

# Plymouth Green Infrastructure and Tamar Valley

Plymouth has an ambitious growth agenda, but it also has a wealth of natural assets. 32% of the city is green space and it is surrounded by three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), Dartmoor National Park and a marine Special Area of Conservation (of European importance). The Plymouth Green Infrastructure (GI) Delivery Plan is a proactive response to Plymouth's growth agenda, and will deliver a sustainable GI Network. With funding for phase 2 it will provide a coordinated, cross boundary approach to creating, managing and enhancing the natural assets of Plymouth and the rural hinterland.

Green infrastructure provides many benefits for local people including areas for exercise, relaxation and play, wildlife areas, flood alleviation, food and fuel production and sustainable transport links. Improving and protecting these assets is a key aspect of planning and delivering Plymouth's growth agenda.

The Tamar Valley is a unique and significant landscape. Rich in wildlife, industrial heritage, natural beauty and rare habitats, this diverse landscape is defined and shaped by the rivers Tamar, Tavy and Lynher, and by the human activity focussed around them. Extensive areas of woodlands on ancient woodland sites are found on the steep valley sides, and remnants of heathland still persist on the granite ridge. Layers of history and human exploitation of the land and its minerals have left a legacy of unique habitats such as mine spoil, species-rich hedges, old market gardens and orchards, each of which has its own characteristic wildlife. The Tamar Valley Woodlands Project will combine a number of existing and new initiatives to bring under-managed woodlands and farm copses into management for biodiversity and woodfuel. The work will be funded through England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS), HLS and a European Interreg Programme.

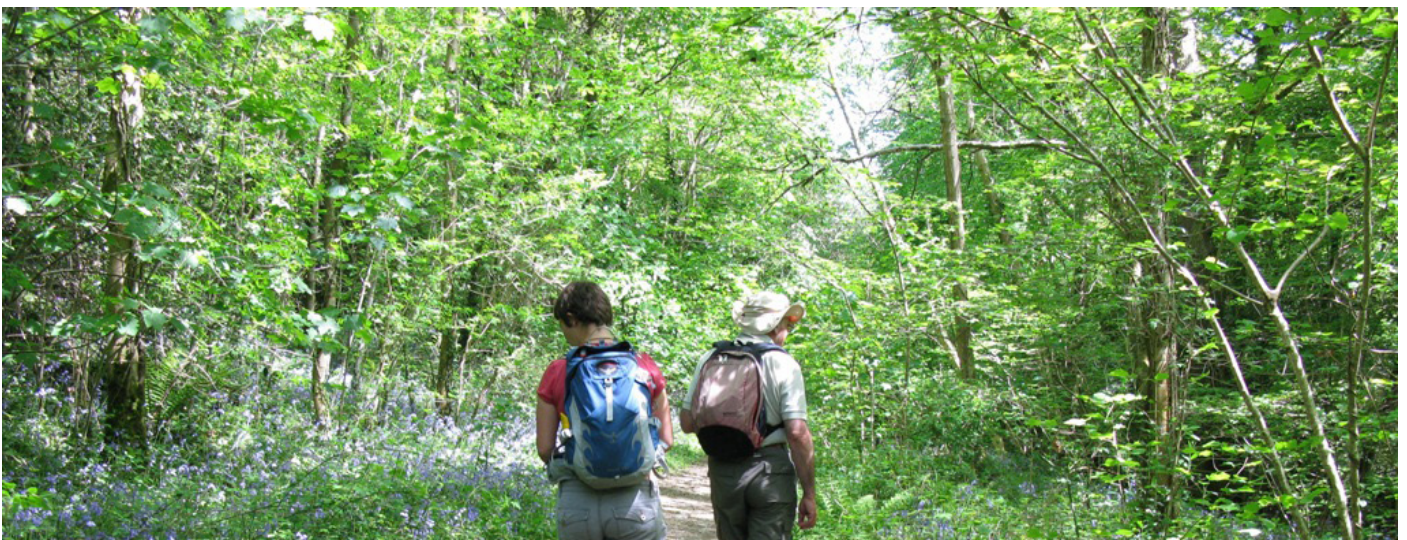
Lead Organisations: Plymouth City Council, Natural England, Forestry Commission and the Tamar Valley AONB.

## Key BAP habitats:

- Rivers
- Reedbeds
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Maritime Cliff and Slopes
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Calcareous Grassland
- Arable Field Margins
- Ponds
- Hedgerows
- Wood-Pasture and Parkland
- Traditional Orchards
- Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land
- Seagrass Beds
- Subtidal Sands and Gravels
- Blue Mussel Beds
- Estuarine Rocky Habitats
- Fragile Sponge and Anthozoan Communities on Subtidal Rocky Habitats
- Intertidal Underboulder Communities
- Sheltered Muddy Gravels
- Tide-swept Channels

## Key BAP species:

- Bats, including greater and lesser horseshoe
- Dormouse
- Otter
- Cirl Bunting
- Nightjar
- Curlew
- Woodland birds - lesser spotted woodpecker, spotted flycatcher, willow tit, marsh tit
- Heath fritillary
- Cnidarian species and seahorses
- Pink seafan
- Atlantic salmon
- Lamprey
- Allis shad



Bircham Valley. Photo by Jeremy Sabel