



## NAWG Minutes

02/03/2022

Zoom

<b>Attending</b>	<b>Dave Askey</b> Stockton Borough Council; <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>Martin Allen</b> independent ecologist; <b>Mark Dinning</b> Durham Wildlife Trust; <b>Fiona Hurworth</b> Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Ambroise Baker</b> Teesside University; <b>Rachel Murtagh</b> TVNP;
<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/01.01.22</b>	<p><i>Minutes from the last meeting</i></p> <p><b>PS</b> recruitment for ancient woodland work should be going out next week, should have someone in post by April for the 2-year program.</p> <p>Whitton bridge, <b>MA</b> managed to get Stockton civic enforcement team to go look at the site and has an incident number for this.</p> <p>The Nature Recovery Network conference had been moved to 12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 13<sup>th</sup> July</p>	<p><b>LR</b> to circulate information on the conference in due course</p>
<b>NA/02.01.22</b>	<p><i>LNRS update</i></p> <p>The Combined Authority has been approached by DEFRA seeking applications for the responsible body for LNRS in Tees Valley.</p> <p><b>JG</b> had identified preparatory work for LNRS relating to LWS as being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Checking accuracy of GIS boundaries for all LWS (which appeared to vary across the Tees Valley)</li> <li>Using aerial photographs and existing survey data to assess extent of habitats types present within LWS</li> <li>Recording this information in excel and linking it to GIS as attributes tables so that it can interrogated spatially.</li> </ol> <p><b>RM</b> has shared this with Teesside Uni / AB to see if it can be completed as a student project.</p> <p><b>JG</b> also reported on a mapping exercise being carried out for Natural England's Nature Recovery Network team by Kent Wildlife Trust. This was seeking to record land on which habitat creation work has been undertaken since 2011, also to inform LNRS. To date, no data had been supplied for the Tees Valley.</p>	<p><b>All:</b> to contribute information on habitat creation since 2011 to the national database <a href="#">here</a></p>

<p><b>NA/03.01.22</b></p>	<p><i>Potential sites</i></p> <p>1. Hartburn Beck  <b>DA</b> was seeking to ensure the water vole interest of the site was protected as LWS. <b>JG</b> provided an aerial photo of the site showing water vole records identifying the core area supporting the species. It was agreed that this should form the basis for the designation which should extend no further that land in SBC ownership.</p> <p>2. Stillington Forest Park  <b>DA</b> had provided records showing the site met the criteria for LWS selection under I3 (regularly supporting 15 different species of butterfly). All agreed that the site should be put forward for ratification by Steering Group.</p> <p>3. Wynyard Woodland Park  <b>DA</b> advised that records showed that this site, which was already designated as LWS, also met the criteria I3 for butterflies. There was some debate as to whether this addition needed to be ratified by the Steering Group, but it was agreed that it was more important as an addition to site records for planning or management reasons.</p>	<p><b>DA</b> to provide a boundary map of SBC land. <b>JG</b> to compile LWS designation information to share with the group and, if all in agreement, to take to the Steering Group.</p> <p><b>DA</b> to provide a boundary map of Stillington Forest Park to enable the site selection information to be compiled for submission to the Steering Group.</p> <p><b>PS/JG/DA</b> to update the records that they hold on the site</p>
<p><b>NA/04.01.22</b></p>	<p><i>Update on proposed LWS sites:</i></p> <p>1. <a href="#">South Bank Station</a> Black Path Grassland: Site selection information had been taken to the Steering Group meeting in December where it had been approved. Information should subsequently have been sent to RCBC planning department.</p> <p>2. <a href="#">Aislaby Grange</a> <b>DA</b> and <b>MA</b> to visit at the next opportunity</p> <p>3. <a href="#">Billingham Beck Saltmarsh North</a> <b>DA</b> and <b>MA</b> to visit. Land ownership still needs to be resolved before the site can be considered for selection.</p>	
<p><b>NA/05.01.22</b></p>	<p><i>AOB / Updates from members:</i></p> <p>SB - The green shoots programme is coming to an end; Middle Marsh the pond has gone in and new hedge has been planted</p> <p>DA - Just finished planting 9000 whips and 200 fruit trees in Stockton; Billingham Beck scheme is transitioning into the detailed design phase; Stockton looked at their grassland and have identified 290 Ha of grassland which is mown and 310 Ha which is uncut. Are looking at ways to manage some grasslands differently.</p> <p><b>TS</b> - is leaving Hartlepool to move to Sunderland in just over a week, has been looking at getting money spent before the end of the post: little tern fencing, removing sea buckthorn (Countryside Stewardship) and supporting TVWT ecological enhancements in West Hartlepool (\$106 money).</p> <p><b>TS</b> also reported on DEFRA funding for additional duties placed on LA's from Biodiversity Net Gain (£20k to each borough and £10k to the Combined Authority).</p> <p><b>FH</b> – is going on maternity leave shortly and will identify a replacement to attend NAWG meetings</p> <p><b>MD</b> - Darlington has advertised for an ecologist and their Local Plan has been adopted</p> <p><b>PS</b> - ERIC has negotiated a data-sharing agreement with North Yorkshire Records Centre</p> <p><b>MA</b> - RHS has published guidance on the use of the term “wildflower” in horticulture.</p>	
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>6<sup>th</sup> June 2pm</p>	