

16/12/2019

TVNP

NAWG

Local Wildlife Site

- Site name: Hartburn Beck
- OS Nat Grid Ref: NZ374131
- District: Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- Land ownership: Stockton Borough Council
- Qualifying feature: Water vole (*Arvicola amphibious*)
- Tees Valley Nature Partnership Qualifying criteria code: M4
- Most recent site survey date: August 2019
- Recent survey effort and Ecology reports: Research undertaken by Stockton BC (David Askey) and INCA (Ian Bond). Report produced by Ian Bond. Video footage of active water vole taken by Kirsty Pollard of Durham Wildlife Trust in July 2019
- Location of site details and evidence: Stockton BC (c/o David Askey)
- Date of LWS recommendation by Tees Valley Nature Partnership: 18/12/2019
- Recommended management: Minimise disturbance (people, dogs, cats), monitor for American mink, eradicate American mink, maintain high water quality, avoid ground disturbance on banks including upstream, minimise water pollution (e.g. fertiliser input), ensure in-stream works are only undertaken to a 'water vole conservation management plan'.
- Site in positive management: Yes (18/12/2019)

Site boundary.



Site description:

Hartburn Beck and two smaller tributaries support a colony of water voles at the Stockton Borough Council owned Hartburn Fields site (aka The Six Fields). The beck channel has previously been straightened through the main part of the site, although is still subject to seasonal flooding. Several ponds were added in 2018 as part of an Environment Agency

flood alleviation project on the Hartburn Beck / Lustrum Beck catchment. These are included within the LWS boundary.

Recent management history:

Informal footpath alongside a length of the beck moved further away from the watercourse in 2018. Several, variously sized ponds created in 2018. Figure 1 shows the location of the ponds. NB: the southern group of ponds and the extreme three western ones fall outside of the LWS.

Figure 1. Ponds created in 2018.



End