



Developing the Yorkshire and Humber Sustainability Network for Movement, Activity and Sport

Findings and recommendations from a pilot study exploring how Local Sustainability Networks can support the goals of Sport England's Every Move Sustainability Strategy

June 2026

About this report

This report was prepared in collaboration with Active Humber, Yorkshire Sport Foundation and North Yorkshire Sport and produced by the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission (YHCC) on behalf of Sport England. It brings together findings from a six-month pilot study examining how Local Sustainability Networks in Yorkshire and the Humber can foster momentum under Sport England's Every Move Sustainability Strategy and catalyse change for climate-friendly, resilient and active communities.

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Introduction to the pilot

In January 2026, Sport England commissioned a six-month pilot project to develop a Local Sustainability Network in Yorkshire and the Humber, in support of the Every Move Sustainability Strategy¹.

Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission (YHCC) partnered with three active partnerships in the region – Active Humber, Yorkshire Sport Foundation and North Yorkshire Sport. A further pilot project, led by Useful Projects working with Norfolk and Suffolk Active Partnerships, was undertaken in parallel in the East of England. Sport England is interested in comparing the two projects for wider national-level adoption of Every Move.

Sport England's Every Move Sustainability Strategy

The pilot's aim was to support the delivery of Sport England's Every Move Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan, which focuses on how sport and activity can thrive in a changing climate. It contains targets to support system-wide change to cut emissions in half by 2030; reach net zero by 2040; reduce inequalities made worse by climate change; and make sport regenerative for people and planet.

The strategy and action plan recognise that climate change is already reducing our ability to get active^{2,3} and is impacting sporting communities across the UK, especially at grassroots level⁴. The strategy connects participation, inequalities and environmental sustainability to address these challenges. It also emphasises how climate action not only creates opportunities for movement – it can protect communities from the impacts of our changing environment.

Understanding these themes, levers and action areas is fundamental to the aims of this pilot and how it can support the delivery of the Strategy.

The power of Local Sustainability Networks

Local Sustainability Networks can be key mechanisms for delivering and supporting positive change. They are often community-driven groups, partnerships or organisations that focus on improving environmental, social and economic sustainability at a local level⁵. Such networks can benefit communities by:

¹ Sport England, Every Move Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan (2024). <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/sustainability?section=every-move-our-strategy-section>

² Nothen, G., Acaf, Y., O'sullivan, B., Houlihan, G., Uzun, B., & Ross, W. (2025). Sport and Climate Change: Emerging Concerns. *Movimento*, 31. <https://doi.org/10.22456/1982-8918.144750>

³ Orr, M., Inoue, Y., Seymour, R., & Dingle, G. (2022). Impacts of climate change on organized sport: A scoping review. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 13(3), e760. <https://doi.org/10.1002/WCC.760>

⁴ UK Government (2025) Exploring the financial implications of climate change on grassroots sport. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exploring-the-financial-implications-of-climate-change-on-grassroots-sport/exploring-the-financial-implications-of-climate-change-on-grassroots-sport#fnref:2>

⁵ Cunningham, R., Cvitanovic, C., Measham, T., Jacobs, B., Dowd, A. M., & Harman, B. (2016) Engaging communities in climate adaptation: the potential of social networks. *Climate Policy*, 16(7), 894–908. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2015.1052955>

- bringing people and organisations together to share learning within a trusted space
- providing channels for rapid distribution of adaptation, mitigation and coping strategies to help members increase resilience to different types of risk
- sharing information tailored according to member needs, to help overcome barriers to action
- strengthening connections within and between communities, organisations and people to foster more effective collective action in response to environmental challenges
- increasing the reach of engagement to improve long-term security, continuity and resilience of sustainability initiatives.

Across the UK, sport can be a key driver of community action that addresses climate and nature issues. Local Sustainability Networks have the potential to deliver against the targets and ambitions of the Every Move Strategy through a range of mechanisms, such as:

- reducing emissions from sport and activity, through behaviour change, transport shifts, land use, food provision, retrofit and energy efficiency measures
- adapting to climate impacts, through pitch management, scheduling and nature-based solutions^{6,7}
- restoring nature and biodiversity, through rewilding, tree planting and establishing natural flood ponds
- embedding fairness and inclusivity, through place-based approaches, community engagement and accessibility, particularly for hardly reached communities.



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⁶ Nature-based solutions are actions or interventions that are inspired and powered by nature and are used to address societal challenges while delivering multiple benefits (including biodiversity gain), in an effective and economically efficient way.

⁷ Sowińska-Świerkosz, B., & García, J. (2022). What are Nature-based solutions (NBS)? Setting core ideas for concept clarification. *Nature-Based Solutions*, 2, 100009. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.NBSJ.2022.100009>

The Yorkshire and Humber Sustainability Network for Movement, Activity and Sport

The aim of the pilot project was to develop a regional network in Yorkshire and the Humber and to understand how it can support the delivery of Every Move.

The core objectives were to:

- develop a regional and sub-regional network in Yorkshire and the Humber, focusing on communities facing the highest barriers to climate action through sport and activity
- understand how these networks can support Sport England's Every Move Sustainability Strategy and help members overcome barriers to climate action
- in collaboration with existing organisations, develop a locally actionable response to realise the ambition of the Every Move Strategy.

The pilot focused initially on the regional scale network, due to the preferences of members and because barriers to action were found to be universal across the region. Over the six-month period, the Yorkshire and Humber Sustainability Network was developed through local sport and climate events, and through discussions with local movement organisations, sport national governing bodies, non-governmental organisations, researchers and local authorities.

The Network's vision is that a fully established and active Local Sustainability Network in Yorkshire and the Humber will deliver against Every Move's priorities, as well as the goals of the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission, by bringing about the following:

- **A fair and just transition**, by sharing learning, supporting partnerships and providing common priority frameworks, the Network ensures that climate-aligned sport and activity support reaches communities with the least capacity and the highest barriers. It helps climate-focused sport and activity reach communities facing the biggest challenges, making action more affordable, accessible and relevant, and spreading benefits more widely.
- **Adaptation and resilience**, through capability building, place-based coordination and shared guidance, the Network enables clubs and community organisations to respond to climate impacts collectively rather than individually. This reduces cancellations, protects facilities and ensures that resilience measures become standard practice, not volunteer dependent exceptions.
- **Emission reductions**, through "learn-once-use-many" models, simple frameworks and coordinated funding, the Network can make energy efficiency, low-carbon travel and circular kit systems easier for all organisations to adopt. This turns fragmented climate efforts into collective, faster emissions reductions across the whole sport and activity system in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- **Nature recovery**, by fostering partnerships with environmental organisations, sharing practical examples and unlocking funding for nature-based solutions, the Network helps clubs adopt actions like rewilding, low-mow regimes and rain gardens at scale. In doing so, it transforms the region's scattered nature-positive projects into joined-up improvements in biodiversity and wellbeing.

Network members – regionwide

As a result of the pilot project, a wide mix of partners joined the Yorkshire and Humber Local Sustainability Network between January and June 2026.

Together, these organisations bring strong cross-sector representation, covering sport and community organisations, and environmental and climate-focused partners. Other strengths of the current Network are the established place-based relationships and community reach, with practical routes to test and scale climate-aligned movement activity.

They include:

- place-based and regional partners, including regional active partnerships, local authorities and existing place-based programme partners
- sport and physical activity organisations, including professional clubs and foundations, grassroots clubs across multiple sports, leisure operators and facility providers, national governing bodies and sport development partners
- community, voluntary and youth organisations, including youth partners working with priority communities, community anchors and local delivery organisations
- environmental and climate partners, including local environmental groups, nature-based organisations and regional sustainability networks
- health, education and wellbeing partners, including health and care organisations, regional universities, and mental health and wellbeing partners.

The network map below highlights the range of organisations engaged within the Network so far, alongside those in the process of joining. Grey boxes denote organisations not yet involved in the Network.

Current gaps reflect areas where engagement is still emerging or where additional partners are needed to strengthen coverage across systems and places. Identifying these gaps provides a clear roadmap for next-phase engagement and ensures future outreach targets the partners needed to strengthen influence, reach and climate impact across the region. They include:

- some local authorities, combined authorities and regional decision-makers not yet engaged, including transport, planning and built environment teams in some areas
- national governing bodies, major participation sports, leisure trusts and facility operators in specific localities
- community anchors in several priority neighbourhoods and organisations supporting rural and coastal communities
- key environmental charities and climate coalitions in all three regions, including nature-based outdoor activity partners, and climate action and circular economy initiatives
- some integrated care boards and health partners
- youth voices in certain areas
- further and higher education institutions outside core partners.

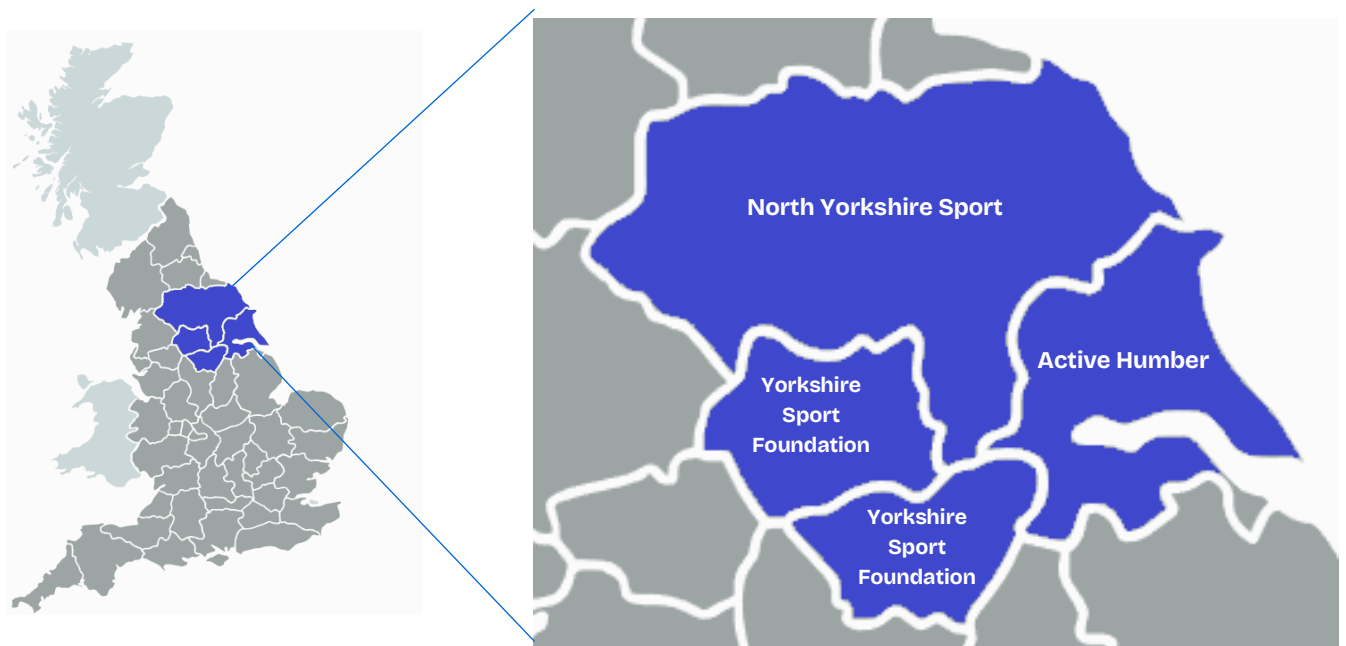


Membership of the Yorkshire and Humber Local Sustainability Network as of June 2026 – regionwide

Network members – by active partnership

Yorkshire and the Humber is home to three Active Partnerships: Active Humber, which covers Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire; North Yorkshire Sport, covering York and North Yorkshire; and Yorkshire Sport Foundation, covering South and West Yorkshire.

The sub-regional network maps provided below detail the current makeup of the Network by Active Partnership area.



Showing the region's active partnerships

Source: Active Partnerships, part of the National Network

Active Humber region



Stakeholder networks

Active Humber brings together a wide-reaching and well-established network of organisations. This includes place partners, local authorities, planning teams, transport leaders and property developers, all of which shape the environments where people live and move. There are also voluntary action networks, schools, colleges and universities, demonstrating the depth of educational and community reach across the region.

Environmental and community-based organisations also feature strongly. These include coast and river groups, climate action networks, wildlife charities, local voluntary groups and regional activity partnerships, bringing specialist environmental knowledge, community insight and established delivery structures.

Active Humber also has links into local sports clubs, charities, health and wellbeing organisations, regional physical activity partnerships, Sport England and national governing bodies, connecting climate action with health, active travel and community resilience. Together these partners provide access to decision-makers and trusted community anchors, and are already positioned to support or scale climate-related activity.

Environmental sustainability at Active Humber

Active Humber delivers strong leadership on environmental sustainability. Its refreshed climate pledges align with Sport England's Every Move Strategy, and it plays a notable national role through the UK Sport Environment and Climate Coalition, Sport England's environmental reference group and the Active Partnerships sustainability group.

This is matched by practical local support. Active Humber works with clubs, leisure operators, foundations and community groups to reduce waste, embed sustainability in facility design and planning, strengthen active travel and contribute to wider regional climate priorities. These activities align closely with the other initiatives in the region, including local climate action plans, school-based projects, community events and programmes delivered by health, voluntary and sport partners.

Regional context

The Humber faces some of the highest climate risks in England^{8,9,10}, especially in coastal regions, and have some of the highest levels of inactivity^{11,12}. Despite this, the region shows strong leadership and early momentum on climate and sustainability in sport and activity. This creates a unique opportunity: by better connecting the organisations already working in this space, the region can tackle environmental and health challenges together, and at greater scale.

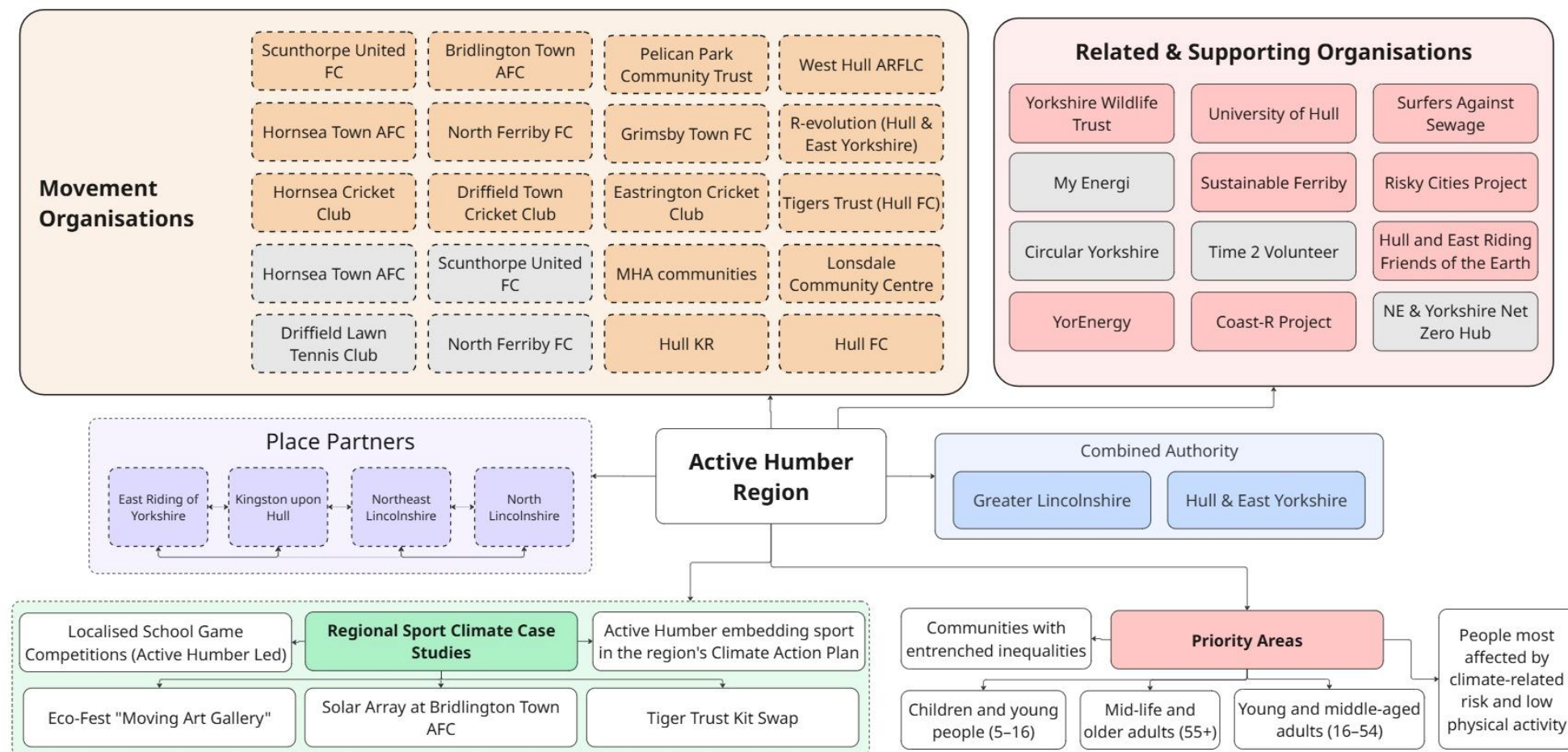
⁸ OpenCLIM. (2026) What are the Impacts of Climate Change in the UK? Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bb62a2d844e74174ac137e0433038440

⁹ Kingston, R. (2017) ClimateJust Tool. University of Manchester. www.climatejust.org.uk/map.html

¹⁰ East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2022) Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030. Local Plan Library. <https://downloads.eastriding.org.uk/corporate/pages/climate-change-what-we-do/Climate%20Change%20Strategy%202022-2030.pdf>

¹¹ Sport England. (2025) Active Lives Adult Survey November 2024-25 Report. [Active Lives Adult Survey November 2024-25 Report](#)

¹² Hull City Council. (2025). Physical Activity Among Adults. www.hulljsna.com/adults/lifestyle-factors-adults/physical-activity-adults/



Membership of the Yorkshire and Humber Local Sustainability Network as of June 2026 – Active Humber region



Yorkshire Sport Foundation region

Stakeholder networks

Yorkshire Sport Foundation (YSF) plays a significant role in connecting environmental sustainability with movement and physical activity across South and West Yorkshire. A broad range of voluntary and community sector groups also sit within the region, supporting programmes tailored to the local area and community-led delivery. Local residents and community champions play a key role in YSF's place-led approach, helping shape activity within neighbourhoods. Additional partners include higher education institutions, environmental organisations, youth groups and mental health partnerships.

The region is also home to partners working with specific groups, youth providers and community safety teams across Sheffield and Rotherham. National governing bodies remain central to YSF's system-partner role, particularly in relation to sport for development and inclusive community activity.

Environmental sustainability at Yorkshire Sport Foundation

Yorkshire Sport Foundation has a clearly defined environmental sustainability commitment centred on its Environmental Sustainability Action Plan¹³, which recognises the strong link between climate, health and active environments. Its work promotes active travel, healthy food systems and increased use of green spaces, and supports initiatives that address inequality and access to sport¹⁴. YSF has also signed the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge, reinforcing the commitment to reducing emissions, enhancing biodiversity and improving climate resilience in a fair and inclusive way.

Regional context

South and West Yorkshire face a combination of climate-related challenges^{15,16,17}, alongside health and social inequalities^{18,19,20,21,22}. Priority areas for inclusivity in sport include rural isolation, disability, women and girls, and communities affected by environmental risk.

¹³ Yorkshire Sport Foundation. (2024). Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. https://www.yorkshiresport.org/application/files/2717/6339/3122/2886_YSF_ENVIRONMENTAL_SUSTAINABILITY_ACTION_PLAN_v2.pdf

¹⁴ Leeds City Council. (2026, May 21). Thousands of sports kits donated at Leeds kit swap event. <https://news.leeds.gov.uk/news/thousands-of-sports-kits-donated-at-leeds-kit-swap-event>

¹⁵ OpenCLIM (2026) What are the Impacts of Climate Change in the UK? Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bb62a2d844e74174ac137e0433038440>

¹⁶ Kingston, R. (2017) ClimateJust Tool. University of Manchester. <https://www.climatejust.org.uk/map.html>

¹⁷ Met Office & UK Climate Resilience Programme. (2020) Sheffield City Pack. [SPF City Pack_editable_template](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/media/123456/SPF_City_Pack_editable_template)

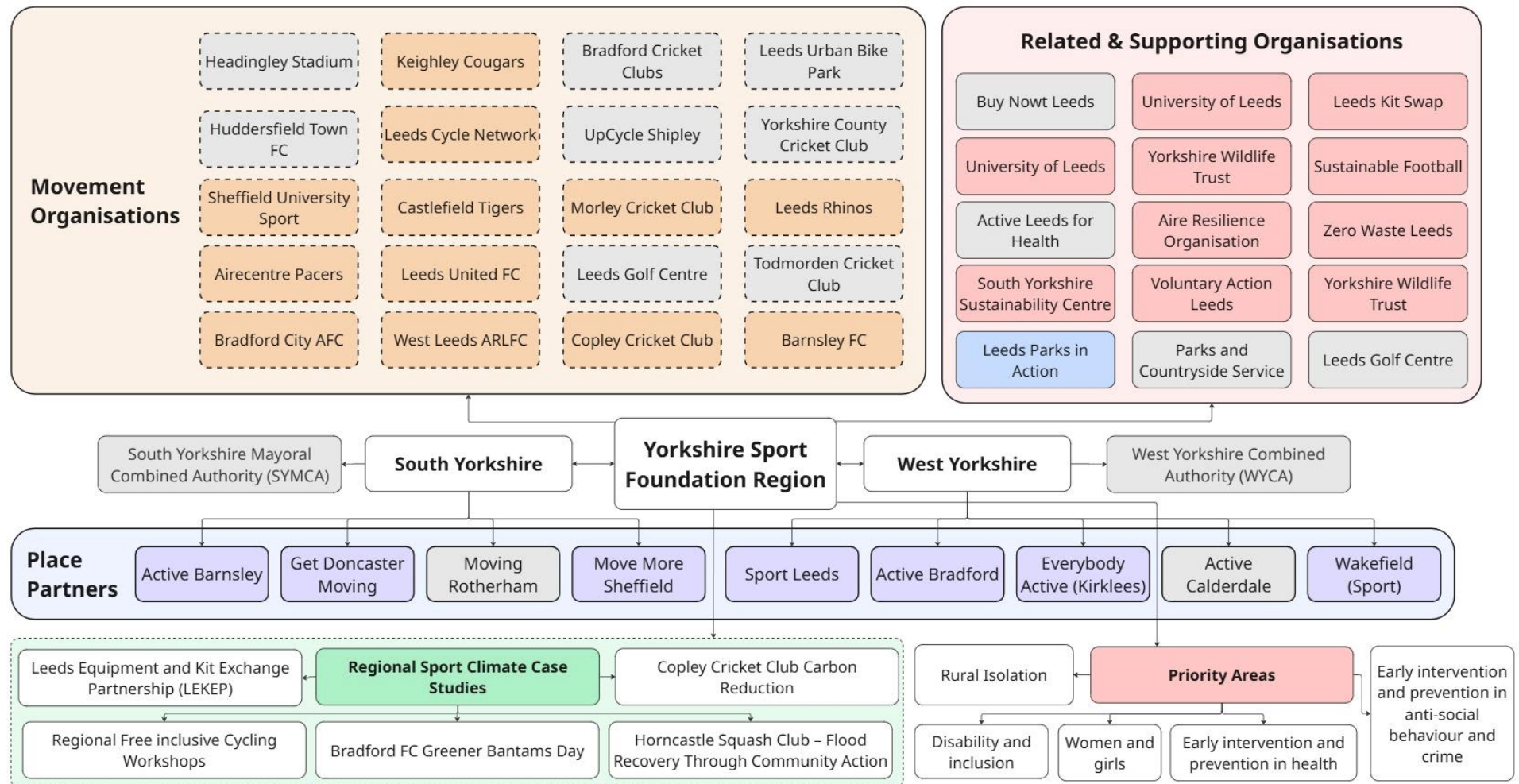
¹⁸ UK Government (2025) Health of the region data explorer - GOV.UK. Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/health-of-the-region-data-explorer>

¹⁹ West Yorkshire Combined Authority (2025) Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025. <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s42651/Item%207%20-%20Appendix%202%20-%20IMD%2025%20Briefing%20Note.pdf>

²⁰ UK Climate Resilience Programme. (2023) Climate Risk Indicators Tool. University of Reading. <https://uk-cri.org/>

²¹ Met Office. (2021). *Kirklees Climate Pack*. https://www.ukclimateresilience.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/kirklees-city-pack_august-2022.pdf

²² Yorkshire Sport Foundation (2025) Data hub. <https://www.yorkshiresport.org/data-hub>



Membership of the Yorkshire and Humber Local Sustainability Network as of June 2026 – Yorkshire Sport Foundation region

North Yorkshire Sport region

Stakeholder networks

Rather than working through defined place partners, North Yorkshire Sport (NYS) supports a place-based approach coordinated through the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority²³ and the Sports Steering Group²⁴. These partners help shape regional movement and physical activity programmes, including early intervention and community safety initiatives.

As well as local authorities across North Yorkshire and the City of York, the NYS brings together health partners, Active North Yorkshire leisure centres, school partnerships, colleges and voluntary sector organisations. These groups play a central role in delivering community-level physical activity, supporting local resilience and providing access to sport and movement opportunities.

A wide range of sport organisations also connect into NYS, including local and regional clubs, sport national governing bodies, youth organisations and outdoor activity providers. Voluntary and community organisations contribute significantly to delivery, while environmental groups and climate networks bring specialist knowledge and insight into regional sustainability challenges.

Environmental sustainability at North Yorkshire Sport

North Yorkshire Sport does not have a standalone environmental sustainability plan, but sustainability principles are increasingly embedded within its mission and partnership work. NYS publicly supports the ambition for a carbon-neutral York and North Yorkshire and recognises climate responsibility as part of its organisational purpose. This aligns with its focus on building healthier, fairer and stronger communities.

Despite the lack of a formal sustainability implementation framework, progress is emerging through regional collaboration. NYS hosts webinars on sustainability in the sport sector and is involved in the Movement and Activity Fund²⁵, which addresses inequalities by creating more inclusive, accessible opportunities for physical activity. Several broader strategic aims also intersect with sustainability, such as promoting active travel, supporting wellbeing, and advancing a regional vision where everyone can enjoy moving more in a healthy, connected and environmentally responsible York and North Yorkshire.

Regional context

York and North Yorkshire face a mix of rural, coastal and urban environmental and social challenges, including rural isolation, age-related vulnerability and varied access to services^{26,27,28}.

²³ North Yorkshire Sport (2026) Movement Activity and Sport Fund - North Yorkshire Sport.

<https://northyorkshiresport.co.uk/work-with-us/funding/our-funding/movement-activity-and-sport-fund/>

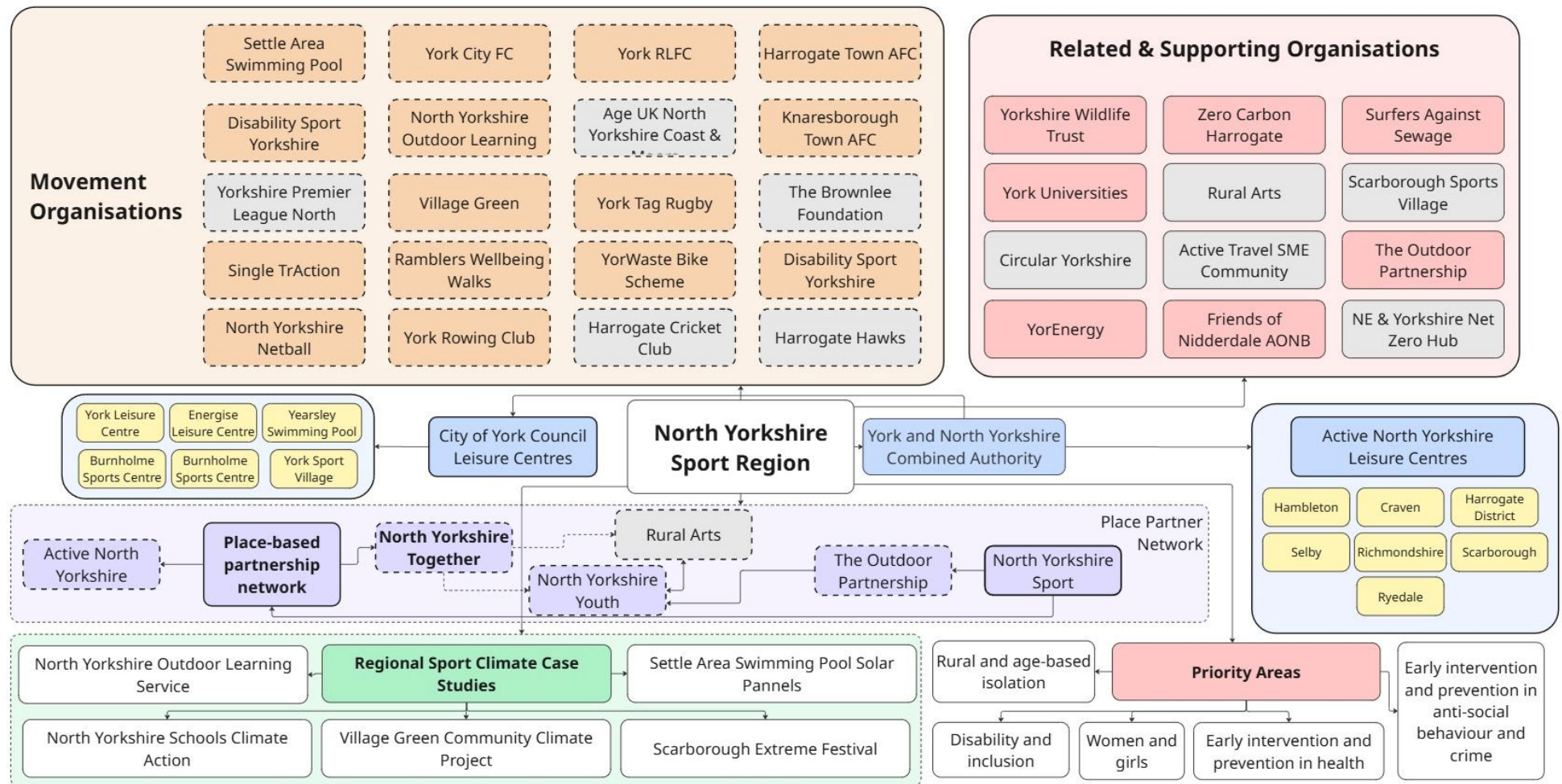
²⁴ York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority (2025) <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s1030/20250718%20-%20Report%20-%20Movement%20Activity%20and%20Sport%20Investment%20Fund.pdf>

²⁵ York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority (2025) Movement, Activity and Sport Investment Programme. <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/project/mas-fund/>

²⁶ Sport England. (2024) Active Lives online tool. <https://activelives.sportengland.org/>

²⁷ North Yorkshire Sport. (2024) Data by Demographic. <https://northyorkshiresport.co.uk/who-we-are/data-and-insight/data-by-demographic/>

²⁸ City of York Council. (2023). York Climate Change Risks and Vulnerabilities Assessment. <https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s171195/Annex%20D%20-%20York%20Climate%20Change%20Risks%20and%20Vulnerabilities%20Assessment%20-%20Revised%20Sept%202023.pdf>



Membership of the Yorkshire and Humber Local Sustainability Network as of June 2026 – North Yorkshire Sport region

What we learnt from the Network

Since its inception in January 2026, the Yorkshire and Humber Local Sustainability Network for Movement, Activity and Sport has grown to more than 100 members, consisting of 59 sport organisations (52 local and seven national), 15 place partners, three active partnerships, five national governing bodies, three local authority links, and 16 supporting organisations.

Through a combination of facilitated group discussions and one-to-one, semi-structured interviews with members, we have uncovered a range of useful insights from the Network.

Complemented by secondary research, below we bring together key themes from the pilot, highlighting what is working well, where there are barriers to action, and how a more connected Network could help build capacity, strengthen collaboration and accelerate progress for Every Move.

What's working in the region

Yorkshire and the Humber hosts an impressive range of climate and nature success stories across the sport and active lifestyle sector – from active partnerships embedding sustainability across their operations, to place-based organisations focusing on community climate resilience, and grassroots initiatives that bring together climate action, community and sport.

Across the region, we are seeing:

- strong regional progress, momentum and alignment with Every Move goals
- organisations beginning to embed emissions reduction and adaptation into core operations, moving beyond ambition and turning it into delivery
- adaptation of the built environment to cope with extreme heat and energy shocks
- leadership and strong communities and care deeply about local places, with a commitment to both the Network and to making physical activity accessible to all, particularly as our climate changes
- good practice established at all levels, driven by people who want their communities to thrive and who see the collective value in helping other places succeed
- capacity building opportunities to overcome some of the key barriers to enacting Every Move, including financial support, toolkits, knowledge share and operational support
- nature-positive management practices, with sport increasingly recognised as a tool for resilience, behaviour change and supporting wider nature recovery goals.

Examples of great practice from the region

There are many examples of great practice in the region. Below are just a few initiatives that are bringing together sport, active lifestyles, climate and nature.

West Hull Community Hub

In March 2022, West Hull ARLFC became the UK's second ever Rugby Football League Community Wellbeing Hub²⁹. Driven by volunteers, the hub serves local people by providing warm spaces, homework support, nature reserve field trips, veterans' sessions and other inclusive community activities, with a spotlight on community wellbeing and ownership.

Working with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust³⁰, the club has also been focusing protecting and restoring local wildlife, providing opportunities for outdoor activities and a greater connection with nature. Changes to groundskeeping enabled 30% of the site to be managed for nature within the first year, supported by a Nature Plan to sustain long-term environmental and community impact.

Village Green: North Yorkshire's Community Climate Project

Village Green³¹ is a countywide partnership transforming how climate action is delivered across North Yorkshire by using sport, movement and outdoor activity as entry points for engagement. Working with a range of partners, the programme integrates climate awareness into activities such as youth sport, walking groups, outdoor play and community events.

By starting with simple, low-cost actions built into everyday movement and activity, Village Green makes climate action relatable, enjoyable and accessible. Through this approach, the initiative has already engaged more than 8,000 residents and supported community organisations to reduce energy use, improve resilience to climate impacts, and take part in local nature improvement schemes.

Greener Bantams at Bradford City AFC

Greener Bantams³² is part of Bradford City AFC's Responsible Bantams commitment, which recognises that football can be a powerful platform for positive change. With its focus on climate, sustainability and waste, the Greener Bantams initiative uses an array of measures to embed climate action across club operations: 472 solar panels have been installed at the University of Bradford Stadium, sustainable transport routes and infrastructure have been improved, and food waste has been diverted from landfill, to name a few.

The whole-system approach also extends beyond the stadium through support for grassroots football access, nature-based solutions, and community engagement. Early, visible actions such

²⁹ West Hull Community Hub: <https://westhullcommunityhub.org.uk/>

³⁰ Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (2025) CASE STUDY: West Hull Community Hub at West Hull Amateur Rugby League Football Club https://www.ywt.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-03/240311%20TW%20Case%20study%2011_West%20Hull%20ARLF%20Community%20Hub%20V2.pdf

³¹ Village Green: <https://villagegreen.org.uk/>

³² Bradford City AFC Greener Bantams: <https://www.bradfordcityafc.com/responsible-bantams/sustainability-greener-bantams>

as recycling schemes and “a tree for every goal” have built awareness, pride and community ownership, while celebrating successes has inspired fans and the wider community to act.

Airecentre Pacers Run Club

Airecentre Pacers Run Club³³ is a volunteer-led running club in West Yorkshire that embeds sustainability into everyday activity and local sporting events. Through regular group runs, training sessions and the long-established Chevin Chase cross-country race, the club uses grassroots running to promote low-impact sport, environmental responsibility and climate awareness.

Chevin Chase, which attracts hundreds of participants each year, has evolved to reduce the environmental footprint of the event without compromising its strong identity. For example, race start times now better align with public transport timetabling and active travel is encouraged. Through these changes and other measures – such as recycled T-shirts, no medals, lift sharing and “trees for tees” – the club demonstrates how sustainability can be embedded through accessible, low-cost measures, helping to normalise sustainable behaviours while supporting the landscapes that underpin sport and activity.



*Volunteers from Airecentre Pacers planting trees at the 2024 Chevin Chase race
Credit: Airecentre Pacers*

³³ Airecentre Pacers: <https://airecentrepacers.com/>

The barriers to further progress

Interviews and conversations with Network members revealed key barriers to supporting and delivering against the ambitions of the Every Move Strategy. These insights are complemented by research into climate risk in the region, and impacts affecting participation in sport, movement and active travel.

Core barriers and challenges

1. **Limited clarity, consistency and shared understanding** – Knowledge of climate change, how it's impacting sport and active lifestyles, and how to address these issues varies across the Network. The lack of clear, accessible best practice makes it difficult for organisations to confidently identify solutions and understand how to overcome common barriers through trusted processes.
2. **Unshared learnings** – Many members have trialled and tested climate-wins and lessons that have been embedded internally in decision-making, but these are not always shared more widely, leading to the potential for repeating failures.
3. **Capacity and capability constraints across the system** – Many organisations (especially at grassroots level) lack the time, resource and/or expertise to deliver sustained climate action, with much of the work relying on limited staff capacity or volunteers. This restricts the capability to move from ambition to consistent delivery of Every Move and makes action vulnerable if it's not embedded.
4. **Fragmentation and siloed working** – Work is often delivered in isolation, along with any learnings, limiting opportunities for collaboration, shared best practice and efficiency. This can result in slower progress, narrowed ambition and repeated mistakes.
5. **Underdeveloped approaches to adaptation and nature-based solutions** – Practical application of adaptation and nature-based solutions is limited, with work focusing more on emissions reduction. Organisations need clearer pathways and examples to respond effectively to challenges like flooding, drought and extreme heat.
6. **Structural and system-level barriers** – Constraints on land ownership and land-use pressures, infrastructure challenges, financial constraints (or lack of awareness of funding opportunities) continue to limit progress.
7. **Lack of embedded practice** – Many members and place partners understand the value of action but lack the mechanisms to embed sustainability across all aspects of working – for example having an environmental action plan and a separate movement plan, despite the benefits from merging the two.
8. **Goalsetting and visualising an adapted and climate-ready movement** – In grassroots clubs, despite clear ambition and understanding, there is less clarity and fewer goals and ideas around what adapted, climate-ready movement looks like.

The tables that follow provide more detail on barriers to climate action, and the key differences between grassroots and professional level clubs.

Barriers and enablers^{34,35,36,37,38,39}

Category	What clubs are doing (or could do)	Primary barriers	Who can help / enable	Notes / examples
Travel & transport	Encourage car-sharing, public transport and active travel; hire coaches for away days; install EV chargers and bike racks; move admin meetings online.	Cost of infrastructure (eg chargers); limited public transport options; culture/behaviour change; volunteer bandwidth; event and transport planning limits.	National governing bodies (NGBs) and local authorities (LAs): grants, travel guidance, fixture clustering; Clubs: comms nudges; Sponsors: discounted travel.	Travel is a major emissions source across sports; simple nudges and shared transport can cut a large share.
Energy use & efficiency	Reduce & monitor operational energy use, install LEDs, insulation, upgraded glazing/doors; replace old boilers with heat pumps; install solar PV; source more efficient/lower energy heating for pools.	Upfront capital costs: many clubs don't own facilities; ageing buildings not "retrofit-ready"; limited technical know-how.	NGBs: capital grants, buyer clubs; LAs/landlords: permissions and co-investment; Energy advisors: site audits & simple plans.	Pools/halls are high energy users; payback can be strong but access to capital and unpredictable energy is the blocker.
Waste & kit	Reuse/sell second-hand kit; donate to charities; switch to reusable cups with deposit schemes; composting; lower-impact suppliers; reuse medals/race numbers.	Small operational budgets; volunteer capacity to run schemes; behaviour change on match days.	Clubs: policy changes; NGBs: templates and supplier lists; Local partners: waste contractors, community reuse hubs.	Low-cost wins that build culture, visible to members and sponsors. Leeds Kit Exchange Example project.
Biodiversity & grounds	Tree planting, rewilding; flower meadows; reduced pesticides/fertilisers; eco-friendly turf.	Grounds expertise required; short-term disruption vs long-term gain; cost of seed/materials; volunteer time.	LAs: advice & materials; Charities: volunteer days; NGBs: case studies and micro-grants.	West Hull ARLFC cut pesticide use and encouraged better engagement.
Drainage & flood resilience	Improve drainage, flood-proof buildings, use porous surfaces, adjust grass composition; plant trees for water absorption; create boreholes for water management.	High capital costs permissions (landlord/local planning authority); technical design; rising insurance premiums or lack of cover.	NGBs/government: targeted resilience grants; Insurers: risk-reduction incentives; Engineers/agronomists: specs and delivery.	Flooding is a top disruption channel; resilience spend avoids cancellations and repair bills.
Artificial & hybrid surfaces	Some are shifting towards artificial/hybrid pitches for year-round playability, others are shifting away for environmental gains; canopy covers for some courts.	Very expensive; injury and microplastics concerns in some sports; planning and community sensitivities.	NGBs: standards, co-funding; Suppliers: lifecycle contracts; LAs: planning and co-use agreements.	Artificial pitches reduce cancellations, but not a universal solution; environmental trade-offs noted.
Heat & air quality management	Reschedule fixtures to cooler hours; add shade, fans/AC in indoor spaces; ensure hydration; implement heat/air-quality policies and alarms.	Indoor cooling raises energy costs; limited capital for shade structures; policy development capacity; player safety vs fixture pressure.	NGBs: thresholds & protocols; Clubs: comms & kit guidance; LAs: shade structures in multi-use sites.	Heat/air quality risks are growing; policies reduce cancellations and health incidents.
Operational continuity	Alternative venue hires during flood or drought induced closures; emergency response plans for immediate recovery, full restoration and long-term resilience.	Extra hire costs strain budgets: repeated shocks create "permanent recovery mode"; volunteer burnout.	NGBs: emergency funds; Local clubs: mutual aid & equipment sharing; Insurers: faster claims.	Recurrent weather shocks create cumulative impacts - not one-offs.
Member engagement & finance	Use sustainability to retain/attract members; explore small fee uplifts where members show willingness to pay for green measures.	Sensitivity to fee rises amid cost-of-living pressures; need for clear value story and visible improvements.	NGBs: messaging toolkits; Clubs: transparency on benefits & payback; Sponsors: match-funding.	Evidence suggests members would pay a modest amount for green measures; cost savings also motivate action.
Knowledge & capacity	Seek simple guidance, templates & case studies; collaborate locally to share equipment & learning.	Know-how gap on "what works"; limited staff/volunteer capacity; leadership buy-in varies.	NGBs: resource hubs, training; Coordinators: regional networks for peer learning.	Clubs specifically asked for practical guidance & knowledge-sharing forums.
Food choices & healthy diets	Guidance on health & wellbeing benefits of food choices; plant-rich menus in sport facilities; reducing waste.	Social barriers and preconceived ideas around plant-based proteins; preference sensitivity.	NGB's: clear messaging toolkits; Clubs: plant-rich menus, training for catering staff.	Connecting with local food (eg Ample); misconceptions are biggest barrier.

³⁴ Department for Culture, M. & S. (2025) Exploring the financial implications of climate change on grassroots sport - GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exploring-the-financial-implications-of-climate-change-on-grassroots-sport/exploring-the-financial-implications-of-climate-change-on-grassroots-sport>

³⁵ Mallen, C., Dingle, G., & McRoberts, S. (2025) Climate impacts in sport: extreme heat as a climate hazard and adaptation options. *Managing Sport and Leisure*, 30(2), 207–224. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2023.2166574>

³⁶ Larneby, M., Svensson, D., & Hedenborg, S. (2025) Challenges, tensions and opportunities: sport and climate change. *Sport in Society*, 28(10), 1429–1433. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17430437.2025.2560751>

³⁷ Orr, M., Inoue, Y., Seymour, R., & Dingle, G. (2022) Impacts of climate change on organized sport: A scoping review. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 13(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/WCC.760>

³⁸ Schneider, S., & Mücke, H. G. (2021). Sport and climate change—how will climate change affect sport? *German Journal of Exercise and Sport Research* 2021 54:1, 54(1), 12–20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/S12662-021-00786-8>

³⁹ Ample: <https://www.ample.shop/>

How barriers vary between grassroots and professional clubs

Barrier	Grassroots level	Professional level
Voluntary capacity	Most are run by volunteers and successful operations are often down to one or two passionate people. Clubs are vulnerable to volunteer burnout.	Often have key connections to communities and have a strong voluntary network, managed by funded people with capacity, access to resource, knowledge and tools.
Knowledge capacity	Despite a clear acknowledgement of climate change impacts, the capacity to find solutions (or pathways to achieving them) is low due to time and financial constraints.	Many have dedicated people working in sustainability, with capacity to act. Some organisations struggle to find or understand best practice, however.
Financial capacity	High costs to cope with climate impacts (eg cancelled matches on high-value weekends), increased insurance costs and operational barriers mean many clubs are financially vulnerable to climate change and may not have capacity to adapt or take sustainability investments.	At the professional level, funding is mostly present for adaptation and mitigation of climate change, and some organisations are supporting top-down financial projects to protect grassroots organisations. Clubs often have sponsors which support funding needs.
Wider sector connection and networking	Clubs are often siloed in their communities, only connecting with other clubs to compete. There is a limited ability to connect and adopt collective efforts to sustainability.	Professional clubs in the region have a range of existing relationships with communities and other clubs but are not yet taking advantage of this capability to act collectively on delivering Every Move.
Access to support (knowledge, tools, resources, etc)	Despite a large body of knowledge and solutions, a core barrier identified by grassroots clubs is knowing where the support lies to enact positive change in their spaces.	The pilot found a good level of support, as well as the capacity to make use of it. This is strongly linked to paid or part-funded positions on sustainability.
Facility ownership and responsibility	At this level, spaces are often under shared-use and decisions on how sites are used, managed and maintained are made elsewhere. This makes it hard to have autonomy or influence over sustainable decisions.	Many own or are in a position to influence how sites are managed. This supports the ability to enact internal system changes that speed up and help deliver Every Move principles.
Travel requirements of movement, sport and activity	Many grassroots organisations operate at the local level, which facilitates active travel – but climate impacts are forcing greater private vehicle usage to get to playable fields further away. Many clubs in the region are out of town or rural, often making public transport or active travel less accessible.	Professional sports clubs have high emissions from domestic or international travel – for both players and supporters. Many cities and towns in the region are not equipped to manage large crowds on public transport or active travel pathways, but work is moving in this area.
Event travel restrictions	In underserved areas, the start time of local grassroots events can be a major barrier to widespread public transport use. This will exclude some supporters entirely and force others into private vehicles.	Professional clubs and sport events generally start at times are more favourable for participants and align with public transport timings.

How developing the Yorkshire and Humber Sustainability Network could help overcome barriers

Members were asked what they would need from the Network to help facilitate the delivery of Every Move.

Further research and analysis highlighted what else the Network could do to help.

What members need from the Network

1. **Sharing knowledge and learning**

Members want to be able to share knowledge, resources, lessons learned and success stories from across the region.

Areas of interest include:

- managing and building resilience to flooding on greenspaces and playing fields
- understanding best practice for artificial and natural playing grounds
- addressing aging facilities and sites
- reducing energy use of facilities and exploring community/local energy generation
- understanding where emissions are coming from and how to reduce them
- supporting behaviour change for active travel and active lifestyles
- understanding ways to support communities and users with reducing vulnerability to climate change and in reducing environmental footprints.

2. **Building connections**

Members want to connect with other people, to advise and support other projects in the areas they work.

3. **Identifying solutions and clear pathways to achieving them**

Members would like the Network to provide clear, proven examples of solutions and pathways.

4. **Understanding what support is available**

Many members want to understand more about financial or voluntary support available to them.

5. **Multi-level networking and feedback**

Some members would like to discuss with Sport England and other governing bodies systemic challenges such as aging leisure facilities.

6. **Participating in workshops**

Many members suggested workshops as a means to showcase useful tools and how to use them, and to co-create ideas and plans.

What else the Network could do to help

1. **Support with sustainability action plans**

The Network could support the development and delivery of sustainability plans⁴⁰ by linking members to existing tools (eg through BASIS⁴¹).

2. **Urgency of action**

The Network could support organisations by signposting to projects like the Carbon Literacy Project and BASIS. Training and resources could be tailored to sport and climate, and the goals and scope of the Every Move Strategy.

3. **Further research to understand deeper barriers, opportunities and needs**

The Network could run workshops with members to further explore opportunities for support.

4. **Support scaling up across Yorkshire and the Humber**

The Network could have a coordinating role, turning isolated initiatives into a joined-up regional programme that embeds adaptation, emissions reduction and nature recovery in a fair and inclusive way.

5. **Fostering cross-sector local partnerships**

The Network could facilitate more collaborative working through the networks and connections of its partners and members, such as Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission.

6. **Sharing successes rooted in people and place**

The Network could gather success stories from communities that relate to people and place, helping to give agency to the individuals who care and want to act, particularly at grassroots level.

7. **Channelling capacity and best practice**

The Network could forge connections between grassroot clubs and bodies that can assist with projects, to provide additional capacity where it's needed and to share expertise and learning.

⁴⁰ Sport England key partners (national governing bodies and other bodies funded by Sport England) are required to have sustainability action plans in place by March 2027 as a condition of continued funding.

⁴¹ BASIS: <https://basis.org.uk/about/>

Our recommendations

The pilot has shown that Yorkshire and the Humber has strong foundations for building a long-term, thriving Local Sustainability Network. However, it has also surfaced gaps, opportunities and systemic challenges that must be addressed to ensure sustained impact and successful delivery of the Every Move Strategy.

Despite strong examples of climate action through sport and activity across the region, effort is fragmented. Good practice and learnings are often locked in silos, capacity and capability is uneven – especially at grassroots level – and practical routes to funding and resilience are not always clear. Meanwhile, climate impacts are already disrupting fixtures and training, damaging facilities and reducing motivation to be active, placing Every Move's goals at risk without coordinated action.

Where climate-aligned sport and movement initiatives exist, they are often shaped by the creativity, effort and passion of individual organisations, rather than a coordinated system of support. The successes highlighted in this report offer valuable insights into what can be achieved, and what challenges are repeatedly faced when organisations work alone.

Here we outline recommended next steps for the regional Local Sustainability Network, highlighting enabling conditions for success, as well as recommendations for Sport England to help address the barriers facing Every Move.

Enabling conditions for success

Our findings point to a range of conditions that enable success as measured against Sport England's Every Move Strategy, supporting long-term, transformational change⁴². These include:

- access to information on what good looks like and the solutions available
- affordable routes for change (eg litter pickers, free tree providers), clear pathways to investment and support with funding applications
- mechanisms that drive motivation, such as learning about success stories, receiving endorsements or investment, and working towards awards (eg the EFL Green Clubs award⁴³)
- access to convenient and low-cost solutions
- good relationships with infrastructure owners or managers
- ways to support Every Move that are highly accessible, such as reduced ticket costs for people who use active travel measures.

The conditions identified complement Sport England's work on tackling longstanding inequalities in physical activity⁴⁴.

⁴² Green Futures Institute (2025) Positive Tipping Points Toolkit.
<https://ptptoolkit.notion.site/39881b672d0c4a81b73773113def4395?pvs=25>

⁴³ EFL Green Clubs: <https://www.efl.com/about-the-efl/green-clubs/>

⁴⁴ National Evaluation & Learning Partnership (2024) Overview of NELP conceptual model and conditions for tackling inequalities in physical activity. https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2024-07/Conditions_overview_1_1bf9f880c5.pdf

Next steps to develop the Network

To realise the Network's potential for positive impact in Yorkshire and the Humber for sport and for climate, we recommend the following actions to build on the work of the pilot project.

1. **Fully activate the regional Network** through workshops, talks and collaborating with the diverse range of sport and active-lifestyle organisations to accelerate climate action.
2. **Develop a replicable national model** that other regions across England can adopt, enabling national scaling of Local Sustainability Networks – drawing on the learnings from the two pilot projects.
3. **Conduct new research on climate impacts on sport and active lifestyles**, providing real-world evidence to guide future interventions, policy and decision-making.
4. **Develop a regional story bank** that showcases successes, learnings and practical examples from organisations across the region to inspire and inform others.
5. **Collate a library of resources** shaped by the needs of the Network, linking to existing guidance, tools and funding to support organisations take meaningful climate action.
6. **Set up four demonstrator projects** within each sub-region (North, West and South Yorkshire and the Humber and East Yorkshire) that show how Network collaboration can drive on-the-ground climate action, translating strategic ambitions into practical change.



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Recommendations for Sport England

There are several ways that Sport England could directly support regional networks to increase impact.

1. **Long-term capacity and dedicated regional coordination**

The pilot has demonstrated the progress that can be made with dedicated personnel, acting in a coordinating capacity for the Network.

2. **Co-learnings between pilots**

Comparing Yorkshire and the Humber findings with the East of England pilot will provide many valuable insights, helping to shape a strategy for supporting other Local Sustainability Networks within the varied contexts of different regions.

3. **Reducing identified systemic barriers to Every Move**

Sport England can help to address some of the systemic barriers identified in the report, including:

- support research into nature-based solutions for flooding, drought and extreme weather (such as heatwaves) on green and blue spaces
- support cross-region and national assessment of green spaces playability assessments which can be embedded within the National Planning Policy Framework⁴⁵ – this should include assessments of future risks from a changing climate to help embed and prioritise responses to spaces that need it most
- support and promote national governing bodies and travel providers to shift event start times in line with active travel and public transport
- help the Network to overcome barriers to action through pathways identified in this report.

4. **Feedback sessions with the Network on systemic issues**

A network like this provides an opportunity for cross-sector collaboration and feedback to help identify emerging systemic barriers to delivering Every Move.

⁴⁵ National Planning Policy Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Background on Yorkshire and the Humber

Yorkshire and the Humber combines diverse geographies, deep social inequalities and strong regional leadership. The region spans major urban centres, rural towns, coastal areas and flood prone landscapes, offering a representative mix of the environments where sport and physical activity take place. This diversity allows climate aligned interventions to be trialled across contrasting real-world conditions.

Climate impacts are already being felt in the sport and movement sector – flooded pitches^{46,47}, heat related disruptions to facilities, health and well-being^{48,49}, and increasingly vulnerable coastal⁵⁰ and valley communities⁵¹ signal an urgent need for practical and scalable adaptation and emissions reduction measures^{52,53}. At the same time, the region benefits from established climate action structures, including the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission and active place-based partnerships, alongside emerging pockets of strong practice in sport, community groups and environmental organisations.

Socially and economically, the region brings both opportunity and challenge, with vibrant community identity and innovation alongside some of England's lowest activity levels and highest deprivation. This makes it a powerful proving ground for ensuring that climate aligned sport initiatives support fair and just transitions, particularly for communities with the least capacity.

Together, these factors make the region uniquely positioned to demonstrate how coordinated networks can accelerate the goals of Every Move and provide a model that can be replicated across England.

⁴⁶ BBC (2024) Football in wellies?! Has your match been cancelled by flooding?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/articles/cr5mgddvl3lo>

⁴⁷ Russell, R. (2024) York: Amateur sports clubs losing money due to wet weather. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-68819639>

⁴⁸ Mallen, C., Dingle, G., & McRoberts, S. (2025) Climate impacts in sport: extreme heat as a climate hazard and adaptation options. *Managing Sport and Leisure*, 30(2), 207–224. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2023.2166574>

⁴⁹ The Star (2026) Grassroots football: Sheffield Council cancels league matches again this weekend. The Star. <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/grassroots-football-sheffield-council-cancels-league-matches-again-this-weekend-5606662>

⁵⁰ East Riding of Yorkshire Council (2022) East Riding Climate Change Strategy 2022–2030. <https://cape.mysociety.org/media/data/plans/east-riding-of-yorkshire-council-8bd6a5e.pdf>

⁵¹ Aire Resilience Company: <https://aireresilience.org/our-story-2727/>

⁵² Department for Culture, M. & S. (2025) Exploring the financial implications of climate change on grassroots sport - GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/exploring-the-financial-implications-of-climate-change-on-grassroots-sport/exploring-the-financial-implications-of-climate-change-on-grassroots-sport>

⁵³ Larneby, M., Svensson, D., & Hedenborg, S. (2025) Challenges, tensions and opportunities: sport and climate change. *Sport in Society*, 28(10), 1429–1433. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17430437.2025.2560751>

Sport and activity levels in the region

Yorkshire and the Humber is a region full of sport, but access and activity levels vary across geographies and demographics.

The region is prone to a mixture of compounded challenges surrounding climate and sport – a product of climate vulnerabilities, social inequities, accessibility and underinvestment. But it is also a region of opportunities and ambition to overcome these challenges, with the sports sector rich with passion, drive and examples of success.

Yorkshire and the Humber is home to a range of blue and green sports⁵⁴ at varying levels, from the top professional to thousands of grassroots level clubs. Football is the most popular team sport, followed by rugby, netball and cricket⁵⁵. The most popular form of movement is walking, with gym-based activity, running, cycling and swimming following. However, it is also home to some of the most inactive places in the UK, as well as some of the most climate vulnerable regions^{8,56}. Some areas are vulnerable due to extreme climate risk (such as flooding in the Humber), while others are vulnerable due to financial capacity and location.

Yorkshire and the Humber Estimated total population: 6,029,806 (2024) Totals around 7.5 % of GDP, but unequally split with affluent areas like York and Harrogate, and high deprivation areas in parts of Hull, Bradford and Doncaster. Home to world leading universities, centre of excellence for sport and physical activity and is a centre of innovation and industry.	Yorkshire Sport Foundation (South and West Yorkshire) Estimated population: 3,865,859 (2024) Higher inactivity in deprived areas, up to 33.8% inactive in West Yorkshire's most deprived communities. The most densely populated region, inclusive of big cities but also rural nature reserves and National Parks. Home to existing sustainability networks like the South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre and YHCC.	Active Humber (Hull & East Yorkshire and North/Northeast Lincolnshire) Estimated population: 962,532 (2024) Adults active: 60% (↑ from 58% previous year) Adults inactive: 28.6% (lowest recorded locally; ↓ from 30.9%) Children active: 49.2% (slightly above 49.1% England average) Children less active: 28.9% (slightly worse than national 28.4%)	North Yorkshire Sport (York and North Yorkshire) Estimated population: 1,201,415 (2024) Active (150+ min/week): 66.5% (459,300 residents) Fairly active (30–149 min): 11.3% Inactive (<30 min): 22.2% (153,200 residents) Children active: 42% meet daily activity guidelines (below national average).
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Population and activity levels in Yorkshire and the Humber

Source: YHODA, Active Humber, North Yorkshire Sport, Yorkshire Sport Foundation

⁵⁴ Blue and green sports describe physical activities that take place in natural outdoor environments. These settings are increasingly important for community health, climate resilience and sustainable movement. Green sports are land-based activities in parks, fields, trails and other green spaces. Blue sports are water-based activities taking place in or around rivers, lakes, canals or the coast.

⁵⁵ Sport England (2024) Active Lives online tool. <https://activelives.sportengland.org/>

⁵⁶ Vulnerability in this context refers to the ability of an entity (person, community, organisation, ecosystem, etc) to reduce the level of risk to a climate impact. This can be referred to as capacity to adapt, mitigate and cope with climate change.

Climate impacts in the region

The impacts of climate change on sport in Yorkshire and the Humber are widespread. Since 2025, we have seen the temporary closure of public playing fields all over the region, including Tadcaster⁵⁷ and Leeds⁵⁸; a 244% increase in clubs reaching out for support to prepare for flood events⁵⁹; damage to community football clubs in areas such as Huddersfield⁶⁰ and Tadcaster⁶¹; and an increase in extreme heat events^{62,63}, risking increased levels of inactivity. Closures and cancellations are expected to become more common, with adaptation becoming increasingly important to protect active spaces^{64,65}.

The region faces a range of climate threats. When multiple hazards occur all at once or in close succession, the resulting event – called a compound event – usually causes significant disruption. For example, a heatwave that coincides with a period of poor air quality, or heavy rainfall coinciding with a storm surge.

These linked or cascading events amplify risks to people, infrastructure and ecosystems by overwhelming natural and human systems. They are much harder to predict or plan for and could have profound impacts on sport and activity in Yorkshire and the Humber.

⁵⁷ YorkMix (2022) 'Worse than 2015 – and 2020, and 2021...' Tadcaster Albion struck by another devastating flood. <https://www.yorkmix.com/worse-than-2015-and-2020-and-2021-tadcaster-albion-struck-by-another-devastating-flood>

⁵⁸ West Leeds Dispatch (2026) Drainage failure leaves Tong Road flooded – and Farnley Falcons pitches unusable. <https://westleedsdispatch.com/drainage-failure-leaves-tong-road-flooded-and-farnley-falcons-pitches-unusable/>

⁵⁹ The Grounds Management Association (2024) How to prevent waterlogged pitches. <https://www.thegma.org.uk/services/resource-library/winter-2024-technical-insight/winter-2024-tech-insight.pdf>

⁶⁰ The Yorkshire Post (2025) Battleyford Sporting Club: Yorkshire football club launches fundraiser after devastating flooding. <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/weather/battleyford-sporting-club-yorkshire-football-club-launches-fundraiser-after-devastating-flooding-4929454>

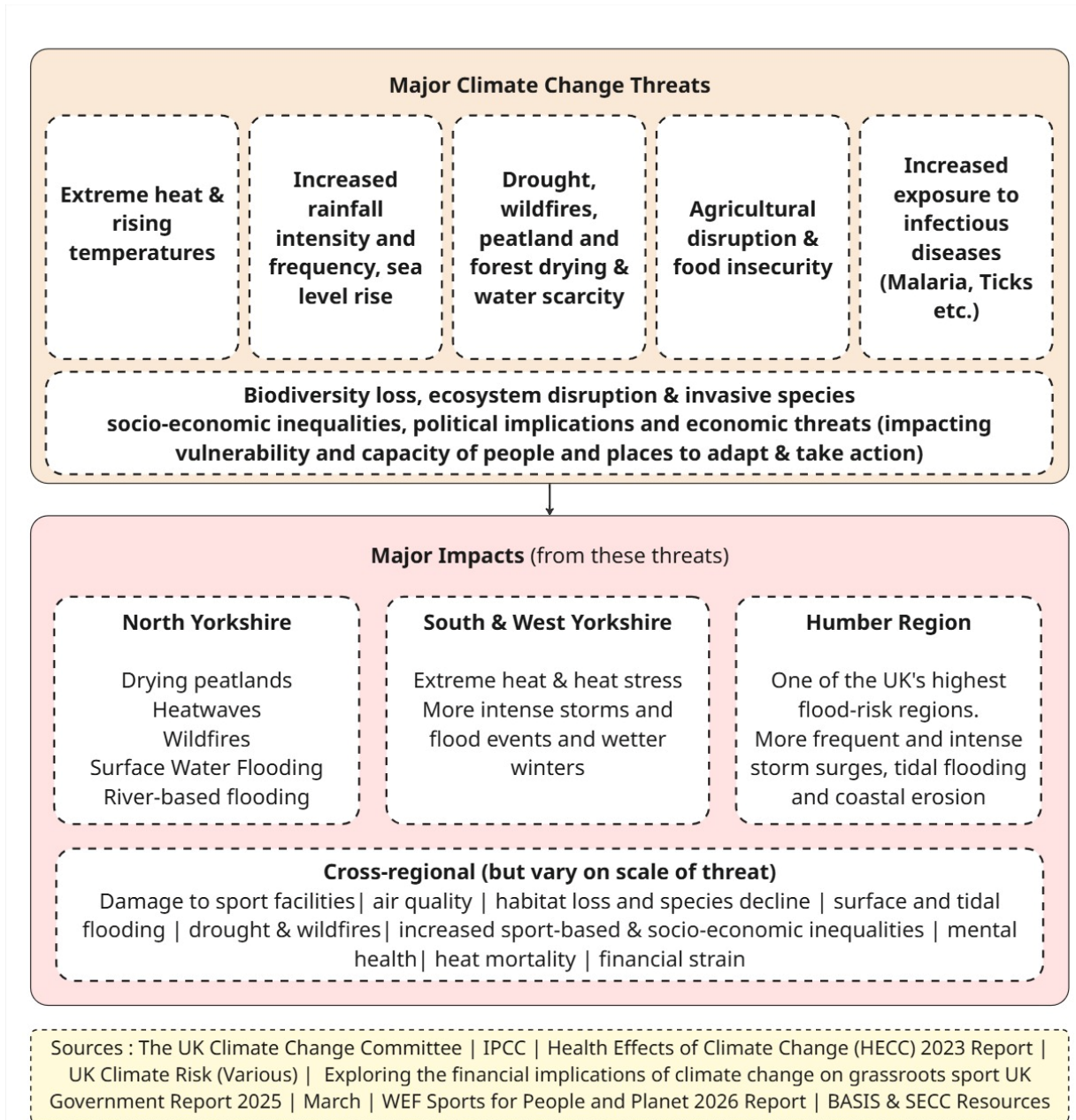
⁶¹ Chalmers, G. (2025, January 23). Battling North Yorkshire football club launches appeal after flooding to "get it back on its feet." Harrogate Advertiser. <https://www.harrogateadvertiser.co.uk/news/people/battling-north-yorkshire-football-club-launches-appeal-after-flooding-to-get-it-back-on-its-feet-4957791>

⁶² UK Climate Resilience Programme (2023) Climate Risk Indicators Tool. University of Reading. <https://uk-cri.org/>

⁶³ Met Office, UKRI, & UK Climate Resilience Programme (2021) Hull Heat Pack. https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/binaries/content/assets/metofficegovuk/pdf/research/spf/ukcr_heat_pack_hull.pdf

⁶⁴ García-Witulski, C., Rabassa, M., Melo, O., & Sarmiento, J. H. (2026) Effects of climate change on physical inactivity: a panel data study across 156 countries from 2000 to 2022. *The Lancet. Global Health*, 14(4), e500–e511. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(25\)00472-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(25)00472-3)

⁶⁵ Schneider, S., & Mücke, H. G. (2021) Sport and climate change—how will climate change affect sport? *German Journal of Exercise and Sport Research* 2021 54:1, 54(1), 12–20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/S12662-021-00786-8>



Climate impacts to sport, movement and physical activity in Yorkshire and the Humber

Threat of Regional Compound Events

Compound Event	Impact on People	Impact on Planet	Impact on Sport
Storm surge + heavy rainfall + high tide (Humber) = Major, unpredictable, fast-onset tidal flooding	Rapid-onset deep flooding, displacement, and health/safety risks in low-lying communities.	Loss/erosion of intertidal habitats and saltmarsh; saline intrusion into soils and freshwater.	Damage/closure of coastal and tidal-water clubs, marinas & access routes; widespread postponements of rowing/sailing/open-water events.
Heatwave + poor air quality / pollen surge = Dangerous heat stress events + respiratory health crises	Higher heat stress; asthma/COPD and cardiovascular flare-ups during hot spells with prolonged pollen seasons and particulate spikes.	Increased ground-level ozone; drought-stressed urban trees and habitats more vulnerable to pests.	Heat-risk rescheduling (earlier/late kick-offs), extra shade/water breaks, reduced training intensity; event warnings for sensitive groups.
River flooding + surface water flooding + sewer overflows = Widespread contaminated flood events (public-health emergencies)	Floodwaters carrying E. coli/waste increase GI and skin-infection risks after storms. Unsafe to use blue systems when contaminated.	Contaminated runoff degrades river ecology and harms freshwater species.	Waterlogged grass pitches/tracks; leisure centres and rivers closed; cancellations for football, athletics, canoeing/rowing.
Drought/heat + peatland drying + wildfire risk = Large, difficult-to-control wildfires on moorlands and peatlands	Smoke exposure; reduced access to moors; increased emergency-service demand in dry spells	Dry peat flips from carbon sink to source; loss of bog-dependent species (eg, Askham Bog)	Moorland closures and trail/race cancellations (fell running, hiking, MTB); longer recovery closures to protect habitats, loss of access to nature and outdoors.
Coastal Erosion + Sea-Level Rise + Storminess = Permanent loss of coastline + chronic coastal flooding	Property loss, repeated disruption in coastal towns; rising insurance and relocation pressures.	Retreat of soft coasts/dunes; "coastal squeeze" on intertidal ecosystems.	Loss of coastal access points, paths and cycleways; harbour/marina damage affecting sailing and coastal events.
Extreme rainfall winter + hot/dry summer ("whiplash") = Landscape instability + seasonal disruption + crop failure	Food-supply volatility; rural livelihoods stressed after the wettest winter in ~150 years followed by summer heat.	Winter erosion/compaction, summer desiccation; degraded catchments amplifying later floods.	Prolonged pitch closures from waterlogging, then turf die-back/cracking; higher maintenance costs and lost play hours.

Possible compound events and the impact on sport, movement and active lifestyles



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