

County Durham Environment & Climate Change Partnership

Jim Cokill – Director Durham Wildlife Trust and Chair
of the Environment & Climate Change Partnership



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Environment and Climate Change Partnership (ECCP) Plan 2025-28



Climate Emergency Workstream

Highlights and Updates 2024/25

- CERP3 launch
- Horden minewater project
- LEVI
- BEEP project
- Deep geothermal
- Heat network zones



CERP3 launch at Durham Town Hall



Place Health and Community Workstream

Highlights and updates 2024/25

Delivery plan refresh – identified priority themes:

1. Planning, housing and transport
2. Health
3. Economy
4. Culture and education

Supported worked on:

- CERP3
- Social values of procurement
- Living neighbourhoods
- Healthy lifestyles through active travel
- County Durham Together programme
- Support 35th County Durham Environment Awards



Lanchester Group receiving their Outstanding Award at the Environment Awards evening



National Policy Highlights

Energy and Decarbonisation

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
- Heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency
- Additional funding

Transport

- Zero emission vehicles
- EV ChargePoint rollout
- Electric vans and wheelchair accessible EVs
- Tax incentives

Agriculture and Environment

- Sustainable agriculture
- Tree planting and peatland restoration
- Flood resilience



ECCP the Year Ahead

Priority areas

- CERP3
- LNRS
- Cross thematic partnership collaboration
- Community engagement
- Influence regional agendas
- Address financial challenges

Challenges

- Finance
- Misinformation
- Crisis overload
- Partner resources



Ecological Emergency Strategic Board

Durham Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Stuart Priestley
Ecology Manager



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Priorities and Measures

- Draft Priorities and Measures agreed by the Ecological Emergency Strategic Board in February 2025
- Priorities cover a range of habitats and species
 - Grassland and Heathland
 - Woodland, Hedgerows, Scrub and Trees
 - Running Waters and Wetlands
 - Coastal
 - Urban
 - Day-Flying Moths
 - Northern Brown Argus, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, White-letter Hairstreak, Brownfield lepidoptera
 - Bumblebees
 - Willow Tit, Black Grouse, Farmland Birds, Wading Birds
 - Fish
 - Adder
 - Slowworm
 - Plants
 - Water Vole and Red Squirrel



Mapping

- Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC NE) is progressing with the mapping
- Meetings held between Habitat sub-Group leads and ERIC (fundamental principles of mapping the measures) held in in February
- First draft of the habitat mapping should be completed by the end of March /early April with meetings planned with the sub-groups to sense-check the first versions
- Planning on starting the species mapping in April



Consultation

- Consultation on the Draft Priorities and Measures underway
 - Via DCC Consultation
 - National Farmers Union (NFU)
 - Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
 - Consultee List
- Will include a 'mapping' tool for landowners and farmers, so they can identify areas that can be considered for inclusion within the LNRS mapping
- This early consultation is to try and 'head-off' any issues with the Priorities and Measures before we get too advanced on the mapping
- There will be a formal consultation on the draft LNRS (which will include the mapping) before final publication
- Date of the final publication, aiming for the autumn, but this may be delayed depending on progress with the mapping





Questions or comments



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