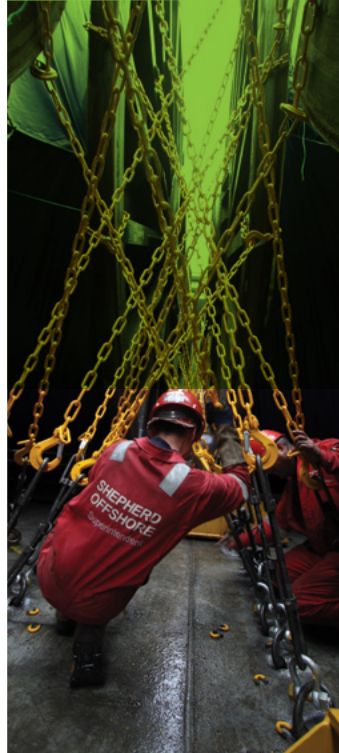


# ENERGY GATEWAY NORTH EAST ENGLAND

invest | north east  
england



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## NORTH EAST ENGLAND THE UK'S MOST ADVANCED OFFSHORE WIND CLUSTER

**With centuries of maritime and engineering heritage coupled with a thirst for technological innovation, North East England has been pioneering advances in the offshore energy sector for decades. With its three ports on the Rivers Blyth, Tyne and Wear teeming with prime quayside development opportunities and facilities, it's easy to see why more and more companies are choosing to make this corner of England their gateway to the North Sea offshore energy market.**

The North East's offshore wind cluster is home to businesses that serve global markets and the cluster is growing. Equinor and SSE Renewables – two of the companies behind the world's biggest offshore wind farm, Dogger Bank – have opened a new O&M base at the Port of Tyne. Siemens Energy, Smulders Projects UK, A+P Tyne, Tekmar, SMD, JDR Cables, Metec UK, Osbit, Baker Hughes, Endiprev and Muehlhan Wind Services are just some of the other world-renowned companies based in our region.

The region has numerous deepwater facilities that are suitable for the full range of offshore wind industry requirements, from the manufacture of foundations, jackets, cables, blades and other key components, to the siting of O&M facilities.





## WHY LOCATE IN NORTH EAST ENGLAND?

### Location

North East England is strategically positioned to access major offshore wind developments in the North Sea basin, such as Dogger Bank, Hornsea and Firth of Forth. 80% of all UK wind farms are reachable within a 24 hour vessel time and the world's largest wind farm, Dogger Bank, is under construction just 80 miles off the North East coast.

Many businesses have chosen the North East as their base for the North Sea wind farms, such as Van Oord's marshalling base, and Equinor and SSE's O&M facility, which are both on riverside sites on the Port of Tyne, while RWE's construction base is at the Port of Blyth.

### Innovation and R&D facilities

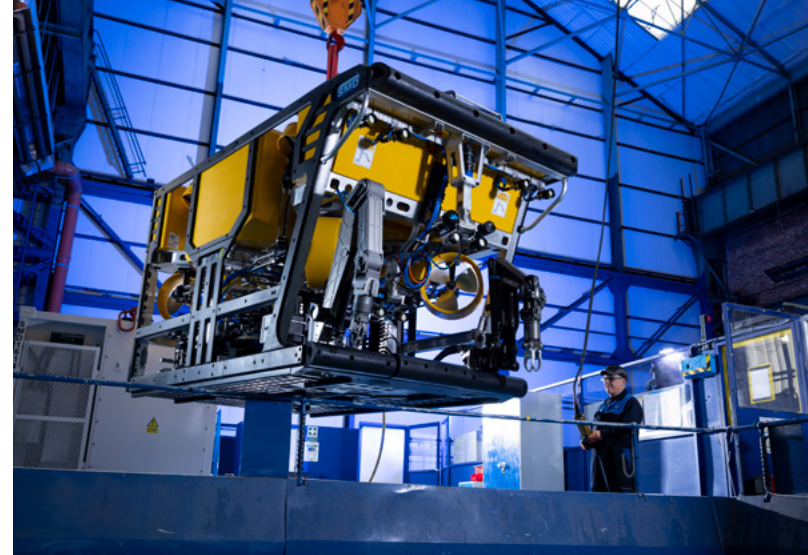
There are major opportunities for innovation and collaboration with a growing cluster of world-leading offshore manufacturing businesses. Research and technology organisations including Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult; Digital, Autonomous, Robotics Engineering Centre (DARE); CPI – part of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult; Tyne Pressure Testing; and the region's five universities provide unparalleled expertise and support in the development of clean technologies.

### Supply chain

The North East has an established supply chain serving the offshore wind industry, from cable manufacturing, subsea technology and foundations to transition pieces, towers and extensive O&M facilities.

### Port infrastructure

Three major rivers provide excellent exporting capabilities and access to global markets. The Ports of Blyth, Tyne and Sunderland each have outstanding transport and logistics infrastructure and sites for the manufacturing of large-scale components, as well as for the construction, deployment and O&M bases for wind farms in the North Sea. Our ports are also looking towards a greener and more sustainable future, with investment into electric cranes and alternative marine fuels.



### Skills and workforce

The North East has a highly skilled workforce, renowned for its exceptional productivity and loyalty, with nearly 57,000 advanced manufacturing and engineering workers in the region. With 110,000 employees in the wider manufacturing sector and more than 124,000 students across five world-leading universities, North East England offers a wealth of talent and a growing pipeline of skilled workers.

### Development sites

Businesses can choose from an extensive portfolio of high-quality industrial development sites with direct quayside access to deep water. Many of the sites are included in the North East Investment Zone, with a range of tax and capital co-investment fund benefits. Other financial incentives are also available from the region's array of investment grants for inward investors.

### Connectivity

Businesses located in the North East benefit from excellent connectivity, with an international airport, an exceptional national rail network, strategic road network and the largest rapid transit system outside London, the Tyne and Wear Metro, allowing seamless movement throughout the region and the UK.

Technological developments in 5G, local networks, and IoT have enabled North East port operators to benefit from more informed, data-led decisions, and better manage their resources.

# SKILLS AND TRAINING

A highly skilled talent pool of workers makes North East England a prime location for investors.



## Skills

North East England has a highly skilled workforce, which is renowned for its exceptional productivity and loyalty. The region has nearly 57,000 advanced manufacturing and engineering employees and 110,000 working in wider manufacturing roles. We have one of the UK's lowest labour turnover rates and offer exceptional specialist training facilities for investors to access.

## Heritage

The region is steeped in hundreds of years of engineering tradition with universities and colleges specialising in new and innovative engineering practices to equip workers with the skills they need. There are over 124,000 students studying across five world-leading universities, creating a pipeline of talent for new roles.

## Expertise

The region's universities and colleges are essential partners in the offshore energy sector and many have a worldwide reputation for outstanding maritime training. They have research and technology expertise in a vast range of relevant fields such as marine engineering, design technology, offshore wind engineering, data analytics and energy efficiency.

## Research

Our higher education institutions work hand-in-hand with our energy and engineering companies to drive forward cutting-edge sector research. Durham Energy Institute, for example, has a strategic partnership with Ørsted, the world's leading offshore wind developer. It provides academic expertise and access to data and funding in research areas such as renewables generation and carbon capture and storage.

## Training providers

This training excellence is enhanced by several world-renowned private sector training providers in the region, including Port Training Services (PTS), Maersk Training, 3t and TDR.





# EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY WORKING TOGETHER

Our businesses, colleges and universities have been training world-class talent for decades.

Established partnerships between education and industry give students the real-world experience they need to step into a variety of offshore energy roles.

## Newcastle College

Newcastle College's Energy Academy offers qualifications and apprenticeships up to degree level in energy technology, manufacturing and maintenance. Learners have access to the world's most advanced Immersive Hybrid Reality (iHR) offshore wind training facility. The Academy is just a few hundred metres from the Tyne and works in partnership with businesses to shape its curriculum, giving learners the skills that employers need.

## Energy Central Campus

Energy Central Campus located at the Port of Blyth, is a flagship facility, further strengthening the area's leading role in driving the clean energy revolution with state-of-the-art industrial training, education and STEM related skills facilities.

## Northumberland Welding and Fabrication Technical Training Centre

Northumberland Welding and Fabrication Technical Training Centre equips students leaving school with the skills they need to kickstart their career in advanced manufacturing, engineering, construction, marine and clean energy sectors. Welding short courses for adults, bespoke packages for employers looking to upskill workforce and apprenticeship training programmes are also available.



## Port Training Services (PTS)

Port Training Services (PTS) is the training division of the Port of Blyth and provides first-class training to companies and individuals operating in offshore energy and renewables, port and marine sectors. As part of its offer – a first for the UK wind industry – the facility features a modified, former operational wind turbine for practical training alongside a dedicated training centre with modern classrooms and facilities. The turbine features a duplicate nacelle unit designed for safe training at height with the original nacelle located at ground level for technical training.

## South Shields Marine School

South Shields Marine School, an OPITO approved training centre, has a worldwide reputation for outstanding maritime training.

## Maersk Training

Maersk Training provides training services to maritime and offshore energy production industries worldwide. The company offers maritime, oil and gas, wind, and crane operations training services. It also provides training services in survival, safety and security, people skills, and human resources.

## 3t Training Services

3t Training Services delivers world-class specialist training for the offshore oil and gas, wind energy and industrial sectors. From their state-of-the-art industrial training facilities in North Tyneside, 3t offers a comprehensive portfolio of mandatory and optional skills, competency and safety courses endorsed by the world's leading trade associations.

## TDR Training and Apprenticeships

TDR offers training and apprenticeships for the offshore energy industry in engineering and manufacturing, including fabrication and welding. Recently they have supported Smulders Projects with their first intake of Fabricator Apprentices.

## R&D AND INNOVATION

**North East England has always been known for cutting-edge innovation in marine engineering and offshore energy. It is leading the world in developing innovative solutions to overcome the issues when exploiting new offshore wind and oil and gas resources in more challenging environments.**

Particular strengths lie in the development of new technologies in subsea engineering in areas such as new cables, umbilicals, flexible pipes, ROVs, subsea ploughs and tractors.

In-house innovation and R&D is flourishing in companies such as Baker Hughes, Technip FMC, Bel Valves, SMD, Osbit and Royal IHC.

Businesses here can also make use of the world-leading R&D and testing assets in the region.

### **Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult**

The UK's flagship renewable energy technology innovation and research centre is a unique facility, located at Blyth, which offers the most comprehensive open access and independent test and research facilities anywhere in the world.

It is capable of testing the world's largest wind turbines and longest wind turbine blades, testing blades up to 150m and drive trains up to 23MW. Recently announced investment of £86million into the facility will expand its testing capabilities to test blades up to 180m and drive trains up to 28MW.

ORE Catapult houses the Technology Development Centre (TDC) that will provide testing, validation and demonstration capabilities for small and medium sized companies working on products and services for the offshore wind industry.

It is also home to the Digital, Autonomous and Robotics Engineering Centre (DARE) which is a centre of excellence for robotic innovations and is the first of its kind in the UK. The DARE Centre includes a robotics assembly bay, an airborne robotics test zone, three dry docks with 20,000m<sup>3</sup> capacity and test control rooms linked to the docks via a live environment monitoring system.

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**ORE Catapult offers a wide range of test and validation facilities, including market-leading wind turbine testing and an offshore demonstration zone.**

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### **Tyne Pressure Testing**

Tyne Pressure Testing brings together industry and academia to create a world class national centre for offshore and subsea engineering research and testing. It is aimed at developing new technologies using the unique array of six hyperbaric chambers and environmental test facilities, which are capable of testing technologies and materials at temperatures and pressures equivalent to those found at the very deepest ocean depths – up to 6,000m.

### **Maritime 2050 Innovation Hub**

The UK's first 2050 Maritime Innovation Hub is an exciting partnership with Port of Tyne, Drax, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (ORE), Nissan, Connected Places Catapult, Accenture, Royal HaskoningDHV, Ubisoft and the Department for Transport.

It inspires partners to collaborate to develop solutions to technological challenges facing the maritime sector and the wider logistics industry both nationally and globally.

As the UK builds on its clean growth commitments, North East England is in a prime position to support investors in developing and delivering new technologies and solutions to drive forward green economic growth.



## SUPPLY CHAIN

The North East has an established supply chain serving the offshore wind industry, from cable manufacturing, subsea technology and foundations to transition pieces, towers and extensive O&M facilities.

Companies span all key areas including R&D, engineering design and project management, major fabrication, installation and decommissioning, and operations and maintenance facilities and services.

Supply chain companies are supported by a number of key industry bodies:



### Energi Coast

Promotes the capabilities of regional companies in servicing the offshore renewables markets in the UK, Europe and across the globe.



### NOF

Actively works with its members to help them win new business. Their services ensure members have access to new opportunities both in the UK and internationally, provides industry intelligence, encourages networking and makes key sector introductions.



### Global Underwater Hub

Based on the Tyne, the hub represents the diverse range of businesses operating in the UK's £8billion underwater industry. It facilitates cross-collaboration and growth across the underwater industry, which comprises offshore energy, aquaculture, defence, telecoms and subsea minerals.

## CONNECTIVITY

North East England offers exceptional market access to the wind developments in the North Sea including Dogger Bank, Sofia, Hornsea and Firth of Forth. **80% of all UK wind farms are reachable within a 24 hour vessel time and the world's largest wind farm, Dogger Bank, is under construction just 80 miles off the North East coast.**

The region is home to three major sea ports – Port of Tyne, Port of Sunderland and Port of Blyth. All of the ports offer excellent road and rail infrastructure links along with state-of-the-art logistics and freight solutions to support companies in the offshore energy sector.

We are served by Newcastle International Airport and fantastic rail and road networks.

You can be in London, Paris or Amsterdam in around an hour by air, or reach the capital in under three hours by train. The region also has a daily flight to Dubai, connecting us to the Middle and Far East.

Workers enjoy low commute times and some of the least congested roads in the UK. We are also home to the Tyne and Wear Metro, the UK's largest rapid transport system outside of London, with 60 stations providing speedy access to Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland and our beautiful coastline.

The region's key offshore development sites and industrial estates are close to major highways, connecting companies to their suppliers and end-users. The A1M and A19 strategic routes provide fast access to the national highway network to the north and south, enabling supply chain companies to serve manufacturers across the UK.

By sea	
10h	Dogger Bank Wind Farm Project
11h	Firth of Forth Wind Farm Project
21h	Rotterdam
25h	Amsterdam
25h	Esjberg
27h	Bremerhaven

By train	
1h 23m	Edinburgh
2h 22m	Manchester
2h 36m	London
2h 52m	Birmingham
3h 57m	Aberdeen

By road	
2h 30m	Edinburgh
2h 45m	Manchester
3h 15m	Birmingham
4h 45m	Aberdeen
5h 30m	London

By air	
1h	Aberdeen
1h 20m	London
1h 20m	Amsterdam
1h 20m	Stavanger
1h50m	Paris

## KEY SITES

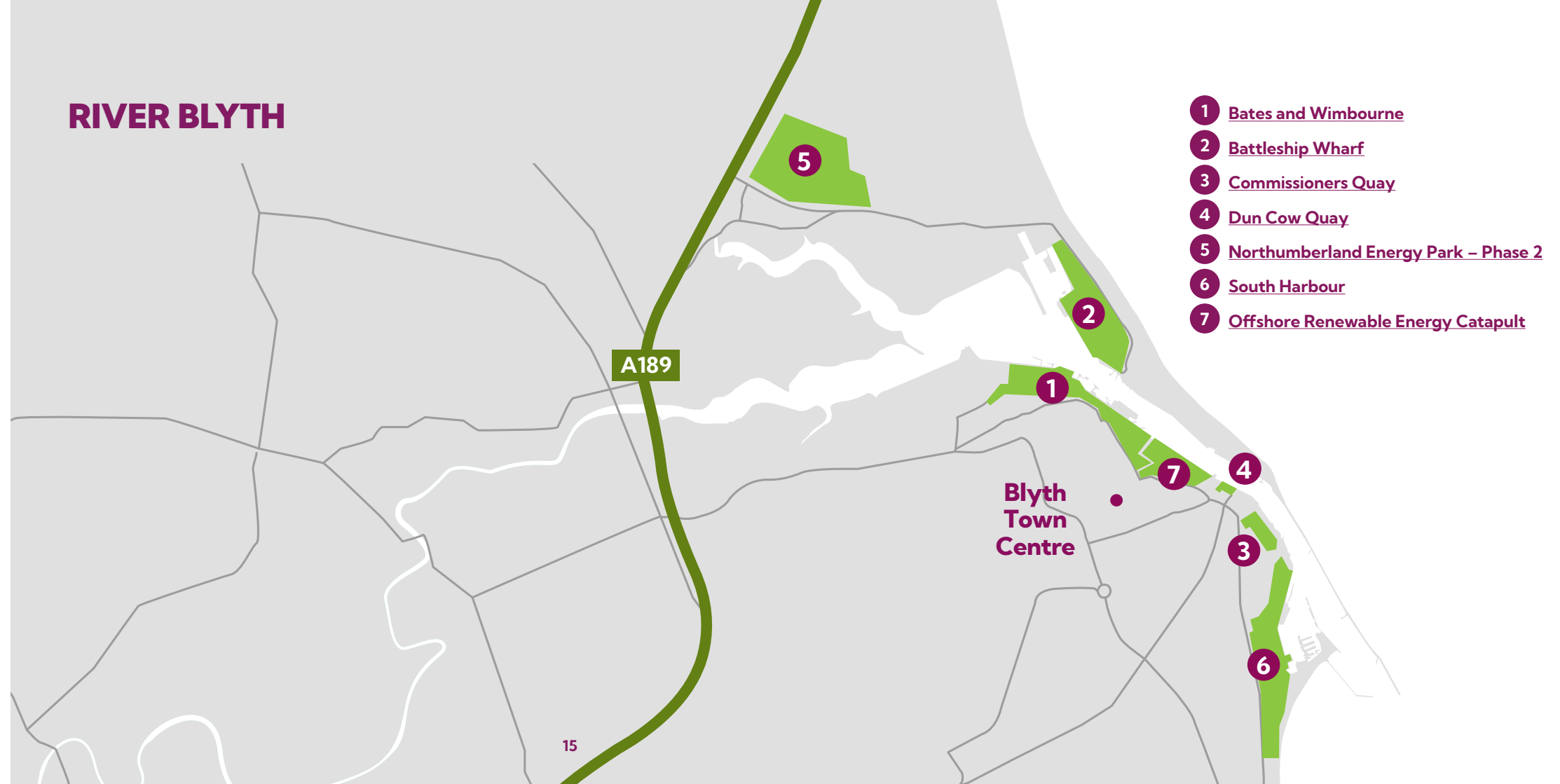
The region offers investors strategic development sites that are focused on net zero and the offshore sector.

With more than 170ha of key riverside development land at 20 separate sites, and over 7km of quay next to deep water to 13m, there is a fantastic portfolio of property solutions for businesses of all sizes.

Many development sites across the region offer incentives to businesses choosing to locate here.

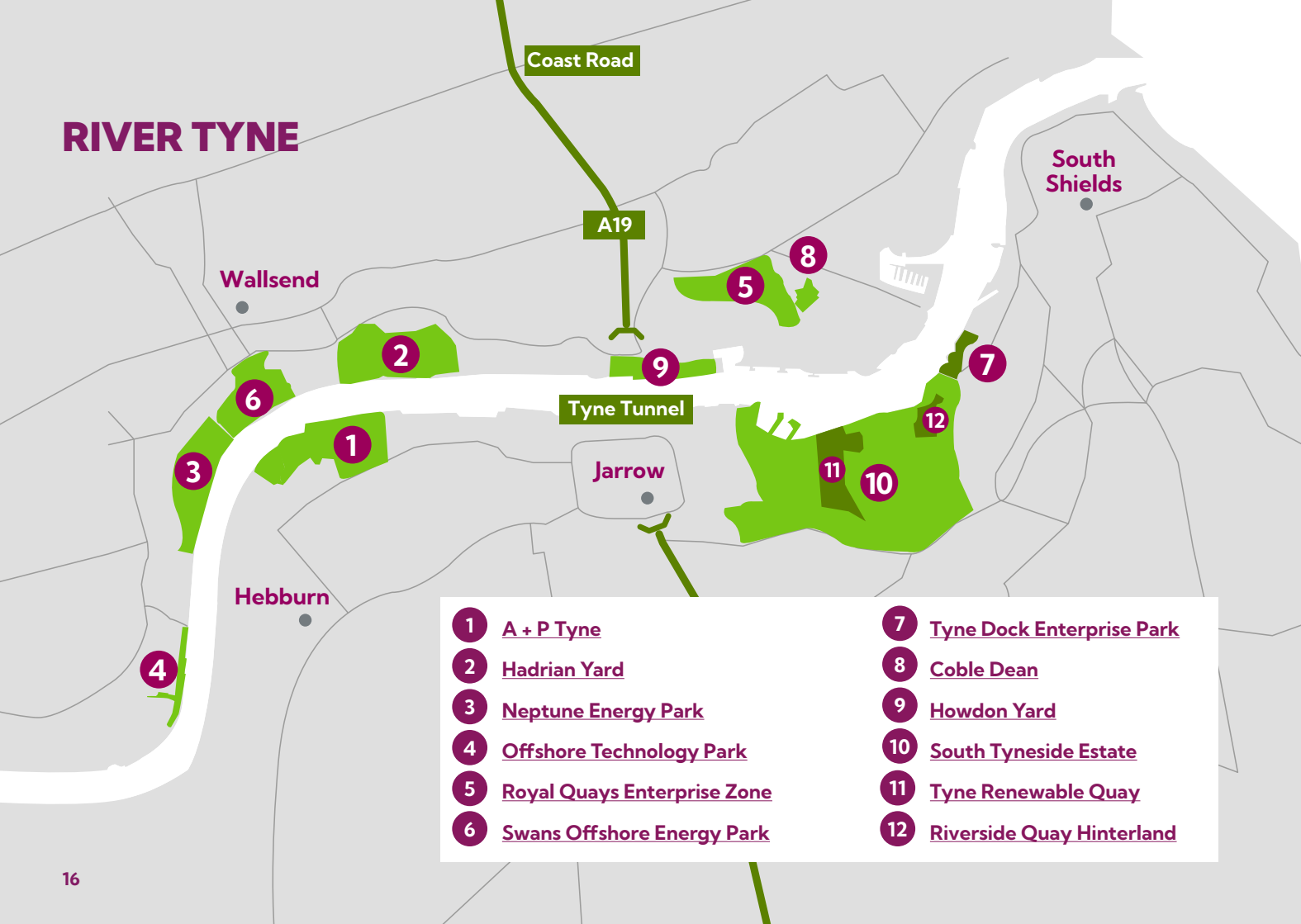
For example, the River Tyne Economic Corridor and Blyth Energy Central are part of the North East Investment Zone which offers a range of financial benefits including tax incentives and capital co-investment funds.

## RIVER BLYTH





## RIVER TYNE



- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 A + P Tyne                  | 7 Tyne Dock Enterprise Park  |
| 2 Hadrian Yard                | 8 Coble Dean                 |
| 3 Neptune Energy Park         | 9 Howdon Yard                |
| 4 Offshore Technology Park    | 10 South Tyneside Estate     |
| 5 Royal Quays Enterprise Zone | 11 Tyne Renewable Quay       |
| 6 Swans Offshore Energy Park  | 12 Riverside Quay Hinterland |

## RIVER WEAR



- 1 Hudson and Hendon Docks
- 2 Greenwells Quay
- 3 Corporation Quay

## HOW INVEST NORTH EAST ENGLAND CAN HELP YOU

**Invest North East England is the strategic inward investment agency for the North East Combined Authority. It is the first point of contact for companies looking to locate and invest in our region.**

Our highly experienced team opens the door for businesses to the region's network of specialist organisations and individuals with the information, support and advice essential for businesses looking to locate in North East England.

Our team has access to the UK Government, support agencies, sector specialists, universities, colleges, knowledge networks, finance streams and business organisations, helping your transition and move to North East England run smoothly.

Our team can help with information on financial incentives which can ensure a faster and more successful relocation to the region. Support is available to both national and international firms of all sizes that are considering a relocation to North East England.



### We provide a range of practical relocation support and advice including:



Advice on the availability of land, property, and the associated costs



HR support, including wage comparisons, training, recruitment and local market information



Information and statistics on the local economy, demographics, infrastructure and labour market



Support for key employees and their families moving to the area



Meetings with key stakeholders as part of organised visits



Introductions to supply chain knowledge networks and technological expertise



Access to finance – guidance on the availability of financial assistance and grants



A Personal Account Manager dedicated to each project, with links to a full aftercare programme

**Want to take the next step in locating or expanding your business in North East England, or just need to find out more?  
Get in touch today.**





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