

# £3.5m for white water course



**The Teesside White Water Course in Stockton will soon undergo a £3.5m upgrade to secure its status as a London 2012 venue.**

The course has been designated a potential Olympic training camp and the improvements will provide it with the capability to host the Olympic canoeing finals.

Regional development agency One NorthEast has approved £2.5m of Single Programme funding alongside £500,000 from Sport England, £350,000 from British Waterways, £100,000 from Stockton Borough Council and £50,000 from Middlesbrough Council which will allow:

- The height of the course's walls to be raised and new features and obstacles added
- A new short course to be built
- The installation of four giant 'Archimedes' screws to pump the course with water when needed. These screws will generate electricity making it the only sustainable white water course in the world.

The Teesside White Water Course is currently tidally driven, which means it can only be used three hours either side of low tide. The improvements will make it the best in the UK and among the top seven in the world.



**Barrage is a big hit:** A record number of 24,500 visitors flocked to the Tees Barrage in August alone to enjoy the picturesque surroundings – up from just below 22,000 for August 2007. This year, the river hosted several high profile watersports events including the launch of the Jet Ski Racing Association's 2008 British Tour and a series of waterskiing competitions including a floodlit night slalom event. Alan Slater, River Manager at British Waterways, said: "The high calibre events on the white water course attracts visitors from far and wide. I see people enjoying the area every day, out jogging, walking, bird watching, fishing or bike riding. I'm delighted so many people are getting out and enjoying this beautiful spot."