



NATURAL ASSETS WORKING GROUP
10am 14/03/18
Cowpen Bewley Woodland Park

In attendance	Dave Askey, Stockton Borough Council; Martin Allen, independent ecologist; Jeremy Garside, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; Paul Murphy, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council; Mike Leakey, INCA;
Apologies	Graham Megson, Hartlepool Borough Council; Simon Blenkinsop, Middlesbrough Borough Council;
Chair	Philip Roxby, Darlington Borough Council
Secretariat	Rachel Murtagh; Tees Valley Nature Partnership Officer

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
NA/01.01.18 Minutes and Matters arising	Nat Assets 13-12-17 Minuets	Thornaby road verge and Kirkleatham Business Park Pond surveys to be done before next meeting (see minutes)
NA/02.01.18 Local procedure for Local Site designation	Phil put forward amendments to current local procedure. Locally relevant – transparent. No statutory status of NA group or TVNP. Challenge if LA doesn't designate - public enquiry of local plan. If unable to gain access to potential site.	RM circulate Terms of reference of NA group for comment. Once approved by group publish on TVNP website. PR to circulate new procedure for comment. RM to draft initial letter to landowner asking for access, what local site status will mean and data sharing considerations. Should you have information on this site/counter evidence cc LA (from NA group?) Check criteria for selection ensure boundary – RM once process/paper-work agreed send to all local authority Heads of Planning for comment. (please note they raised this at their meeting w/c 12 th March)
NA/03.01.18 New sites, site amendments	No new sites have come forward.	

and potential sites:	Update: Durham Tees Valley Airport: Darlington are awaiting confirmation of new local sites procedure. Stockton are considering at senior management level. Lower Ormesby Beck: tbc in writing from Planning Authority	
NA/04.01.18 Updated Tees Valley BAP	JG has received further input from Tees Rivers Trust and Teesmouth Bird Club (Birds of conservation concern and local significance in the Tees Valley)	JG to circulate up-dated list for comment. RM send approved list to local planning authorities & publish on TVNP website.
NA/05.01.18 government guidelines for designating grassland SSSIs.	http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2303 provisional list of 20 sites from the Tees Valley Pre 1840 grassland 'considered' an ancient grassland. Query NE SSSI status for airport site. Compiled list of provisional sites from the Tees Valley. SSSI status gives greater protection. The government are currently consulting on ' The future for food, farming and the environment ' post Brexit. Ends 8 th May.	RM to put into BOA statements. These are examples of the larger plant communities. MA – put a briefing together for TVNP steering group. RM – to raise on LNP huddle group PR/GM – to raise with his peers to assess wider picture beyond Tees Valley MA to have a workshop/slot at TVNP conference 21 st June. RM – TVNP letter to NE - brought to our attention these LWS meet SSSI status. RM – raise consultation with steering group regarding a partnership response to consultation.
NA/06.01.18 TV Biodiversity Offsetting Policy.	Best biodiversity practice to include: Species rich mown grassland – offsetting priority hectare of these. (protect seed source)	
NA/07.01.18 Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.	Add list of 'ancient meadows' to statements.	RM – circulate East Cleveland statements for comment.
NA/08.01.18 GCN District licensing project update	Strategic offsetting sites	PR - Briefing circulate to group for information.
NA/08.01.18 AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington phase 1 maps digitised. Needs updating. • TVNP Conference 21st June at the Trinity Centre. Middlesbrough 	
Next meeting:	11th June 2018. Time & location likely to be the same.	