

Durham City Green Corridor

A partnership project between:



National
Trust

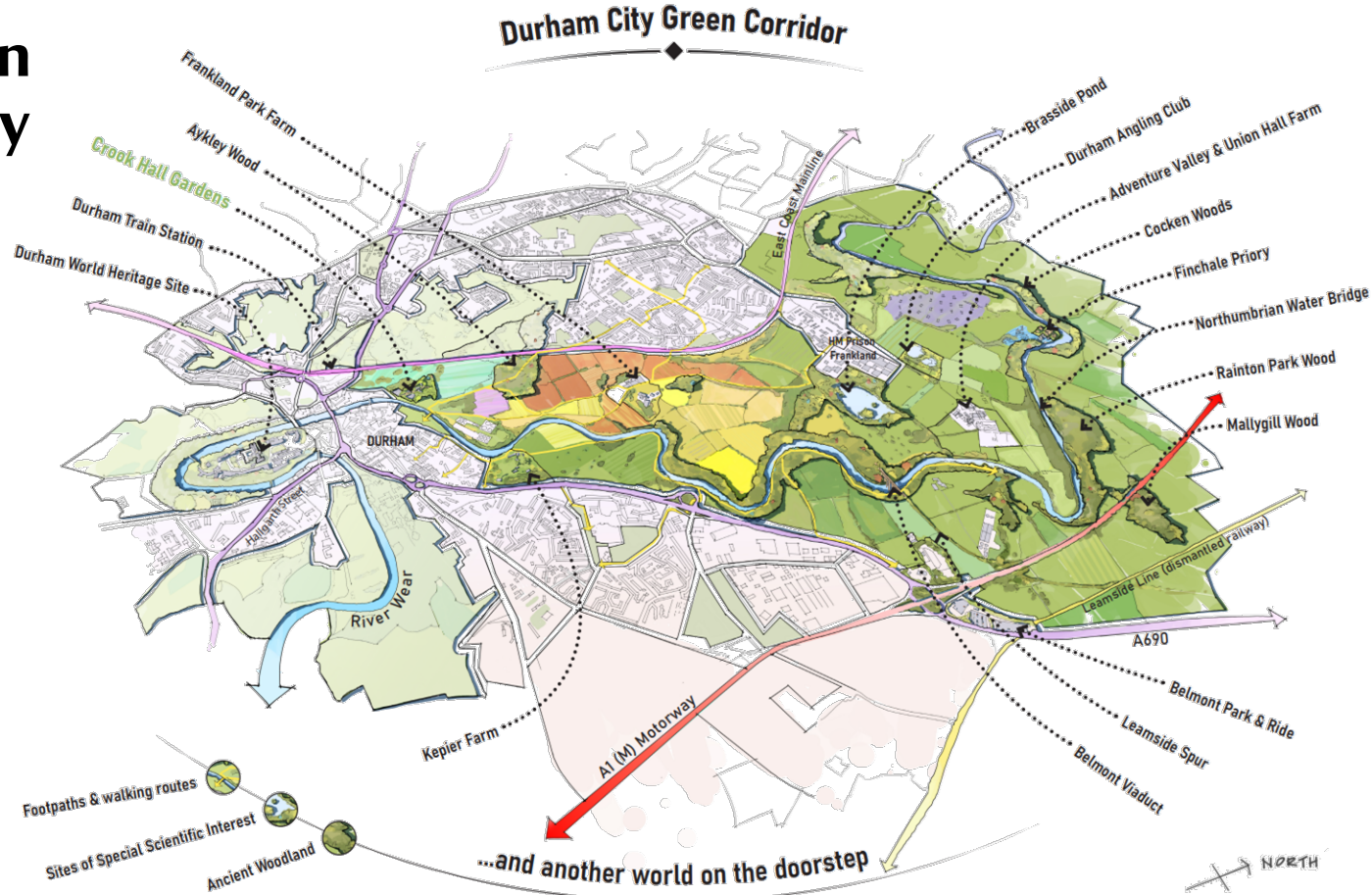


Update for the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
March 2025

A quick recap on the Durham City Green Corridor

Project outcomes:

- People are healthier and have improved wellbeing
- People act for climate (climate action)
- People feel more connected to nature
- Biodiversity is improved
- People in the city are more connected
- People have a strong understanding of the communities shared cultural heritage



Organisational strategies

National Trust

Durham County Council

End Unequal Access to nature, beauty and history

Inspire Millions
more people to care and take action

Renew our ways of working
in a world that's changing fast

People and place

Better Together

ROWIP

Moving Together

Inclusive Economic Strategy

County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Destination Development Partnership

North East Transport Plan

Restore Nature
not just on National Trust land, but everywhere

Nature and climate

Climate emergency

Ecological emergency

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Heritage

County Durham Plan

World Heritage Site plan

Local Plan

Corporate Asset Management Plan

2024 review

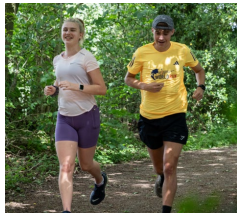
Priorities

2023 to 2025: Activation and enhancement



Health and wellbeing

Physical activity review & trials



A series of physical activity trials, successfully run throughout summer



Accessibility and experience

Durham City in Blossom 2024

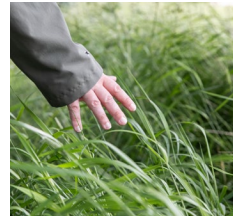


An immersive programme, working with local communities to connect people to nature



Enhancing nature

Nature improvements



Working to deliver nature enhancements to increase biodiversity, and begin to mitigate the impact of climate change



Capacity building and insight sharing

Stakeholder engagement



Forming our Changemaker groups, aligned with the project's outcomes.

2024 highlight: Blossom

Our vision for Durham City Blossom 2024 was to deliver an inclusive programme, engaging local communities as partners. We wanted to work collaboratively to deliver inspirational activities that connected people to nature and to each other.

The work centred around the theme of enhancing wellbeing via an immersive response to blossom, creating a programme of activities that captured the sensory delight of blossom and nature year-round.



Creating
volunteering
opportunities



Getting active



Developing
skills



Encouraging
creativity



Mindfulness



“[Blossom] has been transformative for some students ... we have seen a new confidence in them which will impact on their work.”

University lecturers, Durham in Blossom 24.

2025 forward look

Priorities

2025: Concept conclusion and legacy

Capacity building and insight sharing



Stakeholder Outreach

Continuing to support the 24 changemakers to help shape the future of the project, we are working with an independent facilitator and commencing workshops with neighbourhood groups.

Activity delivery



Access Improvement works

This work will help more people to enjoy the corridor with clearer and better signposted routes, and feedback to date has been positive.

North East Blossom 2025.

Working with partners to deliver a blossom programme across more urban places, building on the success of 2024's activities.

Future planning



Thinking beyond 2025, the Council and National Trust are exploring options to secure the future of the project.

Strategic

County Durham Together
Strategic Place Plan for Durham
Visit County Durham
Climate Change emergency

Financial

North East Combined Authority
Internal and external funding avenues



2025 highlight: access works

An audit of the access network in 2023 identified a series of short- and medium-term quick wins in the Corridor, which would help users navigate and access the corridor more effectively.

This programme is aligned to the Right of Way Improvements Plan, by working closely with the Right of Way Improvements team, work will take place in five key areas of the corridor. The works have been jointly funded by the Council and the National Trust, securing a resource of just under £100,000 for delivery.

This programme is now in delivery, with completion due in Spring 2025.

Interventions across the corridor include:

Replacing bridges
and stiles

New signposts
and way markers

Resurfacing works





If you'd like more information,
please contact

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