



## NAWG Minutes

01/09/2021

Zoom

<b>Attending</b>	<b>Dave Askey</b> Stockton Borough Council; <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>Simon Blenkinsop</b> Middlesbrough Council; <b>Mike Leakey</b> INCA; <b>Ambroise Baker</b> Teesside University.
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Martin Allen</b> Independent Ecologist
<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/01.03.20</b>	<p>Review of the <a href="#">minutes of the last meeting</a></p> <p><b>RM</b> gave an update on Natural Innovation Hub funding; still awaiting news of funding decision</p> <p><b>DA</b> reported that the bid for Highways England funding for Billingham Beck had been successful, although formal contracts had not yet been received. (Award is £1.3M, not £1.8M as reported in the previous minutes.)</p> <p><b>PS</b> reported that there was a shortfall in the funding for a review of the Ancient Woodland Register and further investigation was needed before it could proceed.</p> <p><b>PS</b> also reported that digitising the Phase 1 Maps was complete and that GIS shape files could now be provided.</p> <p><b>TS</b> reported that Hartlepool was considering requiring planning applicants to provide ecological information in GIS format in order to facilitate recording and monitoring of biodiversity gain.</p>	<p><b>RM</b> to ask about progress on the INNS strategy at next Tees Catchment Partnership meeting.</p>
<b>NA/02. 03.20</b>	<p><i>Study brief on ongoing maintenance of sites moving forward</i></p> <p>Previous discussion under this agenda item had covered three issues -</p> <p><b>DEFRA Local Sites Metric</b> – data will not be collected again this year due to the pandemic.</p> <p><b>Cut and collect machines for managing LWS grasslands</b> - Middlesbrough are looking to purchase a ride-on cut and collect machine in the next month. They are also looking at sustainable means of using the arisings.</p> <p><b>Study Brief</b> – an opportunity to examine the data needs and implications ahead of the introduction of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS).</p>	

	<p><b>JG</b> – had reviewed the lessons learnt for the LNRS pilots which had been published by government in July. In terms of data, these had reported issues with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The volume of data from DEFRA</li> <li>2. Insufficient data/mixed access to LWS data</li> <li>3. Assessment of habitat quality being difficult</li> </ol> <p>These will all apply in the Tees Valley, with particular concerns being the integration of LWS information with Defra data because of overlaps between site and habitat designations (many sites being covered by LWS, LNR, Priority Habitats, Ancient Woodland and Geological SSSI ). While most of the LWS boundaries are mapped using GIS for Local Planning purposes, these are not backed up with attributes tables giving details of site survey dates, habitat type present etc</p> <p><b>PS</b> reported his experience with the Northumberland pilot. Production of the LNRS was an iterative process recognising that it needed to use “best available” data sets. He also noted that the Cumbria Pilot had started with a data audit and would recommend this approach.</p> <p><b>ML</b> also reported on INCA’s experience with the Tees Estuary Management Plan and the processes used to map biodiversity opportunities.</p> <p><b>RM</b> suggested that a more detailed discussion of this topic would be beneficial in preparing for LNRS in the Tees Valley. It was agreed that this might be given further consideration after the Planners Workshop and LNRS Consultation event had reached their conclusions. The funding application for the Natural Innovation Hub (see above) would also determine the amount of resource available for this work.</p>	<p><b>RM and JG</b> to consider next steps on data needs.</p>
<p><b>NA/03.03.20</b></p>	<p><i>Update on proposed LWS sites:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. St Joseph’s Cemetery Grassland <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Update from <b>RM</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <a href="#">Stainton Way</a> Grassland <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Update from <b>RM</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><i>Outstanding LWS recommendations:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <a href="#">South Bank Station</a> Black Path Grassland <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Update from <b>MA and FA</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <a href="#">Aislaby Grange</a> A67 road verge Grassland <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Update from <b>DA</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <a href="#">Bishopsgarth Grassland</a> (Hardwick Dene Grassland) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>On hold</b></li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <a href="#">Greystones A174</a> central reservation Grassland – <b>on hold</b></li> <li>7. Blackwell Grange Golf Course – <b>on hold</b></li> <li>8. Brass Castle Lane Grassland - <b>on hold</b></li> </ol> <p><i>Other Sites</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Middle Marsh</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete</li> <li>2. Complete</li> <li>3. Waiting on data from <b>MA and FA</b></li> <li>4. <b>DA</b> to visit Wilkinsons Garden Centre</li> </ol> <p>5,6,7,8 all on hold</p>

	<p>Update on proposed area for Middle Marsh Local Wildlife Site – a meeting had been held with interested parties and a proposal was being drawn up for a new site boundary.</p> <p>2. Billingham Beck Saltmarsh North ML had reviewed progress on this site and found that Lucite was claiming not to be the owner. DA offered to make further enquiries with Scott Bros, who also own land in the vicinity.</p> <p>3. A67 road verge</p>	<p>1. <b>SB</b> to provide info to a future meeting</p> <p>2. <b>ML and DA</b> to make further enquiries</p> <p>3. On hold until next meeting</p>
<b>NA/04.03.20</b>	<p><i>Tees Valley Response to Local Nature Recovery Strategies</i></p> <p>All had been invited to join a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September to respond to the government consultation on LNRS</p> <p>Tees Valley Combined Authority are willing to act as the responsible authority for a TVLNRS and there were ongoing discussions about resource and staffing requirements.</p>	
<b>NA/05.03.20</b> AOB	<p><b>RM</b> gave the group an update on the Planners workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September and will send the Eventbrite invite to the group</p> <p><b>RM</b> obtained feedback on the work of TVNP for annual reporting</p>	<b>RM</b> to circulate invitation to the planning workshop
Next meeting	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2.00 pm over Zoom	