



NATURAL ASSETS WORKING GROUP
10am 13/12/17
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park

In attendance	Graham Megson, Hartlepool Borough Council; Simon Blenkinsop, Middlesbrough Council; Fiona Hurworth, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council; Dave Askey, Stockton Borough Council; Martin Allen, independent ecologist; Jeremy Garside, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; Dennis Ncube, TVWT volunteer & post grad in Conservation Ecology
Apologies	INCA rep (all 3 were unable to attend this time but are keen to attend in future), Philip Roxby, Darlington Borough Council
Secretariat	Rachel Murtagh; Tees Valley Nature Partnership Officer

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
NA/01.01.17 Minutes of last meeting	No matters arising.	No action required
NA/02.01.17 Local sites in positive management	All returns are posted on the TVNP website. http://teesvalleynaturepartnership.org.uk/natural-assets/local-wildlife-and-geological-sites-in-the-tees-valley/	No action required
NA/03.01.17 New sites, site amendments and potential sites:	New sites: 1. Lower Ormesby Beck consideration for LWS recommended designation. Thanks for information supplied by; Colin Conroy, Graham Megson, Sarah Barry and Amy Carrick. This is part of proposed Ormesby Beck BOA. 2. Durham Tees Valley Airport – Stockton, consideration for LWS. Phase 1 survey for planning application confirms large area of unimproved neutral grassland. Clear evidence. Believed 100ha of the	New Sites: 1. Sufficient evidence for Urban Grassland & Reedbed LWS designation. RM update into standard proforma, produce boundary map and draft letter to TVNP steering group recommending designation of LWS & consideration of wider nature reserve status (fig 1) 2. RM & MA to draft letter & map for TVNP steering group consideration on LWS designation on land identified in planning report. GM to draft letter for SBC local plan

	<p>airport site has this habitat (fig2) This would make it of national significance. Planning allocations exist in this area (shown on fig 2).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Thornaby road verge. Surveyed in July potential neutral grassland designation. 4. Kirkleatham Business park pond. Identified to TVWT by member of the public. <p>Damage/destruction to LWS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wynyard area. Part of Close Wood Complex LWS 'compromised'. Newton Hanzard LWS partially destroyed boundary changed 2016. 2. Upleatham Bridge LWS and Dunsdale Wood Complex LWS. Signs of damage to these habitats. 3. Hartville Meadow LWS – destruction up-date. Designation remains. Natural England have served a screening notice on the site; any further development on the site would need a screening application to Natural England. 	<p>consultation (will be relevant for DBC consultation next year). GM to contact Tees Archaeology regarding ancient field system on the site.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Recommend re-survey in spring 2018. MA? 4. Ian Bond (INCA) to survey spring 2018 <p>Damage/destruction to LWS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GM to work more closely with SBC as well as HBC to ensure consistency across the whole area. 2. FH to clarify boundary of Dunsdale Wood Complex. Circulated 14-12-17. Consensus to monitor site and report back on condition in March meeting. 3. Natural England have invited group/TVNP to be an 'interested party' and as such will invite a submission to Defra on the appeal against the screening notice made by the land manager. We will be contacted in January. RM & JG to draft response & circulate to group for comment/approval.
<p>NA/04.01.17 Review of TV BAP</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short report submitted by JG. Discussion on way forward and need to make the picture a lot clearer for people. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JG agreed to rationalise the existing data – TV BAP list, Teesmouth Bird Club, Bird Species of conservation concern, Section 41/NERC list. By March meeting.
<p>NA/05.01.17 TV Offsetting policy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the TV Local Plans have/will undertake the TVNP Local Plan Assessment for Nature & Biodiversity. All recommended to incorporate into planning policy regard for any forthcoming Tees Valley offsetting policy (agreement) including options for cross boundary strategic mitigation where appropriate. 2. INCA on behalf of the Tees Estuary Partnership (TEP) are currently undertaking research 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed any offsetting guidance needs to be linked to the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. Offsetting opportunities are identified in the statements. Need for an over-arching flow chart on offsetting principals. RM to draft for March meeting. 2. Any detailed work, await the outcomes of the TEP research. 3. GM to keep group informed of national picture.

	<p>into habitat banking and offsetting in the estuary.</p> <p>3. GM noted the outcomes of the national pilots have not been published yet.</p>	
NA/06.01.17 TV Biodiversity indicators	<p>1. Discussion noted the NPPF requirement for Local Plans to identify biodiversity indicators, but that there was little evidence that this was being implemented and NPPF is likely to be reviewed in 2018. Selection of indicators needs to take account of resources required to monitor them.</p>	<p>1. Watching brief on NPPF review.</p>
NA/07.01.17 BOA update	<p>1. East Cleveland maps are being drawn up. Middlesbrough areas identified.</p> <p>2. SB raised that there is a road proposal through Bluebell Beck, this is within the proposed Stainsby & Maltby Becks BOA.</p> <p>3. BOA Statements. Completed for Central Farmland need input for other areas.</p>	<p>1. RM circulate outline map and draft statements to group.</p> <p>2. Watching brief on proposals</p> <p>3. Agreed this group would input into statements. Group will 'sign off' the statements when completed. Proposed these are the main vehicle for identifying off setting opportunities.</p>
NA/08.01.17	<p>1. Proposed national changes to licensing for Great Crested Newts https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-roll-out-of-new-approach-to-great-crested-newt-licensing</p> <p>2. DM, student working with RM hopes to digitise Tees Valley Phase 1 maps. Thanks to INCA for providing Tees Estuary digitised map to build upon.</p> <p>3. http://maps.nls.uk/ MA recommend this site for historic maps.</p> <p>4. LIDAR</p> <p>5. FH will be going on maternity leave in February 2018.</p>	<p>1. GM to keep group informed.</p> <p>2. Agreed to digitise historic data for now rather than update as map is produced. Recommend separate layer for each habitat.</p> <p>3. ...</p> <p>4. MA recommends: https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map and http://environment.data.gov.uk/ds/survey/index.jsp#/survey</p> <p>5. FH to inform group of R&C representative whilst she is on maternity leave. ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP WE ALL WISH HER CONGRATULATIONS!</p>
NA/09.01.17	NEXT MEETING: 10am 14 th March 2018. Cowpen Bewley Woodland Pk	

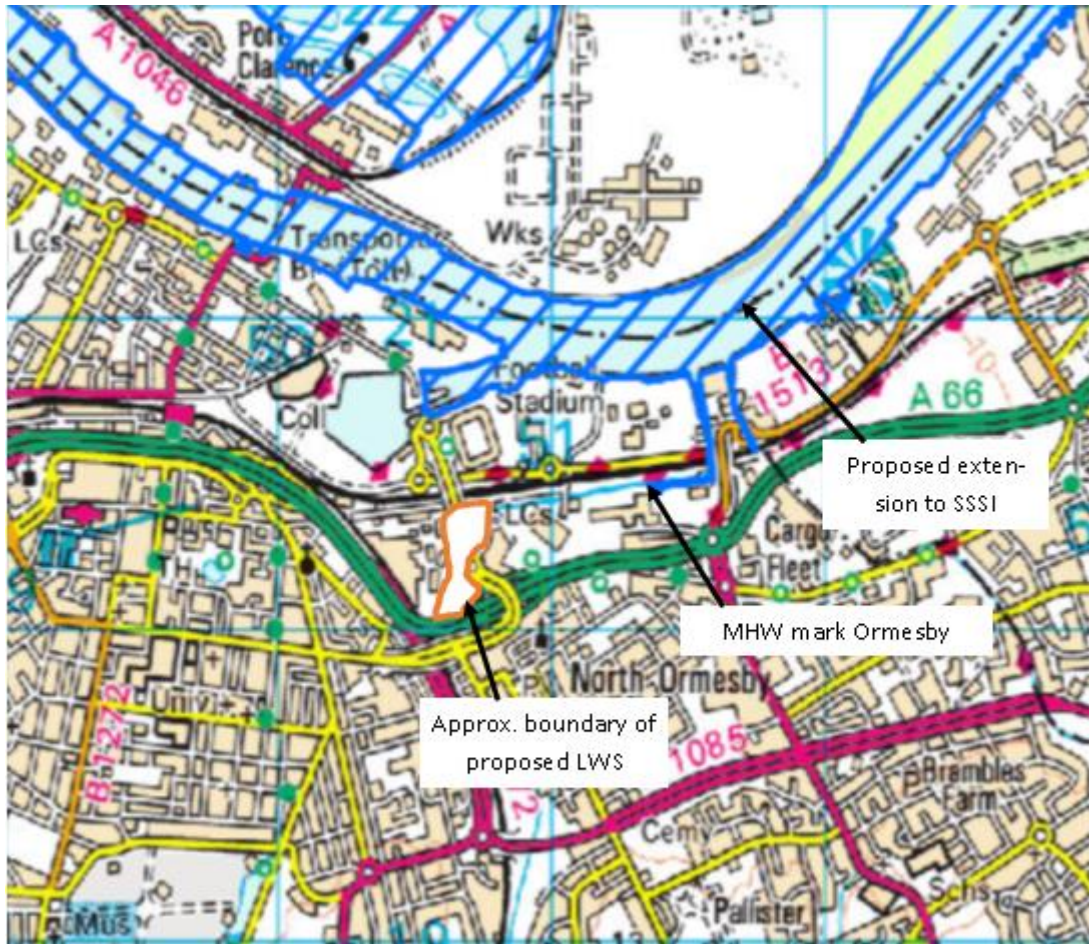


Figure 1: Map showing part of the proposed extension to the existing SSSI

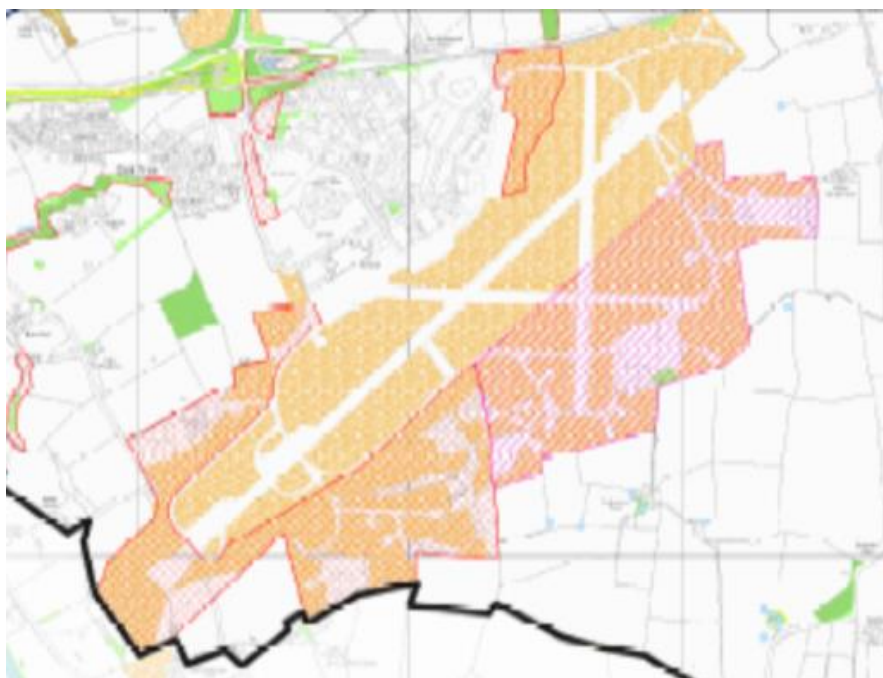


Figure 2: Portion of CF BOA V – Darlington-Stockton track bed to the Tees. Shows the extent of the unimproved neutral grassland (orange) and current development land in Stockton (pink diagonal lines) and priority 'no main habitat but habitat exists' (red cross hatched – predominantly in Darlington portion) <http://teesvalleynaturepartnership.org.uk/resources/natural-networks-opportunity-maps/central-farmland-boas/>