

## Review of the Tees Valley BAP - where to now?

### Background

- Biodiversity action planning began with the Convention on Biological Diversity which was resulted from the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.
- A lot of effort subsequently went into the production of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs), comprising Species and Habitat Action Plans.
- The starting point for these was the identification of the habitats and species which merited most conservation effort at a local, national and global scale.
- Effort became concentrated into specific and sometimes isolated activity for individual habitats and species, which worked well for some species and habitats, but less well for others.
- The 2011, natural environment white paper ('The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature') introduced the "ecosystem" (or landscape scale) approach to conservation, arguing that the evidence from the National Ecosystem Assessment and Lawton Review had found the biodiversity approach was too specific, expensive and small-scale.
- In 2012, the government stopped supporting (funding) biodiversity partnerships and introduced Local Nature Partnerships. At the same time, it introduced the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' and dropped the UK BAP.

### Priority Habitats and Species

#### *National*

The basis of the BAP process was the identification of the habitats and species most in need of conservation action. By 2007, the UK BAP had grown a list of 1,150 priority species and 63 priority habitats.

It was recognised that these lists had some value for conservation – particularly in ecological impact assessment work. The UKBAP list was converted to a "statutory list of priority species and habitats in England", under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (England).

The Section 41 list includes 943 species of which 73(?) have been recorded in the Tees Valley and 58 habitats of which 27 relate to the Tees Valley.

#### *Local*

The TVNP website retains a list of priority habitats and species relevant to the Tees Valley. This covers 51 species and 20 habitat types (i.e. fewer than the S41 list). A second list was produced with the Teesmouth Bird Club, which records 77 priority birds (which are almost all on the UK lists of conservation concern).

### Discussion

Is there still any value in having a Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan?

If there is some value to identifying priority habitats and species for the Tees Valley, do we need to do more than use the Section 41 / NERC lists?