



**NAWG Minutes**  
**10/03/2021**  
**Zoom**

<b>Attending</b>	<b>Fiona Hurworth</b> Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council; <b>Dave Askey</b> Stockton Borough Council; <b>Martin Allen</b> independent ecologist; <b>Rachel Murtagh</b> TVNP; <b>Tom Stephenson</b> Hartlepool Council; <b>Paul Stevens</b> ERIC; <b>Annemarie Mehl</b> Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; <b>Ambroise Baker</b> Teesside University; <b>Jean Joy</b> Teesside University; <b>Simon Blenkinsop</b> Middlesbrough Council
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Ed Rollason</b> Teesside University; <b>Mike Leaky</b> INCA;
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Jeremy Garside</b> Tees Valley Wildlife Trust
<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Louise Richards</b> , Tees Valley Nature Partnership

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>NA/01.04.20</b>	Jeremy Garside Introduced Annemarie Mehl, Nature Recovery Strategy Officer and Jean Joy to the group.  Annemarie is employed through Climate Action Middlesbrough to prepare plans for Nature Recovery and Natural Solutions to Climate Change. Although this is focussed on Middlesbrough, it is hoped this will be a pilot for similar plans across the Tees Valley.	
<b>NA/02. 04.20</b> Minutes	Minutes accepted from the last meeting. All matters arising addressed in the agenda.	
<b>NA/03.04.20</b> Tees valley mapping	Update from <b>PS</b> on the phase 1 mapping service.  Jean joined ERIC at the start of February and has been doing work in the background looking at how to update the habitat maps.  Have a document from natural England living maps who have a methodology for habitat mapping. Jean is taking this methodology to use in the Tees valley area. Using the 1980s habitat map that Paul has been digitising.  Using a pilot area between Guisborough and Redcar which showed that the Living maps method doe seem to work. Couple of issues, different data and software used in the living maps method.  Limitations - can't guarantee 100% accuracy, broad habitat classification, availability of cloud free satellite	<b>PS</b> Continuing to work on the target notes at the moment and will hopefully get these to the group soon. Once they are completed will share these as a shape file/pdf.  <b>AB</b> to send CEH mapping to <b>JJ</b> , will also help with R code and can provide high powered computers from the University for Jean to use.  <b>JJ</b> to ask EA about how the Natural capital atlases can these be integrated with this mapping

<sup>1</sup> TVNP is hosted by, and accountable to Tees Valley Wildlife Trust registered charity # 511068 and as such any financial transactions are regulated by the Charity Commission

	<p>images, training data</p> <p>Difficulties - Ecognition software not available for segmentation, R code issues, processing time for large areas, lack of clarity in living maps document.</p> <p>Positives - in contact with Natural England team.</p> <p>TVWT have detailed survey data which they can provide from <b>MA</b> for Lazenby Bank, which is in the pilot area.</p>	
<b>NA/04.04.20</b> Student placement	Summer internship now not possible on the funding scheme it was originally planned for, but could look at other funding streams.	<b>RM &amp; AB</b> to progress conversation about summer placement.
<b>NA/05.04.20</b> LNRS's	<p><b>RM</b> gave an update on the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS's).</p> <p>Paul from the records centre working with the LNRS's team so has up to date information on the process.</p> <p>Is looking likely to be mayoral authority based so trying to get TVCA involved.</p>	
<b>NA/06.04.20</b> Plan for upcoming year	<p>Want to ensure the meeting is useful and is keeping up with ongoing work and helping group achieve work objectives.</p> <p>One of our focuses has been Local Site selection and designation, <b>JG</b> would like to see more about site management.</p> <p>Have also been reacting in Local Plan timescales rather than preparing and maintaining up-to-date site information on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>MA</b> has been looking at Magic layer and about 50% of grassland sites now not meeting the quality for which they were designated due to lack of management or inappropriate habitat (e.g. tree planting, mowing etc.)</p> <p>There are also many sites that are not mapped despite the data having been passed on.</p> <p>Can we have a check box to ensure planning look at the LWS layer or have LWS layer attached.</p> <p><b>FH</b> a GIS risk layer that you could add to a map would be really useful, particularly a web hosted one which everyone could access.</p> <p><b>TS</b> could we use this group to centralise information, i.e. make a document that councils can refer to when they don't have an ecologist to do this. A checklist/design guide (for example appropriate selection and siting of bat boxes) would be a really useful resource.</p>	

<p><b>NA/07.04.20</b> Update on LWS's</p>	<p><i>Update on proposed LWS sites:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. St Joseph's Cemetery Grassland <b>RM</b> this is progressing, have written a letter and will fast-track this.</li> </ol> <p><i>Outstanding LWS recommendations:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <a href="#">South Bank Station</a> Black Path Grassland <b>FH</b> there is a part where the council doesn't know who owns it, has contacted Network Rail but no response yet. <b>MA</b> will prepare maps and species criteria so that the next meeting can consider whether the site might be selected as a whole or in part.</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Aislaby Grange</a> A67 road verge Grassland <b>MA</b> new access road for airport is looking to go through this road verge. Would need the area to be left uncut so before a survey could determine whether sufficient species are present for LWS selection.</li> <li>4. <a href="#">Bishopsgarth Grassland</a> (Hardwick Dene Grassland) <b>DA</b> quite a big site, not just the portion <b>MA</b> has highlighted. Best way forward might be to draw a bigger line around the site, it does have a play area in the middle, although this need not be an issue. <b>DA</b> was satisfied that the area is not under threat (in SBC control) and that the ecological interest could be incorporated into plans for the area as these become available.</li> <li>5. <a href="#">Greystones A174</a> central reservation grassland. Site managers (Sir Robert McAlpine) are supportive of managing and protecting the site and had sought Biodiversity Road Scheme Funding. No recent news on this. <b>JG</b> will maintain watching brief and report back in due course.</li> <li>6. Blackwell Grange Golf Course – <b>on hold</b></li> <li>7. <a href="#">Stainton Way</a> Grassland <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Update from <b>MA</b> Should be ready to go, has been to steering group.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. Brass Castle Lane Grassland <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. On hold pending further visits from <b>MA &amp; SB</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>Other Sites</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Naisberry Quarry <b>MA</b> was a report that this no longer has what it is designed for, could be deselected. Do we deselect it and then go through selection process. <b>TS</b> reported that a development for the site had outline permission and would include mitigation relating to the LWS designation. It would therefore be best to leave the designation in place until this had been agreed. The value of the wider site could then be assessed and re-considered.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. <b>FH</b> to send <b>MA</b> info on council ownership of this area, will be progressed next meeting.</li> <li>3. <b>DA</b> to speak to programme coordinator to see who is cutting this and if this is the garden centre will talk to them. Will then also check this with sight lines.</li> <li>4. On hold until further information is available.</li> <li>5. On hold until further information is available.</li> <li>6. Take this off the list for now until we can get an update</li> <li>7. <b>RM</b> will ensure information goes to Middlesbrough planners. <b>SB</b> to be copied in.</li> <li>8. On hold until spring/summer for survey</li> </ol>
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	<p>2. Bluebell Beck</p> <p><b>MA</b> had looked at the Stainsby Masterplan and found a number of positives for biodiversity. He had also submitted queries and recommendations to the planners.</p>	
<p><b>NA/08.04.20</b> AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Middlesbrough green-blue infrastructure consultation draft published, looks positive.</li> <li>- <b>DA</b> a development site at Whitehouse farm, Ingleby Barwick had identified a GCN pond / adjacent terrestrial habitat. Guidelines would indicate that this should be designated as LWS. It was agreed that the site would be secured on the basis of legal protecting for GCN. Also, that the group might want to reconsider this criteria on the basis of District Level Licencing which is enabling restoration of gcn populations to the wider countryside for which continuing LWS selection might be inappropriate.</li> <li>- <b>FH</b> had attended the District level licencing seminar for NE Yorkshire and asked if TVWT had received info on this. <b>JG</b> wanted to submit a query on Carlin Howe Farm and would copy <b>FH</b> into his response.</li> <li>- <b>PS</b> asked if local authorities might be able to share LWS layers? <b>PS</b> to email across info</li> <li>- <b>SB</b> asked if more info on the work of TVNP could be shared at the NAWG. <b>RM</b> agreed that this would be an excellent standing agenda item.</li> </ul>	
.	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2.00 pm	