Recording Project



**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust**  
Published by Jacky Watson · 26 August 2022 ·

What a wonderful day of rock pooling, pebble painting and nurdle-hunting with these fabulous families and the Friends of Redcar! We neeeearly saw dolphins too! Thank you to everyone who came. There are some marine biologists of the future here 🌊 Look out for our nurdle total when we get them counted. #wildercoast #keepplasticoutofthesea #bluespace #speakupforthesea Tees Valley Nature Partnership



**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust**  
Published by Jacky Watson · 17 May 2022 ·

Free family walks in Half Term, with the Friends of Redcar and our own #wildercoast project. Booking is essential: see poster 📄 🌊 🐚 🦀 🐛 🐞 🐜 🐝 Friends of Redcar Northumbrian Water #bluespace

**Free Family Walks at the Coast**  
with Friends of Redcar and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

**"Dunes Discovery"** 3-5 miles: Mon 30th May 10-2pm: A circular walk to Coatham Marsh and the dunes with nature fun along the way: Bring snacks and a picnic! Wear sturdy shoes!

**"Rockpool & Ramble"** 2 miles: Wed 1st June 10-1pm: Rummage in the rockpools and ramble on a dune safari: Bring snacks, a picnic and wellies for rockpooling!

Booking is essential! Email Jacky at [education@teeswildlife.org](mailto:education@teeswildlife.org) for booking and where to meet: Children must be with an adult

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust** **Friends of Redcar** **NORTHUMBRIAN WATER living water**

Public engagement at the coast  
Family discovery activities

**KEEP PLASTIC OUT OF THE SEA**

- Bin the wrap
- Recycle and remove plastic
- Be on a beach clean

**SAVE THE SEA AT HOME**

- Only pour paper & glass down the bin
- Save water and install water butts
- Buy "good fish" - see the MSC guide

**GIVE SPACE TO WILDLIFE**

- Switch from a distance
- Stay quiet "Shhhhhhh"
- Say "no" to seal netting

**YOU KNOW WHO TO CALL**

- Seal, whale, or dolphin
- KDRLA 01825 765596
- Pollution from pipes 0345 7777000

**LOVE DOGS AND WILDLIFE**

- Keep your dog on a lead near wildlife
- Let birds feed and nest undisturbed
- Pick up the poo

**SPEAK UP FOR THE SEA**

- Share your passion! PFD
- Campaign, sign petitions
- Join a wildlife Trust

Thanks for being on the Wilder Coast Team!

Please share your passion and your actions on social media to have even more impact:

Tag @teeswildlife and use our hashtags:

#WilderCoastTeam #KeepPlasticOutOfTheSea #SaveTheSeaAtHome, #GiveSpaceToWildlife, #YouKnowWhoToCall, #LoveDogsAndWildlife and #SpeakUpForTheSea



**Wilder Coast Team**

[www.teeswildlife.org](http://www.teeswildlife.org) [info@teeswildlife.org](mailto:info@teeswildlife.org) 01287 636382

**NORTHUMBRIAN WATER** living water

**SOFIA** **RWE**

Customer behaviours  
The Wilder Coast Pledge card



## Wildlife & Biodiversity

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coastal habitat tasks will be undertaken, focused on the coastline between Redcar and Skinningrove, including work restoring sand dunes, hedge planting, increasing the abundance and distribution of coastal wildflowers at two sites, and the monitoring and removal of INNS on shoreline and sand dunes.</li> <li>Bird counts, disturbance surveys, and invertebrate and benthic fauna surveys will be undertaken at the most important wader feeding areas on the coast to monitor environmental concerns.</li> <li>Contribution of observations to the North Sea Cetaceans Recording project will add to national data sets and develop understanding of the abundance, distribution, and behaviours of whales, dolphins, and porpoise in UK waters.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ B1: Improves the quantity, quality and connectivity of habitats</li> <li>➤ B2: Improves the conservation status and or abundance or distribution of species</li> <li>➤ B3: Reduces risk or impact of invasive non-native species (INNS)</li> </ul>

## Outputs

- During the 2022/24 phase of this project coastal habitat improvements were undertaken in the Redcar to Skinningrove focus area, with communities involved in creating wildflower habitat, including seed collection and sowing with Friends of St Germain's, and planting to restore wildflower diversity with Coatham Heritage Group. Hedgeplanting was undertaken near Cattersty, habitat improvement plans were made with Friends of Lily Park, and INNS Shoresearch surveys were completed. Sand dune restoration work proved challenging due to staff changes at Redcar and Cleveland Council, however it is hoped the Stronger Shores project will address this.
- Environmental concerns were monitored in this project through species counts and surveys. Over the two-year period of funding, eight wader watches (including disturbance recording) were held involving 39 volunteers, some of whom were initially recruited during phase 1, a session was run on recording new mussel beds at Saltburn, and two sessions of oyster monitoring were undertaken with Tees Rivers Trust. Three pilot Shoresearch events were held. Six surveys were also undertaken using Natural History Museum methodology and recording, linked to Marine Conservation Society methodology.
- The project has contributed to national datasets by providing the findings of project surveys. 57 sea watch volunteers were recruited to contribute to the North Sea Cetaceans Recording project (<https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/>), with 25 sea watch surveys carried out. 70 records were also sent to the Big Seaweed Search ([The Big Seaweed Search](#))

## Evidence



Cowslip seed collection and sowing with the Friends of St Germain's



Planting Purple Milk Vetch, Lesser Meadow Rue and Bloody Cranesbill with Coatham Heritage Group

**Coastal habitat tasks: restoring abundance and diversity of wildflowers**



Hedge planting above Cattersty coastal nature reserve

The Big Seaweed Search is a Citizen Science Survey.

It monitors the spread of invasive, non-native species, sea temperature rise and ocean acidification.



Coastal habitat tasks: shoreline surveys

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust**  
Published by Jacky Watson · 28 March ·

Well what can we say? Today was the last wader watch of the Wilder Coast Project. Smiles and lumps in throat were the order of the day 🥰🥰 What a team! Out volunteering in ALL the winter weathers, many for 7 years, to survey wading birds and introduce these charismatic characters to the public. It's true to say that, as a result of their efforts, thousands more people are now aware of the birds and how to help protect them by giving them space to rest and feed. Thanks to everybody who has stopped to chat over the years, and especially to the dog owners who now "wobble round the waders" to leave them undisturbed. And a final massive thanks to the incredible Wader Team 🙌🙌🙌 (Thanks to David Sanderson for today's bird photos) #wildercoast #givespacetowildlife




**Wilder Coast Project**

Recreational Activity	Bird Disturbed Y/N?	Disturbance Level	Species & Numbers Affected

Recreation Codes		Disturbance Codes		Bird Activity Codes	
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN1	Disturbance level 1 (low)	1	Feeding	F
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN2	Disturbance level 2 (medium)	2	Roosting	R
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN3	Disturbance level 3 (high)	3		
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN4	Disturbance level 4 (very high)	4		
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN5	Disturbance level 5 (extreme)	5		
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN6	Disturbance level 6 (severe)	6		
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN7	Disturbance level 7 (critical)	7		
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN8	Disturbance level 8 (catastrophic)	8		
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN9	Disturbance level 9 (unrecoverable)	9		
Drop water (steps on beach)	DN10	Disturbance level 10 (total annihilation)	10		

**Evidence generated:**

- % of recreational events causing disturbance
- Most significant causes of disturbance
- Most disturbed locations
- Species most disturbed
- Can be used to mitigate for increasing population

Coastal habitat tasks: Bird disturbance surveys

A full breakdown of project activities and a slide pack is available on request.



## Water Quality

### Expected Project Outcomes

1. Public engagement on issues of misconnections, responsible waste disposal, the sewer network and unflushables, and community monitoring for signs of pollution, will contribute to improve coastal water quality through behaviour change.
2. Water Rangers routes at Skelton and Saltburn will help provide awareness of water quality issues, and routes may be expanded as part of Wilder Coast activity.
3. Beach clean events will be hosted between Redcar and Skinningrove, and litter picking events will be organised to reduce litter in the coastal dunes which also impact on the coastal environment through the stream network.

### Benefits

- C3: Improves state and function of water, including naturalisation, visual appearance, litter and odour

## Outputs

1. During 2022-24, education and awareness raising of water quality issues continued to be a key focus of volunteer engagement and public events such as sea watch and wader watch, with a leaflet shared with the public with simple messages advising how they can help. The ongoing use of social media channels through project communications has widened the reach of TVWT and NW to educate the public about relevant campaigns such as Bin the Wipe.

The partnership work with Marske Litter Action and others, referred to as “Flush Mob” involved the Flush Mob group working with representatives of NW to learn more about the sewage network. Group members actively monitored water courses at Long Beck, Fox Covert and Church Howl for signs of pollution and misconnections. Flush Mob volunteers undertook periods of beach monitoring, at the request of NW, providing data which has resulted in infrastructure improvements to storm overflows in Marske and a reduction in localised plastic sewage pollution.

2. Water Ranger activity initiated in phase 1 continued at Skelton and Saltburn throughout the project as part of the NW’s formal Water Rangers volunteer programme (4 designated routes were patrolled regularly). The programme is under review, linked to commitments in NWG’s new Environment Strategy, and routes may still be expanded in the future, co-developed with Wilder Coast partners.

Public engagement walking events held in 2022-24 also included Water Ranger themes such as raising awareness of the sewer network (Bin the Wipe and unflushables) and pollution awareness (Only Rain Down the Drain and surface water misconnections). These sessions included walks linking Coatham Marsh and Saltburn Gill to the coast, and future walks will also explore the Fox Covert and Church Howl at Marske and Hazel Dene at Saltburn.

3. 18 beach cleans were completed from 2022-24, comprising 11 bespoke beach cleans organised for specific groups, and 7 public events and nurdle hunts. These events engaged 487 people from the public, community groups and local organisations in volunteering activity to protect the water environment. These were additional to 8 similar beach clean events during 2021-22.

In addition to carrying out beach cleans and nurdle hunts, and TVWT’s work with beach clean groups, the project also made links with other more “inland” local litter groups and conservation groups so that they see their own work in the context of keeping plastic litter out of the sea.

## Evidence



Water Ranger - Route Information

NORTHUMBRIAN  
WATER living water

Area	Route Name	Distance	Grid Reference	Postcode	Associated Water Bodies
Skelton	Route 1 - Pit Hills Stile	1141m	NZ65742162	TS12 1QT	Pit Hill Stile which leads direct into Saltburn Sea
Skelton	Route 2 - Bennison Banks	401m	NZ67852031	TS12 2RE	Unnamed Water course which feeds into Millholme Beck then into Skelton Beck
Skelton	Route 3 - Layland Beck	611m	NZ67051884	TS12 2YE	Layland Beck which feeds into Millholme Beck then into Skelton Beck
Skelton	Route 4 - Fox Hounds	804m	NZ64821600	TS14 6PX	Jocks Row Beck which feeds into Alumwork Beck then into Skelton Beck





Loftus Accord Group make Wilder Coast pledges on our "Becks and Beaches: Making Connections" walk above Kilton Beck and Skinningrove. Saltburn Countryside Volunteers in action, on one of their regular tasks in Skelton beck.

**Tees Valley Wildlife Trust**

22 Apr 2022

A wonderful morning in, yes in, Skelton Beck checking for litter and signs of pollution and hoping for otter poo, with the Saltburn Countryside Volunteers. Along with all their woodland management activity, the group is passionate about collecting plastic litter before it reaches the sea. Otter poo was found! #wildercoast #keepplasticoutofthesea

**Saltburn Countryside Volunteers**

22 Apr 2022

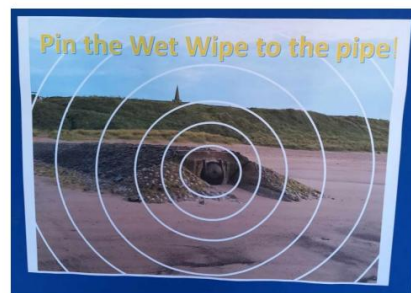
Beck walk and litter pick today. Jacky Watson from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust joined us. We collected four bags of rubbish but the beck was surprisingly clean. A few wet feet, a couple of slides but it was nice to be back in the beck. 🐾



Helien Ashton and 22 others

1 comment

**Public engagement to improve water quality through behaviour change**



Demonstration of issue of "flushable" wipes vs toilet paper during a beachclean in Skinningrove. Flush Mob's "Pin the Wipe on the Pipe" game at a community event in Marske.

**Public engagement to improve water quality through behaviour change**

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Published by Jacky Watson · 15 June 2023 ·

Another fine nurdle hunt - this time it was the Marske Leopard Cub Scouts. Did they beat the incredible 1170 collected by Puma Scouts on Monday? We await results from the lab (#wildercoast officer's kitchen)... check back tomorrow! Thanks again to volunteers from Marske Litter Action for their help, and thanks to Cubs and leaders for their enthusiasm 🥳  
#keepplasticoutofthesea #marskeguardiansofthesea



**Public engagement at the coast**  
Beach cleans and surveys

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

Published by Jacky Watson · 22 July 2023 ·

A great way to start #NationalMarineWeek! We ignored the forecast and had a great day at Skinninggrove, beachcleaning, doing a litter survey and rummaging in the rockpools. Thanks to everyone who came, and thanks to our volunteers, the marine litter team from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and the Generation Climate Action gang #keepplasticoutofthesea #speakupforthesea #BinTheWipe #wildercoast



### Additional & Secondary Benefits

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Citizen science surveys will monitor indicator species for changes in sea temperature in response to climate change and contribute to national data sets for use in policy and planning.</li> <li>2. Wilder Coast will facilitate opportunities for Northumbrian Water staff to meet customers for informal, two-way knowledge sharing and engagement.</li> <li>3. Local communities will be empowered to care for their coastal environment.</li> <li>4. Wilder Coast supports participation in regional and national projects including Stronger Shores, North Sea Cetaceans Recording Project, and partnerships such as the local authorities' Natura 2000 strategy.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ D1: Provides resilience and adaptation to climate change and/or reduces the risk of flooding</li> <li>➤ D2: Provides benefits to local communities, the local economy or NWG</li> <li>➤ D3: Supports strategic project or investment into strategic partnership or landscape/regional activity</li> </ul>

### Outputs

1. Between 2022-24, over 100 volunteers have participated in citizen science surveys through wader, sea watch and seaweed surveys. We surveyed seaweeds using methodology developed by the National History Museum and the Marine Conservation Society. The surveys use seaweed indicator species to monitor sea temperature rise, ocean acidification and the spread of invasive non-native species. 6 surveys were completed and the data uploaded to the NHM Big Seaweed Search portal, where it is checked and then added to the National Biodiversity Network Atlas. The NBN Atlas is the UK's largest repository of biodiversity data and is publicly accessible.

Via involvement in the Stronger Shores project, TVWT was able to introduce the Seaweed Team volunteers to the regional work being done to restore kelp, oyster and seagrass projects and their role in soft sea defences. Some of the team also experienced oyster monitoring at Hartlepool Marina with the Tees Rivers Trust. The Seaweed Team will continue their survey work beyond this project as part of Stronger Shores.

2. Six activities facilitated opportunities for NW staff to meet customers and initiate informal conversations and knowledge-sharing. These included 2 Wilder Coast and Just an Hour volunteering opportunities for NW staff, 3 visits by local community groups to NWG sewage treatment works, and the Wilder Coast Flush Mob event (raising awareness of the Changing Places campaign and the need for more Changing Places toilets).
3. During 2023-24, 117 volunteers from the local community were recruited through the project to take direct action for their coastal environment, over 500 sea pledges were made by the public, and over 3000 people were engaged in the project, with consistent messaging issued on what they can do to protect the water environment.
4. The Wilder Coast Network: the Wilder Coast Team also included the community groups that the team worked with, holding joint events and embedding key messages within those groups. Although formal project funding has now finished and the project officer no longer in post, some work continues, with volunteer members supporting a sustainable network of groups who are aware of wider coastal issues that can mobilise improvement and protection activity.

Additionally, by developing the capacity for coastal activity at TVWT, The Wilder Coast Project has supported TVWT to be part of local and regional initiatives such as:

- Stronger Shores
- The North Sea Cetaceans Recording Project
- North Sea Wildlife Trusts
- The Natura 2000 strategy partnership
- Natural England's Tees Estuary Recover Nature (TERN) project
- Tees Valley Local Nature Recovery Strategy



## Evidence



Representatives of local community groups made visits to Brans Sands and Marske Sewage Treatment Works.

Northumbrian Water Just an Hour volunteers join a nurdle hunt and seaweed survey with the Wilder Coast Project plus volunteers from FRED, Marske Litter Action and Flush Mob, along with some of our Wader, Seawatch, Environmental Education and Ambassador Teams.



NW Northumbrian Water  
17 October 2022

It's been great to welcome a number of environmental groups in Teesside to our Brans Sands site this week, including Explore SeaScapes, Saltburn Countryside Volunteers, Friends of the Lower Path, Saltburn and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.

We've shown them first hand how our network operates and talked about some of the challenges we face – especially with wrongly flushed wet wipes.

The groups are all really passionate about protecting their local environment and will help us spread our #BinTheWipe message, as well as acting as our extra eyes and ears on the ground around waterways.

Thank you for joining us!



## 2-Way knowledge sharing between NWL staff and customers

Thank you to every member  
of every group.  
Your enthusiasm and support  
for The Wilder Coast Project  
has been a vital part of its  
success.  
It's been a team effort.

We hope you will stay in touch  
with TVWT and with each  
other.

Thank you for helping us to



## The Wilder Coast Network

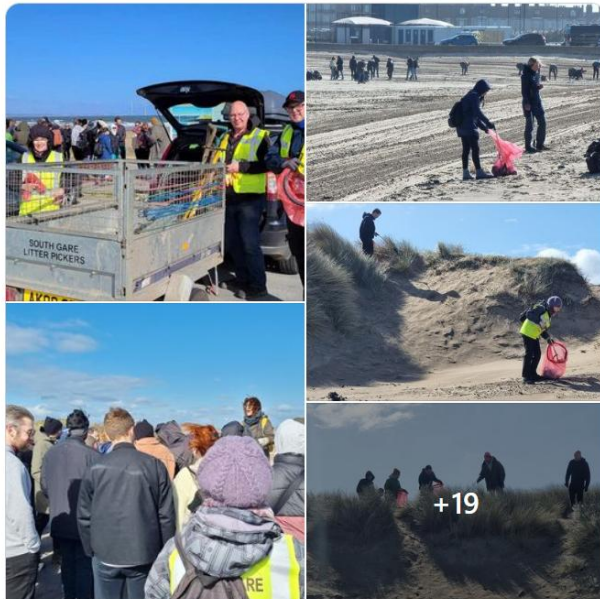
Also see above sections for supporting evidence



## Customer Testimonies & Media

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust · Follow  
April 19 at 5:07 PM · 🌐

A massive thanks to the South Gare Litter Pickers for joining us at Redcar, yesterday, along with 75 TUI employees. We, and they, really appreciated your support! #wildercoast #keepplasticoutofthesea



South Gare Litter Pickers  
April 19 at 2:12 PM · 🌐

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust  
March 28 · 🌐

Well what can we say? Today was the last wader watch of the Wilder Coast Project. Smiles and lumps in throat were the order of the day 😊😭 What a team! Out volunteering in ALL the winter weathers, many for 7 years, to survey wading birds and introduce these charismatic characters to the public. It's true to say that, as a result of their efforts, thousands more people are now aware of the birds and how to help protect them by giving them space to rest and feed. Thanks to everybody who has stopped to chat over the years, and especially to the dog owners who now "widdle round the waders" to leave them undisturbed. And a final massive thanks to the incredible Wader Team 🏆🏆🏆 (Thanks to David Sanderson for today's bird photos) #wildercoast #givespacetowildlife



Anna Turley  
@annaturley

Great ☀️ morning out on the beach supporting @LitterMarske #flushmob campaign to highlight the impact of wipes & microplastics on our seals 🦊, and sealife 🐟 with @teeswildlife & @NorthumbrianH2O. Sieved for plastic 'nurdles' & built a sand seal!



Luke Myer  
1:52 pm · 18 Jun 2022 · Twitter Web App

5 Retweets · 2 Quote Tweets · 43 Likes

timdredget @timdredget · 18 Jun  
Replying to @annaturley @LitterMarske and 3 others  
Excellent Anna. I do similar at Seaham on a regular basis as do a lot of others. Always a depressing amount to pick but it all helps. @DurhamCoast @2minbeachclean

Anna Turley · 18 Jun  
It was SUCH an eye opener. I only did about a metre square and found dozens - almost every sieve had one or two in. Would take hundreds of years to clear the beach, and that's before you get to the ocean! Terrifying to think about

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust  
August 1, 2022 · 🌐

Today, on our Wild Coast Discovery Walk, we explored secret Saltburn Gill and found a giant tree and some tiny tunnels. Then it was off to the rockpools where starfish were the stars and the kittiwakes were calling #wildercoast #wildcoastdiscovery #youractiveliving



19

3 comments

*"The young people have learnt so much and you have engaged many young people from age 4 to 18, as well as adults ranging from 18 to 70 in your projects. Our scout group and the community impact we were able to make has enriched the children's development and understanding of our beach and coastal environment."*

*We are a large Scout Group and you have worked with at least 48 Beavers and up to 60 cubs and 50 Scouts not to mention the Young Leaders and adult volunteers. Not to mention 12 Squirrels!*

*Looking back, we have made posters, which the Young People were thrilled to see as placards on the beach and then in local shops around the village. Raised awareness of litter and its impact on wildlife and the coastal environment. Done dolphin watch and learnt about their habitats. Done Seal watch & learnt what to do if you see one on the beach. One beaver parents even phoned the number you gave out when they saw one and was so impressed her son knew what to do! We linked up with other organisations and became guardians of the sea, making lanterns and involving families and members of the community in our workshops. Cubs went for a nurdle hunt and among 1000's they picked up found a blue one which you were keen to tell them you would report where this one had been found.*

*Your passion for wildlife and protecting the environment will I am sure have encouraged the next generation to take care of the beautiful coast which we all enjoy. Even on the Cub beach walk this week they were talking about some of the things they have learnt which would not have been possible without your dedication to this project and working with children to raise awareness."*

**Sue Pinder, Scout Group Lead Volunteer (extract of email)**

*"The talk was fantastic ... and will no doubt have been of real interest to everyone. I wish we could replicate your project along the entire coastline – so many useful outcomes here."*

**Bex Lynam, North Sea Wildlife Trusts, re "Town Hall" talk**

*"It's been a joy for me to have met with you and to have learnt about seaweeds and coastal birds. I will very much miss the wader walks and dabbling in freezing water 😊!!"*

**Seaweed Team Volunteer**

*"It has been an absolute pleasure to be involved in some small way and I would like to thank you for making me so welcome. It has got me through some difficult days and I have thoroughly enjoyed it - despite the weather on many occasions!"*

**Seawatch Volunteer**

**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:02 AM  
**To:** Education <[education@teeswildlife.org](mailto:education@teeswildlife.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Today's oyster monitoring

Hi Jackie  
Archie loved it!!!!  
I got a full account on the way home, he talked about isopods and amphipods and swotting up for next time!

This squirts and the swan featured a lot. As did how the oysters are identified and checked for viability.  
I loved the water meadow image!

He is loving the challenge to learn something new about the natural world, your all doing wonders for his confidence and his sense of purpose!!! Thank you x

**Seaweed volunteers (mother and son)**

Full 10-page document with feedback from volunteers, events and schools is available on request



## Lead Partner Quotes & Testimonials

*"Our Wilder Coast project has been very good at motivating a number of volunteers to be supported follow there interested whether it is wading birds, cetaceans or beach cleaning. Many of these volunteers now have the skills to contour there interest and some have gone on to do the activities without direct support from the Trust. The call to action cards that our Project officer, Jacky Watson produced have been very popular with the public, they have been useful in many respects from remind people who to contact when we have cetacean stranding to keeping plastic out of the sea and bin the wipes."*

**Steve Ashton, People and Wildlife Manager, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.**

*"The Wilder Coast project has been pivotal in helping us deliver our Blues Space aspect of the Trust business plan. It has been great at involving a wide range of people in a variety of activities from Wader Watch to Giving space to waders. Many of these people have become skilled up and are now ambassadors for the trust and more importantly are speaking up for the sea."*

**Jeremy Garside, Chief Executive, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust.**

*"The Wilder Coast Project has been a career highlight for me – one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. The collaboration with groups and individuals along the coast has been the key to its success. Special mention is due to the 100+ regular volunteers over the course of the project, the vast majority of whom have been active throughout. None of this would have been possible without their commitment, enthusiasm and support."*

*Together, we have reached over 3,500 people during the last two-year stage of the project, and nearly 5000 over the whole 3 years. That's a lot of people inspired and empowered to take action to protect our coast and seas for wildlife. And together, we have gathered data that is used by researchers regionally, nationally and internationally, to guide future projects and policies for wildlife protection. I believe we have made a difference."*

**Jacky Watson, Wilder Coast Officer, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust**

## Other Supporting Evidence

[Wilder Coast Project - Tees Valley Wildlife Trust \(teeswildlife.org\)](https://teeswildlife.org)

[The Wilder Coast Project Team In Action \(tottmagazine.co.uk\)](https://tottmagazine.co.uk)

Wilder Coast Events Log	
Project delivery aspect	Activity and Engagement Update April 2024 – Activity from 2023-24 (this project phase)
Management, training and recruitment of volunteer teams undertaking citizen science and public engagement	<p><b>In total, 117 individuals have volunteered regularly across these teams, of which 103 individuals are still “live”. This does not include wider public participation in beachcleans etc.</b></p> <p>Wader Team: 39 Seawatch Team: 57 Seaweed Team: 18 Environmental Education Team: 13 Other volunteer activities: conservation, public engagement, photography, contributions to online campaigns: 27 <b>9 Training events held:</b> 5 Seawatch field training sessions, 1 online training course jointly delivered with NSW and Seawatch Foundation, 1 Flush Mob seal workshop, 1 wader survey field training</p>
Public Engagement Events	<p><b>3688 people engaged at events open to the public</b></p> <p>7 Public beach cleans/nurdle hunts: 166 public engaged (see also bespoke beach cleans, below) 6 Activity stalls held as part of other public events: 560 public engaged 1 Pop-up art installation shown in two venues, 50 public engaged 5 Events for families: 151 engaged 25 Seawatch surveys with public engagement: 311 public engaged (including 4 events for National Whale and Dolphin Watch Week and 1 World Whale Day event) 10 Wader Watches and surveys with public engagement (including 2 Wader Conservation World Watch Weekends in partnership with Wader Quest): 108 public engaged 1 Guardians of the Sea Lantern Parade: 500 public engaged 2 Public talks: 71 public engaged + NSW/Living Seas Town Hall Talk 8 Publicly advertised walks: 100 public engaged</p>
Beach cleans and Nurdle Hunts	<p>11 Bespoke beach clean events for groups: 321 people engaged 7 Public beach cleans/nurdle hunts: 166 public engaged <i>NB These numbers are counted in other entries</i></p>
Workshops at the coast for schools and young people	<p><b>14 schools/organisations/groups</b></p> <p><b>1170 people engaged</b> 36 workshops, 1 celebration event, 1 conservation activity <b>Groups engaged:</b> Newcomen Primary School, Wheatlands Primary School, Zetland Primary School, St Bede's Primary, Outwood Academy Bydales Secondary School, Beverley School, Explorers Home Education Group, Caroline's Home Educators, Marske Scouts (Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels), Marske Brownies, Hannah's Holiday Club Coastal Schools, Linx Youth Project, Generation Climate Action, Boro Home Schoolers Muslim Group</p>
Pledges to key behaviours	<p><b>500 Guardians of the Sea pledges made at the Lantern Parade.</b> NB this followed 12 lantern-making workshops for all the participants, at which TVWT and Flush Mob volunteers discussed the issues affecting coastal wildlife and the bespoke Guardians of the Sea pledge cards, using Wilder Coast artwork and messages. <b>Wilder Coast Team pledge cards designed and 1000 produced.</b> Cards given to volunteers and participants, as appropriate, at engagement events of all types.</p>

Wild Coasties Conservation Activities	<p><b>50 activities in total</b></p> <p><b>Volunteer team activities:</b> Seaweed surveys x 6 Wader watches x 8 Seawatch cetacean surveys x 25</p> <p><b>A further 11 activities engaging 34 volunteers:</b> 2 x INNS Shoresearch survey, cowslip seed collection and sowing with Friends of St Germain's, habitat improvement plans made with Friends of Lily Park, planting to restore wildflower diversity with Coatham Heritage Group, Beverley School wildflower i.d. at Cattersty, recording of new mussel beds at Saltburn, 2 x hedgeplanting above Cattersty, oyster monitoring with Tees Rivers Trust x 2</p>
Wilder Coast Discovery	<p><b>13 events, 134 people engaged:</b> Redcar &amp; Cleveland MIND (4 events), Saltburn U3A, Marske Men's Group, Carers Together (3 events), Going for Independence (4 events)</p>
Northumbrian Water 2-way knowledge sharing	<p><b>6 activities:</b> Just An Hour (2 activities): NWL staff volunteered at INNS survey and nurdle hunt and at hedgeplanting activity. 3 visits by community groups to NWL treatment works at Bran Sands and Marske. NWL staff supported at Flush Mob event.</p>
<b>Additional events</b>	
Talks for groups	<p><b>5 Talks for groups, 95 people engaged</b> Saltburn U3A Natural History Group, Marske Community Partnership (2 talks), Guisborough Men's Group, EDF Compliance Manager talk to community groups</p>
Volunteer events	<p><b>4 boat trips for Seawatch volunteers</b> funded by North Sea Cetaceans Recording Project: value £800</p>
Publicity	<p>Wild Tees Magazine (articles in multiple issues), Talk of the Town article (circulation 4100, Ways to Stay Wild e-newsletter updates (circulation 3000) Zetland FM radio interview.</p>
<b>Conservation activities</b>	
Wild Coasties Conservation Activities	<p><b>50 activities in total</b></p> <p><b>Volunteer team activities:</b> Seaweed surveys x 6 Wader watches x 8 Seawatch cetacean surveys x 25</p> <p><b>A further 11 activities engaging 34 volunteers:</b> 2 x INNS Shoresearch survey, cowslip seed collection and sowing with Friends of St Germain's, habitat improvement plans made with Friends of Lily Park, planting to restore wildflower diversity with Coatham Heritage Group, Beverley School wildflower i.d. at Cattersty, recording of new mussel beds at Saltburn, 2 x hedgeplanting above Cattersty, oyster monitoring with Tees Rivers Trust x 2</p>
Invertebrate and Benthic Fauna surveys	<p><b>9 events held</b></p> <p>3 pilot events using Shoresearch methodology. After evaluation, this was felt to be unsuitable for beginners or for public engagement activities, as hoped. Also, data input was more cumbersome than capacity of Project Officer.</p> <p>6 Seaweed Surveys held, using Natural History Museum and Marine Conservation Society methodology, with data uploaded to the former. This enabled recruitment to a new volunteer team who will migrate to the Stronger Shores project.</p>