



# Tees Valley Nature Partnership

Chair, Tees Valley Nature Partnership,  
C/o Margrove Park Heritage Centre,  
Margrove Park,  
Boosbeck,  
Saltburn-by-the-sea,  
TS12 3BZ.

[teesvalleynaturepartnership.org.uk](http://teesvalleynaturepartnership.org.uk)

01287 636382

Via email: [John.Anderson@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:John.Anderson@darlington.gov.uk)  
Chief Planning Officer,  
Darlington Borough Council

8<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Mr Anderson,

## **Local Sites - recommended additions within Darlington borough**

At the meeting of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership board/steering group on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017 a motion was passed to ratify the following recommendations made by the Natural Assets Working Group (formerly Local Sites Partnership) of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

- Inclusion of new Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Durham Tees Valley Airport Grassland GR: NZ374131. A map and description accompany this letter.

This recommendation follows evidence supplied by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd in support of a planning application to Stockton Borough Council. The criteria has been met for G1 Neutral Grasslands as set out in [Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in the Tees Valley](#).

The Airport site is exceptional and potentially of national significance because of its size. We estimate the total site is around 100ha in size. The Joint Nature Conservancy Council in its guidance for SSSI<sup>1</sup> designation for Lowland Grasslands<sup>2</sup> in respect to neutral grasslands (of which this site is an example) recognise that "individual areas are now small in extent, seldom exceeding 10ha, and are highly fragmented". For the higher level SSSI designation "There should be a general presumption to select sites of 5ha or more...". We would therefore recommend that further surveys are conducted on the remainder of the airport site.

Natural England have been informed that the airport site was put forward for designation as a Local Wildlife Site and have been reminded of the new SSSI criteria for grassland.

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<sup>1</sup> Site of Special Scientific Interest. National suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features.

<sup>2</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-2303#3>



## Tees Valley Nature Partnership

I would be most grateful if you would confirm the inclusion or otherwise of the site into your Local Plan. You may contact Rachel Murtagh, the Tees Valley Nature Partnership Officer directly on [rmurtagh@teeswildlife.org](mailto:rmurtagh@teeswildlife.org)

Thank-you for your continuing support to help create a rich and healthy natural environment in the Tees Valley.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Crawshaw,  
Chair, Tees Valley Nature Partnership  
Built and Natural Environment Manager, Darlington Borough Council

Enc: Map and description of proposed site

An equivalent letter has been sent to:

Stockton Borough Council Strategic Development Manager, [Iain.Robinson@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Iain.Robinson@stockton.gov.uk)

CC: Philip Roxby [Philip.Roxby@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Roxby@darlington.gov.uk)