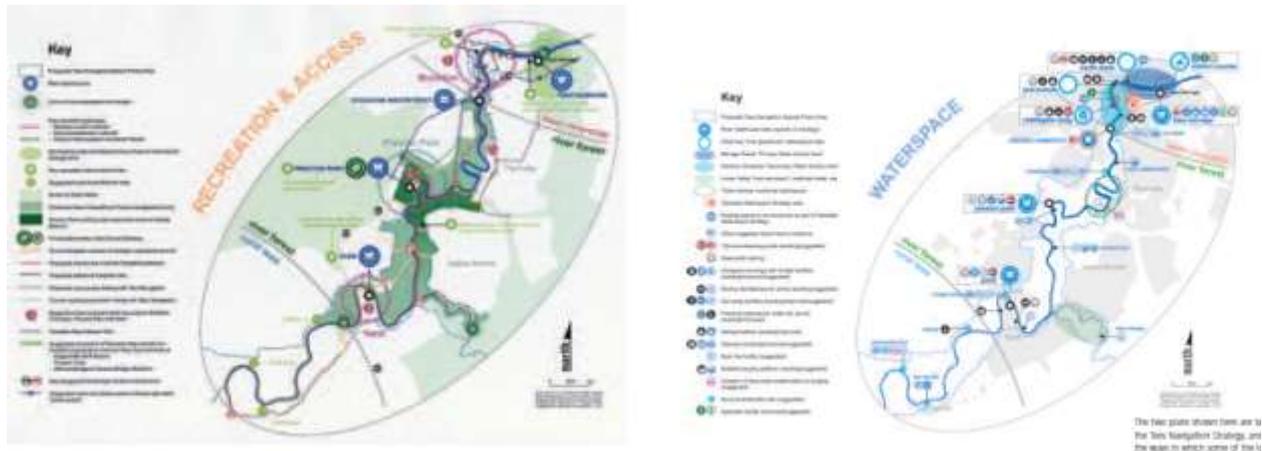


# AINA CASE STUDY

## PLACE MAKING AND SHAPING

### River Tees Navigation Strategy



#### ***Ambitious plans for the waterway corridor were prepared following construction of the barrage at Stockton-on-Tees***

The Tees Barrage, opened in 1995, impounded Stockton-on-Tees's tidal river channel to allow development of a potentially attractive waterfront by the town centre. In 2000, British Waterways took over responsibility for the barrage, together with management of the Tees Navigation from the Barrage west through the market town of Yarm to Low Worsal – a distance of approximately 13 miles. Although some regeneration work was already underway, British Waterways recognised the need for a waterway corridor study which would fully explore ideas for the Navigation and its surrounds.

A partnership was created with local agencies and authorities and funding contributions towards a full study were agreed. The brief for the Tees Navigation Strategy required a survey of the waterway corridor, a review of existing plans, and options to show how improved access to and on the water would help bring new life to the area. Key issues included new bridge crossings and better links to the town centre and ideas to open up linear access to the riverside.

The study length was varied and included large tracts of brownfield land as well as open countryside and farmland between Stockton and Yarm. Discussions with a wide range of consultees and stakeholders took place at an early stage, and a steering group was established to help guide the work.

A number of related and overlapping strategies were prepared. These included culture and heritage, recreation, and waterspace. Each mapped opportunities and showed how the corridor linked and supported disparate sites and activities, and ideas were prepared in the form of masterplans, sketches and computer generated illustrations. These were scheduled in an action plan, and the report was attractively presented in full colour throughout.

The study took approximately twelve months to complete, and a complimentary study later looked at the tidal Tees between Stockton and Middlesbrough. British Waterways explained: "The Barrage changed the environment but the poor perception of the river remained the same. The Strategy created the vision for the future and helped motivate the key stakeholders, without which we wouldn't now be hosting events like World Cup Waterskiing and the European Dragon Boat Championships."