



Natural Assets Working Group Summary Document 10/06/2020

NA/01.02.20 – Minutes and Matters arising.

Review of the last meeting notes: [TVNP NAWG Minutes 11/03/20](#) address outstanding items.

NA/02.02.20 - Update LWS sites:

Proposed site:

1. St Joseph's Cemetery Grassland - update from Jeremy Garside

Outstanding LWS recommendations:

2. South Bank Station Black Path Grassland - update from Fiona Hurworth

Fiona volunteered in the last meeting with finding out the ownership of land along the proposed LWS beside South Bank station, along the Black Path. She found that there are multiple landowners in the area which include:

- Redcar & Cleveland Council
- Arriva Rail North Ltd
- Northern Gas Networks Ltd

A lot of the area is unregistered. However, attached are the land register documents for the areas that are owned which Fiona sent over.

3. Aislaby Grange A67 road verge Grassland – update from Martin Allen

Martin visited on Thursday the 5th June

Aislaby Grange A67 Road Verge was very closely and neatly mown when I visited and I suspect this management is carried out by Wilkinsons in respect of their business – I'm not going to be able to survey the grasses until that changes (photo attached). Previous survey 2 grasses and 10 herbs.

On the subject of road verges generally, I found out the cut and collect machine that Dorset Council are using and it costs approx. £40,000 [here](#) and there is a .pdf presentation on the money they save due to a change in their road verge maintenance [here](#) (which I covered in a blog [here](#)). I know we have anaerobic digesters locally – is there a chance that road verge clippings could be sent to them by councils or would that be too expensive? Otherwise I think there is now sufficient info. to instigate/trial changes on urban/suburban road verges locally. Currently Middlesbrough may well be the best bet for this as their Mayor is wanting to do groundbreaking 'green projects'.



4. Stainton Way Grassland – Update from Martain Allen

I have attached information for the proposed LWS at Stainton Way in Middlesbrough for discussion next time we meet.

I haven't carried out a full botanical survey on the site but have looked only for qualifying species to make it quicker to complete the survey. It is a long site so sometimes species are widely scattered, but the area marked makes a coherent whole when visited. The road verges to the east and west at either end of the proposed site not being of high enough species diversity though have similar management at the moment.

I have assumed that it is owned by Middlesbrough Council but that needs Simon to confirm. It also is of sufficient size to meet the general G1 designation and so I have listed that rather than the alternative road verge designation U3 (G1).

I thought last year that the other end of Stainton Way near to the A174/Low Lane might meet the criteria but I visited on Friday and it didn't have enough species – still a good bit of grassland full of buttercups and contributing to the biodiversity of the area.

5. Hardwick Dene Grassland – Update from Martin Allen

Martin visited on Thursday the 5th June

The Hardwick Dene Grassland was mown but I found 2 grasses (a third is possible and likely) and 9 herbs including Pepper-saxifrage. As the site is not under threat until we can cut and remove grass I'm not sure the management matters hugely here so long as it continues as it is currently which is regularly mown (photo attached).

6. Greystones A174 central reservation Grassland – Update from Martin Allen

Martin visited on Thursday the 5th June

Greystones A174 Central Reservation I can revisit to check for later flowering species, but it currently it doesn't meet the urban grassland category with approx. 8 species nor does it meet the requirement for neutral grassland of being a recognisable grassland community but it did have 2 grasses and 10 herbs from the list. I thought the plant community would be appropriate as an example of how industrial estate landscaping in the estuary area could be visually distinctive & also low maintenance/high biodiversity (photo attached).

Outstanding LWS recommendations for next meeting:

1. Blackwell Grange Golf Course
2. Billingham Beck Saltmarsh North
3. *Brass Castle Lane Grassland*



NA/03.02.20 - Reviewing the priorities document drawn up from the last NAWG meeting

Attached is the priorities document which encompasses the priorities decided from discussions in the last meeting and in emails between that meeting and this document being sent. Please send any comments or amendments on this document to [Louise Richards](#).

NA/04.02.20 - Presentation from Rachel Murtagh

A presentation on the Natural Capital account from Rachel Murtagh is attached.

NA/05.02.20 – Update on the effect of COVID-19

The Wildlife Trust offices remain closed due to lockdown restrictions, whilst these may be open it is possible that these meetings may have to continue virtually for a little while longer.

NA/05.02.20 - AOB

Any comments on the above, and/or attached documents please send to [Louise Richards](#)

If the proposal needs more info then let us know by emailing [Louise](#).

Date, time & location of next meeting: 9th September TBC