



Climate Ready Tayside Nature-Based Solutions Baseline: Analysis Report



Climate Ready
Tayside

Introduction

Climate Ready Tayside is a regional partnership preparing people and places in Tayside for a thriving future, in our changing climate. The promotion of [nature-based solutions](#) and [landscape scale action](#) is part of the partnership's [vision and priorities](#), co-developed with a range of local people and organisations in 2024.

To start delivering on its vision, Climate Ready Tayside established three working group in 2025, and Nature-Based Solutions was selected by stakeholders as a priority topic. The working group involves partners from across Tayside including Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, National Farmer's Union Scotland, the Woodland Trust Scotland, Scottish Forestry, the River South Esk Catchment Partnership, Angus Climate Hub, Bioregioning Tayside and the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership. The group has three aims, one of which is to 'support collaboration and highlight best practice with those involved in landscape scale management, from land managers to local authorities and communities'.

The working group chose two quick wins for the first six months; a baseline and initial case studies. The baseline aims to understand what nature-based solutions work already exists across Tayside, where the gaps are and how Climate Ready Tayside can help.

Why are we mapping nature-based solutions?

Tayside is a diverse region with thriving cities alongside rural communities and prime agricultural land, with outstanding nature across all. With the well-established benefits that access to nature brings for health and well-being, plus the importance of biodiversity to Tayside's economy and agriculture, nature-based solutions have an important role to play in building regional climate resilience. For example, restoring wetlands, rivers and coastal systems can help reduce flood risk while also creating habitats for wildlife, reduce soil run-off and improve water quality.

To help guide which projects are included on the map, we are using [NatureScot's definition](#) of nature-based solutions:

"the use of nature and natural environments to help tackle socio-environmental challenges, providing benefits to people and nature. In particular these solutions can help us mitigate and adapt to climate change."

One of the first priorities identified by the Nature-Based Solutions working group was to build a better understanding of the activity already taking place across Tayside. Establishing a baseline of existing projects and initiatives will help identify opportunities for collaboration, highlight examples of good practice, understand where there may be gaps, and explore where Climate Ready Tayside can add value in the future.

Introducing the Climate Ready Tayside Nature-Based Solutions GreenMap

We are pleased to launch Climate Ready Tayside's Nature-Based Solutions GreenMap. This map is the first step in building a visual baseline of the nature-based solutions already being delivered across Tayside.

By understanding what is happening and where, we can identify opportunities to collaborate, join up work across landscapes and river catchments, and help projects deliver even greater benefits for climate resilience.

[Click this link to view the Nature-Based Solutions GreenMap](#)

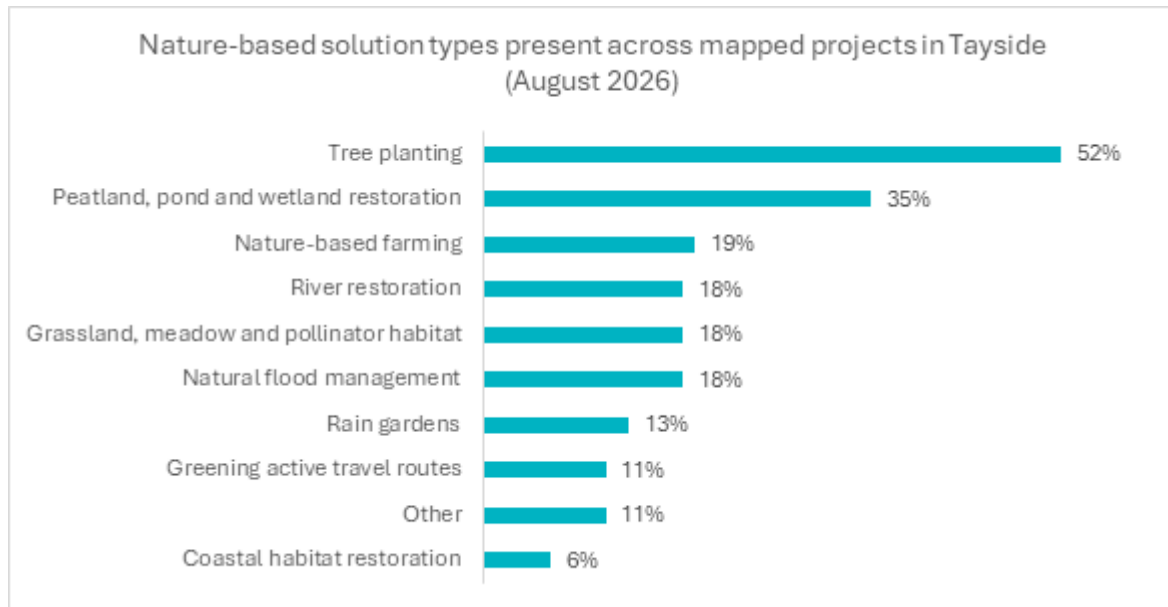
What does the map tell us so far?

As of August 2026, Climate Ready Tayside has mapped over 60 nature-based solution (NBS) projects across the region.

To help us understand the different types of work taking place, we have organised projects into 10 categories* of nature-based solution:

- Coastal habitat restoration
- Grassland, meadow and pollinator habitat
- Greening active travel routes
- Natural flood management
- Nature-based farming
- Peatland, pond or wetland restoration
- Rain gardens
- River restoration
- Tree planting
- Other

The most common types of nature-based solutions currently being delivered focus on tree planting and the restoration or creation of wetlands, ponds or peatlands. You can explore the proportion of projects that feature each type of Nature-Based Solution in the bar chart below:



There are 62 projects included in the baseline. Each project may feature up to 4 Nature-Based Solutions, therefore the percentages do not add up to 100%.

Projects often include multiple habitats and interventions so fit into many of the categories identified. More than a third of the projects mapped so far focus primarily on one or two types of nature-based solution, with tree planting, peatland and wetland restoration featuring prominently. This highlights how nature is often the key driver and that projects are determined by the types of funding available.

While [climate resilience](#) is an important benefit of many projects, it is not always the primary objective. As climate change accelerates, there is an opportunity to explore how existing projects could incorporate additional measures that strengthen resilience and deliver even greater benefits for nature and communities.

An important next step in this work will be identifying, measuring and communicating the resilience benefits of the work already happening across Tayside, such as natural flood management, increased shading from tree cover and improved air quality from tree planting and other nature-based solutions.

Who is involved in delivering Nature-Based Solutions in Tayside?

The map is also helping us better understand the organisations delivering this work across Tayside, providing an increasingly comprehensive picture that will continue to develop as additional project information becomes available.

Most projects (37%) are through a multi-partner model including different combinations of local authorities, public agencies, landowners and charities. Such as the [River South Esk Catchment Partnership](#), [Water Resilient Dundee](#), [Strathmore B Lines](#) and [Ponds for Puddocks](#).

Projects led only by landowners (21%), trusts and foundations (15%) and local authorities (10%) make up the next largest group. These include initiatives like [Rewilding Lettoch](#), sites on several private estates, and the [Broughty Ferry & Monifieth Active Travel Improvements](#).

Community groups and charities currently lead fewer of the projects mapped, 7% combined. Organisations such as [East Haven Together](#) are already demonstrating the important role communities can play in delivering local climate adaptation and nature restoration projects. While it is vital for local communities to be involved in decision making and project development, it should be noted that not all nature-based solutions work is necessarily suited to being community-led, depending on the scale, time, cost and effort required.

This highlights an opportunity to encourage more equitable community involvement in nature-based solutions projects that respond to local climate impacts. Greater support for and from community groups, alongside stronger pathways for partnership working, could help projects thrive for the long term.

What else have we discovered ?

The projects currently mapped vary significantly in age and scale. The earliest recorded project is [Bamff Wildland](#), which began in 1991, with others like the [Rottal Burn Restoration Project](#), began in the earlier 2010s.

Project size also varies considerably, from 1.8 hectares of saltmarsh restoration at [Montrose Basin](#), to 29,000 hectares of woodland planting as part of the [River Erich Catchment Restoration Initiative](#).

Most projects have been funded through the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund (both competitive and Edinburgh process strands), however we only have this information available for 1/5 case studies, so further work is needed to gather more detailed information on funding sources, project impacts and evidence of outcomes across the full range of projects mapped.

Opportunities

The baseline map highlights several opportunities to support the development of nature-based solutions across Tayside and increase regional climate resilience at the same time. These are:

1. Build more connections between projects, to move from a patchwork of individual projects to an ecosystem approach across Tayside
2. Develop projects with climate resilience at the forefront, rather than as a by-product
3. Connect project planning and development to the regional and individual local authority Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessments and nature Networks to spot opportunities for individual projects to reduce climate risks in their area
4. Create opportunities and support for more community involvement in both the rural and urban environment
5. Develop more landscape scale initiatives that cross the local authority boundaries and address regional climate risks

What's next?

Like the natural solutions we are mapping, this map is a living thing!

We know there are projects happening across Tayside that we have not captured yet, and we'd love your help to build a more complete picture.

As well as adding new sites, we want to gather more information about the projects already featured on the map. By building a richer understanding of completed and ongoing projects, we can better understand their impacts, the funding they have brought into the region, where activity is and isn't taking place, and where Tayside can lead the way.

Over time, this growing evidence base will help inform the Nature-Based Solutions Working Group's priorities, support efforts to attract regional investment, and identify opportunities to expand nature restoration, climate adaptation and Nature Networks across Tayside.

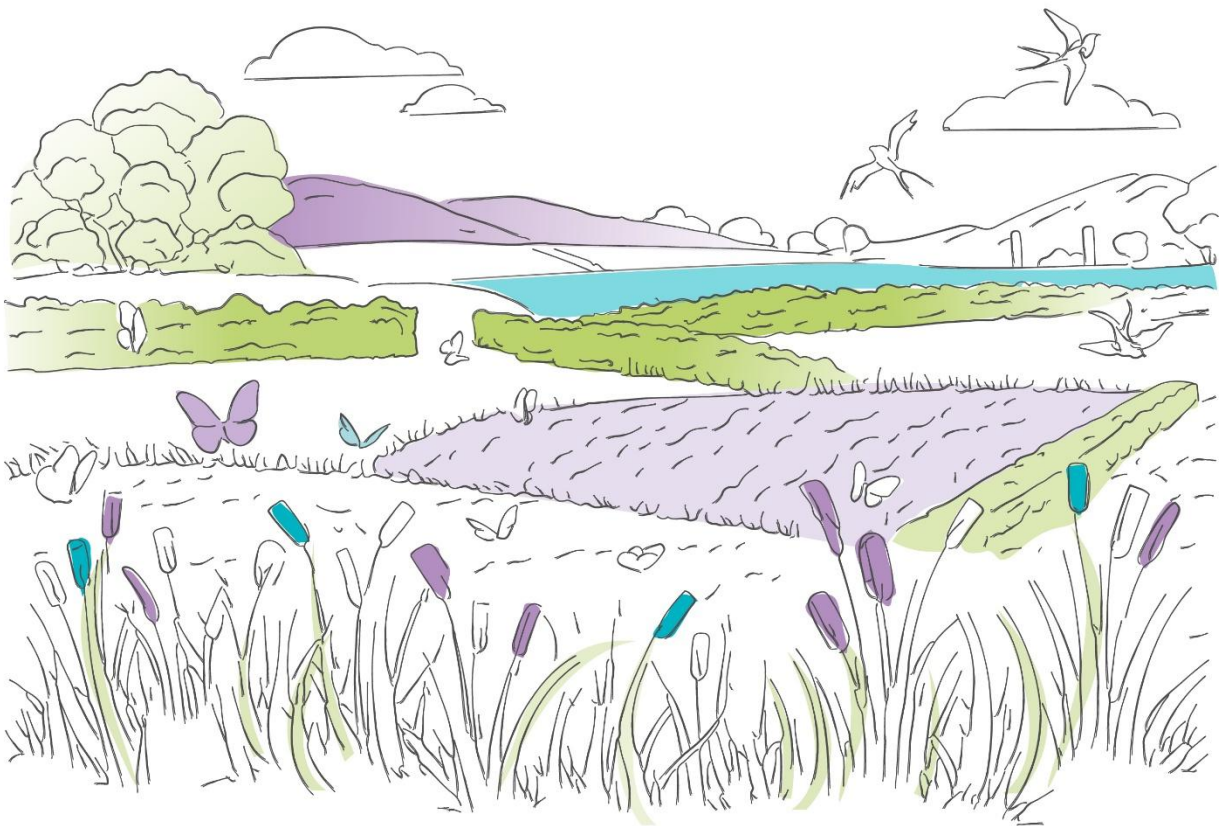
Help us add more projects

So, if you know of a nature-based solution project that should be included, you can suggest it through our [GreenMaps survey](#).

[Click this link to view the survey to submit a project to the GreenMap](#)

Our [user guide](#) explains the information we need and will walk you through the process of adding your project to the map.

[Click this link to view the User Guide for Submitting Projects to the GreenMap](#)



Appendix

***We understand that no categorisation system will be perfect, especially as many projects deliver multiple benefits and activities, and categorisation decisions are subjective and may not fully capture the breadth of work taking place. Projects have been grouped into categories to help us understand the types of nature-based solutions being delivered across the region, and this system will adapt as time goes on.*