



**North Tyneside Council**

# Environment Sub-Committee

1 July 2019

**Tuesday 9 July 2019** Room 0.01, Ground Floor, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside **commencing at 6.00 pm**

## **Agenda Item**

## **Page**

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

2. **Appointment of Substitute Members**

To be notified of the appointment of any Substitute Members.

3. **To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Notification of any Dispensations Granted**

You are invited to declare any registerable and/or non-registerable interests in matters appearing on the agenda, and the nature of that interest.

You are also invited to disclose any dispensation in relation to any registerable and/or non-registerable interests that have been granted to you in respect of any matters appearing on the agenda.'

Please complete the Declarations of Interests card available at the meeting and return it to the Democratic Services Officer before leaving the meeting.

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<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
4. <b>Minutes</b>	<b>3.</b>
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019.	
5. <b>Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2018/19</b>	<b>6.</b>
To give consideration to a report which sets out the progress made in respect of the Newcastle and North Tyneside Joint Biodiversity Action Plan.	
6. <b>Work Programme</b>	<b>53.</b>
To give consideration to a report which invites members to identify topics for inclusion in the Environment Sub Committee's work programme for 2019/20.	

**Members of the Environment Sub-Committee**

Councillor A Austin	Councillor G Madden
Councillor L Bartoli	Councillor J Mole
Councillor L Bell (Deputy Chair)	Councillor K Osborne
Councillor B Burdis (Chair)	Councillor E Parker-Leonard
Councillor J Cruddas	Councillor A Percy
Councillor J Harrison	Councillor S Phillips

## **Environment Sub-Committee**

**26 February 2019**

Present: Councillor B Burdis (Chair)  
Councillors L Bell, K Bolger, T Brady, C Davis,  
D Drummond, E Hodson, W Lott, G Madden, J Mole,  
K Osborne and W Samuel.

### **E23/02/19 Apologies**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor P Brooks.

### **E24/02/19 Substitute Members**

The following substitute member was reported:

Councillor K Osborne for Councillor P Brooks

### **E25/02/19 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

### **E26/02/19 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2019 be confirmed.

### **E27/02/19 Councillor Ed Hodson**

The Chair announced that this was Councillor Ed Hodson's last meeting of the Environment Sub Committee as he was standing down at the next election. He expressed both his and the sub committee's thanks to Councillor Hodson for his valuable contribution to the work of the Environment Sub Committee and its sub groups and also for his time as the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment and wished him well in the future.

### **E28/02/19 Contaminated Land**

Consideration was given to a report which explained the Authority's responsibilities in relation to contaminated land.

It was explained that the definition of contaminated land was contained in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and was described as land that because of substances which are in, on or under the land may cause significant harm to public health or the environment or can cause pollution of a controlled watercourse. The definition was based on three elements, firstly a contaminant being present, secondly a pathway by which the contaminant can move and thirdly a receptor, such as a person, which could be affected by the contaminant.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the Authority had a duty to:

- Inspect the Borough to identify if any land was contaminated;
- Produce a Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
- Ensure that land determined as contaminated was made suitable for its current use; and
- Maintain a public register.

The contaminated land strategy specified how the Authority would identify and deal with contaminated land within the Borough. It identified the process for assessing contaminated land and set out the process for prioritising the inspection of potentially contaminated land on a risk based approach. The strategy also identified who would be responsible for the remediation of the contaminated land and set out the role of the regulators, identified who was responsible for enforcement and detailed the information required to be kept in the public register. The existing strategy, which had been published in April 2014, was currently being reviewed. The refreshed strategy would then be consulted upon over the summer before being presented to the Cabinet for approval.

It was explained that an initial review of land in North Tyneside had identified 1134 potentially contaminated land sites primarily based on historical industrial uses. This information had been used to determine the prioritisation of the inspection regime of contaminated land and the action required to remediate the land.

It was also explained that planning conditions were now placed on developers to prevent the land becoming contaminated rather than having to deal with any contamination in the future. Members were advised that around 300 planning consultations and discharge applications were processed by the authority each year.

Reference was also made to the statutory requirement for the authority to produce and maintain a contaminated land register for sites which had been identified as contaminated land. It was explained that site investigations carried out so far had not identified any land in North Tyneside which required to be added to the contaminated land register.

It was explained that special sites such as where there was radioactivity or sites which discharged into a water course, such as a river, fell within the remit of the Environment Agency.

Reference was made to the push for brownfield sites to be developed for housing and industrial uses and it was explained that such sites were more likely to be contaminated in some form. It was also explained that as part of the planning process the developer was required to make the land safe before it could be built upon

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation.

It was **agreed** that the report be noted.

**E29/02/19      Ensuring Sustainable Development at Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor Strategic Allocations**

Consideration was given to a report which set out the steps which had been taken to set a positive framework for the sustainable development of the strategic allocations at Murton Gap and Killingworth Moor.

The report also presented the Killingworth Moor Master Plan which had been produced in December 2017 and which set out in great detail how the site would be sustainably developed to provide approximately 2000 homes together with educational facilities, local services such as shops and community facilities, employment uses, green infrastructure and green spaces. It was explained that the plan would ensure that development was brought forward in a co-ordinated manner to provide the delivery of housing whilst ensuring that the required infrastructure was provided and protections in place for the quality of life and amenity of the residents.

The Murton Gap Master Plan was also presented. This related to the development of around 3000 homes as well as similar services as those detailed above. Reference was made to issues around the potential for flooding, particularly in respect of the Murton Gap development. It was explained that the developer of the site would be required to put in place flood alleviation measures. As part of the planning process any development was not allowed to make the existing situation in relation to flooding any worse.

Clarification was sought in relation to the provision of appropriate bridges and tunnels to support the movement of wildlife across the site. It was explained that it would depend on the evidence available whether such measures were required.

Reference was made to the need for a bypass in respect of the Murton Gap site. It was explained that it was always a challenge to get the developer to provide the infrastructure prior to development as much of the money for the provision of the infrastructure was generated by the sale of the first batch of the housing and the number of properties built depended on the ability of the developer to sell those properties.

Clarification was also sought in relation to the potential emissions from the proposed industrial sites and the impact on air quality for residents. It was explained that there were controls in place to deal with any emissions and that manufacturing was not as dirty as it had been in the past.

The Chair thanked the officer for his report

It was **agreed** that the report be noted

**Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Environment Sub-committee**

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Title:** Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2018/19

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**Author:** Jackie Hunter Tel: 0191 643 7279

**Service:** Local Environmental Services

**Wards affected:** All

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### **1.0 Purpose of briefing**

The purpose of this briefing is to inform Committee on the progress of the Newcastle and North Tyneside Joint Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

### **2.0 Background**

The joint BAP was approved by North Tyneside Council Cabinet in February 2012 and Newcastle City Council in June 2012. Progress reports on target delivery are completed annually and this is the Annual Report for 2018/19.

### **3.0 Delivery of the Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP**

There are a number of Habitat and Species Action Plans in the BAP as shown below:-

<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Species</b>
Buildings & Structures	Farmland Birds
Estuary & Coastal	Bats
Brownfield Land	Amphibians
Transport Corridors	Dingy Skipper
Open Water & Wetland	Otter
Rivers & Watercourses	Urban Birds
Managed Urban Greenspace	Water Vole
Native Woodland	Red Squirrel
Lowland Grassland	Hedgehog
Scrub, Shrub & Hedgerow	Slow Worm
	Bumblebees
	Brown Hare

The progress report attached in Appendix 1 outlines the targets from each Habitat and Species Action Plan, which have been delivered in 2018/19.

### 3.1 Examples of BAP Projects Delivered in 2018/19

#### ***Lowland Grassland & Bumblebees***

- 14,000sqm (1.4ha) of wildflower grassland restored, managed and created on amenity, green space and roadside verge sites in North Tyneside
- Approx 1ha of upper and lower sections of the Brierdene sown with wildflower seed
- 400 wildflower plugs grown and planted by the Friends of Brierdene
- Existing wildflower grassland areas in the Brierdene managed by cutting and raking off arisings
- Scrub management undertaken in Brierdene to maintain the value of wildflower meadows
- Bee, butterfly & flying insect surveys undertaken in Brierdene
- 2 new wildflower meadows created at Benton Quarry Park
- 2 new wildflower meadows created at Killingworth Lakeside Park
- Friends of Red House Ramble worked with local schools (Southridge, Ivy Road, South Wellfield and Benton Park) to grow wildflowers from seed and educating on pollinators
- Creation of 2 bug hotels and solitary bee tubes by Friends of Red House Ramble
- Bug hotel created at Northumberland Park in addition to a number of minibeast hunt events
- Grazing project at St Mary's Wetlands continues to restore and enhance the meadow areas
- Livestock grazing at Silverlink Biodiversity Park to manage wildflower areas
- Friends of Holywell Dene manage and maintain wildflower areas within the Dene
- Species rich grassland secured through a number of planning schemes

#### ***Native Woodland***

- Woodland planting secured as part of following planning schemes:- Station Road east and west; Backworth; Howdon; Scaffold Hill; Killingworth Depo & Killingworth Lakeside Park
- 60 trees planted along Tynemouth banksides by Spanish Battery group
- Trees planted at Silverlink Park along new access path
- Tree and shrub management undertaken over winter period as part of Fish Quay Management Plan
- Tree management works (thinning and pruning of woodland areas) undertaken in Silverlink Biodiversity Park and Rising Sun Country Park through S106 funding
- Tree management work undertaken in Holywell Dene by Friends of Holywell Dene
- Works undertaken in Holywell Dene woodland to improve access (path works, bridge repairs, fencing works) as well as woodland management work

- 30 fruit trees and 420 hedge plants planted by Friends of Red House Ramble
- Over 1800 bulbs planted by Friends of groups

### ***Open Water & Wetlands***

- SuDs scheme created at Killingworth Lakeside Park
- Reedbed improvements, floating islands and marginal aquatic plants being implemented through the Killingworth Lake Park flood scheme
- Pond improvements carried out at RSCP (wildlife garden pond)
- Pond improvements undertaken at Silverlink Biodiversity Park.
- Improvements to St Mary's wetlands undertaken through Friends of St Mary's Wetland Group.

### ***Urban Birds***

- 151 bird boxes secured through planning schemes including:-Holystone roundabout; Walker Place; Killingworth Depot; Killingworth Flood Alleviation Scheme; Greymartins; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Nexus Howdon; Mylord Crescent; Wallsend Health Centre
- Bird boxes and bird feeders installed at Red House Ramble, Northumberland Park and Rising Sun Country park
- Bird surveys undertaken at Brierdene
- RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' event in Northumberland Park
- Bird identification events undertaken at Northumberland Park and Rising Sun Country Park
- Dawn Chorus event at Rising Sun Country Park

### ***Bats***

- 81 bat boxes/features secured through a number of planning schemes including:-. Holystone roundabout; Walker Place; Killingworth Depot; Killingworth Flood Alleviation Scheme; Greymartins; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Nexus Howdon; Mylord Crescent; Wallsend Health Centre.
- Native woodland and hedgerows secured through Planning on a number of schemes to benefit bats
- Bat walks undertaken at Rising Sun Country Park

### ***Managed Urban Greenspace***

A number of projects have been undertaken in various parks and as part of community projects. These include the following:-

#### *1) Friends of Brierdene*

- 1860 volunteer hours worked in the Dene between 2018-19
- Approx 1 ha of land sown with wildflower seed
- Annual 'Bioblitz' event
- Bird, bumblebee, butterfly and flying insect surveys undertaken (April-September)
- Duke of Edinburgh Award with schools

- 350 bulbs planted
- 400 wildflower plugs grown and planted by the Friends
- 4 trees supplied and planted by NTC
- Annual Moth night event
- Wildflower meadow management
- Watercourse improvements and footpath works
- MY Tyne & Tyne Rivers Trust event with Marine Park School

## 2) *Friends of Red House Ramble*

- 30 fruit trees planted (e.g. pear, apple, plum, cherry and damson)
- 1500 bulbs planted (e.g. native daffodils, snowdrops and bluebells)
- 420 hedge saplings planted from Woodland Trust
- Wildflower seeds sown and planted by Southridge School, Ivy Road Primary, Wellfield Middle School and Benton Park Primary
- Nature Trail created through Ramble
- 2 hedgehog houses installed
- 2 bug hotels made and installed as well as solitary bee tubes
- Bird boxes made and installed by cubs

## 3) *Killingworth Lake Park/Benton Quarry Park*

- 4 small meadows created in Killingworth Lake Park and Benton Quarry
- Community event – creation of nature garden at DS Smith Packaging
- Reedbed planting event at Killingworth Lake with local schools

## 4) *Northumberland Park*

- RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' event
- Bird identification event
- Bug hotel installed
- Wildlife and nature walk events
- Minibeast hunt and family nature events
- Bird feeder event

## 5) *Friends of Holywell Dene*

- Refurbished eastern footbridge
- Footpath works
- Meadow management
- Tree work/management
- Invasive species management (Himalayan Balsam)
- Fencing work/repairs

6) *Rising Sun Country Park*

- 495 outdoor sessions for 7688 children (school visits, Brownies, Beavers)
- Bat walks
- Dawn chorus event
- Bird watching course –4 sessions
- Bird watching course –4 sessions
- Minibeast Hunts – x4
- Bird box building – x1
- Bug box building – x1
- Tree-mendous fun (learning about trees)- x2
- Pond dipping – x 2
- 200 bluebell bulbs planted
- 150 Aconite bulbs planted
- Litter pick with students from Tyne Met College
- Minibeast hunts- 40 sessions
- Pond dip- 28 sessions
- Seasonal change/woodland wander- 14 sessions
- Plants- 9 sessions
- Minibeast homes made with school children
- Birds Feeders made with 50 Nursery children

## APPENDIX 1:

### Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP Annual Monitoring Review 2018/19.

Progress report of the targets from each Habitat and Species Action Plan from the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP, which have been delivered in 2018/19.

**Green** = Target completed  
**Amber** = Target underway/ongoing  
**Red** = Target not completed

## HABITAT ACTION PLAN

<b>1. Buildings &amp; Structures Targets</b>	<b>Original Target Date</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Status</b>
Produce best practice guidelines for planners, developers & internal council departments regarding biodiversity value of buildings & structures.	2012		<b>Completed</b>
Secure or create nesting habitat for kittiwakes along the River Tyne to enable existing colonies to expand or move.	2016	Businesses and Kittiwake group set up following birds becoming trapped in netting.  Opportunities for additional nesting ledges and interpretation panels are being examined as part of the Spillers Quayside Wheel leisure development.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Ensure existing kittiwake sites are protected	Ongoing	Tyne Kittiwake Partnership is consulted on all potential impacts on kittiwakes and provides detailed advice and guidance.  Businesses and Kittiwake group set up following birds becoming trapped in netting. New guidance on bird deterrents produced and included on Newcastle City website.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Incorporate 1 new green roof into new developments in both Newcastle & North Tyneside.	2014	The following Green roofs have been secured in Newcastle e.g.: 3 green roofs secured at Newgate Student Accommodation, consisting of sedum mats, wildflower turf and	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>

		<p>biodiverse roof on crushed aggregate with log piles.</p> <p>1 biodiverse green roof secured at Newgate Hotel</p> <p>1 sedum roof at Newcastle City Council Sports Hall.</p> <p>1 brown roof secured at Former Police Station</p>	
Produce guidance on green roofs for developers & planners.	2012		<b>Complete</b>
Incorporate 15 nest boxes within buildings along the metro line.	2014	<p>8 bat boxes and 5 bird boxes secured for land adjacent to metroline at Howdon</p> <p>6 bat boxes installed adjacent to Metro line on Shields Road.</p>	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Request nesting/roosting features on all new and renovated developments requiring ecological consultation.	Ongoing	<p>North Tyneside:</p> <p>151 bird boxes and 81 bat boxes/features secured through planning schemes e.g Holystone roundabout; Walker Place; Killingworth Depo; Killingworth Flood Alleviation Scheme; Greymartins; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Nexus Howdon; Mylord Crescent; Wallsend Health Centre</p> <p>Newcastle:</p> <p>133 bat boxes/features and 71 bird boxes secured through planning schemes e.g Clumber street; Dinnington; Coach Lane, Wideopen; Newcastle General Hospital; Newcastle City Sports Centre</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
All information acquired on nesting/roosting sites for protected species will be submitted to ERIC.	Ongoing	Data submitted to record centre on annual basis.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Encourage public to submit sightings of swifts at roof level to the National Swift Inventory.	Ongoing	This has now changed to the Swift Conservation Project which is included on our websites. Information to be updated on website.	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>2. Estuary &amp; Coastal Habitat</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Ensure no net loss of mudflats and saltmarsh, other than by natural processes.	Annually	No net loss reported.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Designate River Tyne corridor as Local Wildlife Site.	2015		<b>Completed</b>
Create two high tide wader roost sites and manage existing roost sites appropriately.	2016	Grazing project at St Mary's wetlands and management of site by St Mary's Wetlands Conservation Group.  St Mary's wetlands high tide wader roost site is being managed to create additional open water areas for waders.	<b>Partially completed</b>
Maintain inventory of Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data annually.	Ongoing	WeBS counts undertaken annually by Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club (NTBC) and inventory of data stored.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Investigate funding opportunities for interpretation panels along 4 locations on the River Tyne and the coast.	2015	A coastal Interpretation Strategy will be implemented through S106 as part of the Coastal Mitigation Strategy in North Tyneside to mitigate impacts on the SPA along the coast  Few opportunities available so far. However, masterplans for Calder's site at Newcastle are to include interpretation panels as part of any future development. Also included in Pre-application advice for Newburn Riverside development.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Create or restore up to 0.5ha of saltmarsh habitat.	2020	Few recent opportunities to create additional saltmarsh due to lack of suitable sites. Opportunities are to be sought as part of the Newburn Riverside development in Newcastle.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Develop partnership projects with Big Sea Survey (Dove Marine Laboratory).	2013		<b>Completed</b>

Plant 15000 dune grasses over 3 years to regenerate extended dune system at Tynemouth Longsands.	2012-15		<b>Completed</b>
Review current beach cleaning regime on amenity beaches and move to a more wildlife friendly management.	2012	This is carried out annually in line with Natural England's SSSI criteria and management guidelines.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Access improvements incorporated along the Tynemouth Longsands coastal strip to aid dune regeneration.	2012		<b>Completed</b>
Investigate potential for a coastal heritage trail along the North Tyneside coastline.	2015	Ongoing; if opportunities arise	<b>Ongoing</b>
Promote the importance of coastal waders through publicity material and events.	Ongoing	Promotion events/materials undertaken by RSPB and NTBC.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Minimise disturbance to wintering waders along the coast and estuary by encouraging sensitive usage.	Ongoing	Interpretation panels in sensitive areas. Appropriately sited access/footpaths & management to minimise disturbance to sensitive habitats. A coastal Interpretation Strategy will be implemented through S106 as part of the Coastal Mitigation Strategy in North Tyneside to mitigate impacts on the SPA along the coast	<b>Ongoing</b>
Compile a mapped inventory of key coastal and estuarine sites that are used as roosting and feeding sites by coastal waders, including high tide roosts.	2013	NTBC bird club and RSPB have data on these sites.	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>3. Brownfield Land Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Create habitats along Hadrian's Way to enhance current brownfield land and link up fragmented habitat.	2015	Dingy skipper habitat creation scheme secured at Lidl site, Lemmington.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Create/renew management plans for all brownfield land designated as local wildlife sites.	2015	Newcastle Parks' Trust are required to produce management plans for LWS in their control.	<b>Partially completed</b>
Identify new brownfield sites that could be designated as local wildlife sites (LWS).	Ongoing	All Wildlife Sites included in the new Development Allocations Plan. No new sites identified.	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Undertake one brownfield site management project annually.	2012-2021	Annual management of Paradise Local Wildlife Site undertaken by Butterfly Conservation.  Works secured through planning for Lidl site at Lemmington.  Management secured at Howdon and Killingworth Depo sites.	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Identify key sites that could be targeted for priority species.	2013		<b>Completed</b>

<b>4. Transport Corridor Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Produce roadside verge management strategy in partnership with Grounds Maintenance.	2015	1.4ha (70+ sites) managed as biodiversity areas in North Tyneside.  Newcastle in discussion with grounds maintenance about potential biodiversity projects along highways.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Produce best practice guidelines for rail side land management to minimise disturbance to wildlife.	2014	Land is outside of Councils' control.	<b>Target not completed</b>
Undertake habitat creation/management projects on five sites along metroline.	2014		<b>Completed</b>
Ensure the installation of appropriate wildlife warning signs or wildlife underpasses/bridges in areas where road kills are considered to be negatively impacting on priority species.	Ongoing	Undertaken on all appropriate planning applications e.g. Cell D spine road and bridge	<b>Ongoing</b>
Incorporate wildlife tunnels or other features in development schemes where road kills are an issue.	Ongoing	Undertaken on all appropriate planning applications e.g. Cell D spine road	<b>Ongoing</b>
Include oil/silt traps in the design of new road schemes adjacent to sensitive wetland sites & watercourses.	Ongoing	All large-scale planning applications where appropriate, e.g. Newcastle Great Park, East Middle Callerton, Scaffold Hill	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>5. Open Water &amp; Wetland Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Undertake pond mapping audit to help identify key sites for further survey work.	2014	Ponds mapped in GIS. New ponds continue to be added on an ongoing basis.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Create 20 new ponds of conservation value in appropriate areas with emphasis on providing stepping stones between existing ponds of wildlife value.	2021	5 new ponds created at Newcastle Great Park	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Undertake management that will enhance the biodiversity value of 20 ponds.	2021	<p>Additional management is proposed at Seven Mile Ponds, and Iris Brickfield pond.</p> <p>Pond management work undertaken at Silverlink Biodiversity Park.</p> <p>Improvements to St Mary's wetlands undertaken through Friends of St Mary's Wetland Group.</p> <p>Pond improvements undertaken in wildlife garden pond at RSCP</p>	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Produce leaflet to raise awareness of wetland issues.	2014		<b>Completed</b>
Assess the status of invasive, non-native species in the ponds and lakes and implement a strategy for their eradication or control.	2015	<p>Newcastle Japanese knotweed guidance strategy has been produced in 2018 and is available on Council's website.</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed treatment undertaken annually in North Tyneside</p> <p><i>Crassula helmsii</i> management undertaken at St Mary's wetlands through Friends of St. Mary's Wetland group.</p>	<b>Part completed</b>
Investigate installation of common tern rafts in appropriate locations.	2015		<b>Completed</b>
<b>Reedbed</b>			

Identify and map the location and extent of reedbed habitat in Newcastle & North Tyneside	2012		<b>Completed</b>
Create 1 ha of new reedbed habitat.	2015	New reedbeds are to be created at a variety of residential housing SuDs schemes – Newcastle:- East Middle Callerton, Kenton Bank Foot, upper and Lower Throckley North Tyneside:- Scaffold Hill, Whitehouse Farm, Station Road & Backworth.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Maintain and improve reedbeds in Gosforth Park and Weetslade Country Park.	2020	Reedbeds managed by Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) & Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT).	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Fen &amp; Mire</b>			
Improve the condition of lowland raised mire at Prestwick Carr.	2015	Northumberland Wildlife Trust are managing Prestwick Carr and have created a management plan.	<b>Completed but target Ongoing</b>
Improve the condition and increase extent of Sacred Heart Fen and Dinnington Road Fen	2015		<b>Completed</b>
<b>General Open Water and Wetland</b>			
Record rare plant species listed by the botanical Society of British Isles <a href="http://www.bsbi.org.uk">www.bsbi.org.uk</a>	Ongoing	No rare plant records to submit.	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>6. River &amp; Watercourse Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Raise awareness of non-native invasive species along watercourses and encourage their control.	Ongoing	Advice provided on all planning applications and to Council departments or projects as required.  Newcastle Japanese knotweed guidance strategy has been produced in 2018 and is available on the Council's website.  Japanese Knotweed treatment undertaken annually in North Tyneside	<b>Ongoing</b>
Map non-native invasive species along 10km of watercourse in Newcastle and North Tyneside.	2021	Japanese knotweed mapped on GIS.  Newcastle Japanese knotweed guidance strategy will allow the public to report sightings of knotweed.  Japanese Knotweed treatment undertaken annually in North Tyneside	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Promote the maintenance of riparian buffer strips with a minimum width of 2 m along watercourses to improve habitat for wildlife.	Ongoing	Grounds Maintenance Teams in North Tyneside and Newcastle advised to leave uncut buffer strips adjacent to watercourses.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Ensure that any developments affecting streamside habitats and associated wildlife are not permitted without appropriate and enforceable mitigation or compensation. In addition, no development should take place within 5m of any watercourse.	Ongoing	Implemented for all planning applications and included in masterplans for Strategic Land Review sites in Newcastle e.g. East Middle Callerton, Lower Callerton and Dewley Hill	<b>Ongoing</b>
Deliver riparian improvements that will benefit wildlife along a minimum of 5km of watercourse.	2021	Watercourse improvements undertaken along Brierdene watercourse by the Friends of Brierdene	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>

Incorporation of sustainable drainage systems on appropriate schemes to aid in the minimisation of high flows and pollution from surface water.	Ongoing	All new residential and commercial schemes have had SuDs conditioned, e.g. Lower Callerton, NGP Cell D, Airport Business Park, Howdon (Nexus Site) Station Road east and west, Backworth	<b>Ongoing</b>
Ensure there is no net loss of watercourses to culverting through planning or engineering works	Ongoing	Considered in all appropriate planning applications and Council schemes.	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>7. Managed Urban Greenspace Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Implement targets in Council's Allotment Strategy.	Annually	Biodiversity targets/initiatives being undertaken annually e.g. - Beaumont Terrace Allotments wildlife garden which includes a pond, habitat piles, nestboxes. - Highbury South wildlife garden and pond - West Denton Allotments wildlife garden.  Allotment Strategy being updated by NTC	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity to all allotment sites and encourage wildlife friendly gardening.	2014	Awareness raised through the annual wildlife allotment competition held in Newcastle and the North Tyneside in Bloom competition.  Ecological advice provided to allotment holders and sites.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Establish a category for wildlife friendly gardening in the annual allotment competition.	2012		<b>Completed</b>
2 allotment sites per year to incorporate areas of native hedging or wildlife habitat.	Annually	Beaumont Terrace Allotments wildlife garden which includes a pond, habitat piles, nestboxes. - Highbury South wildlife garden and pond - West Denton Allotments wildlife garden.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
<b>Parks &amp; Gardens Targets</b>			
Encourage wildlife friendly gardening through media articles, websites, events and printed material.	Ongoing	Biodiversity events carried out throughout the year by Friends of Brierdene, Holywell Dene, Redhouse Ramble, Northumberland Park, Rising Sun Country Park, Killingworth Lakeside Park, Benton Quarry	<b>Ongoing</b>

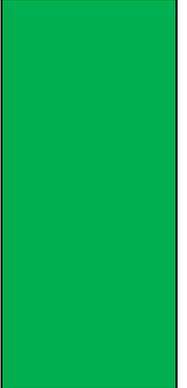
		<p>Creation of wildflower areas around Killingworth lake and Benton Quarry Park</p> <p>Friends of Leazes Park have created wildlife areas and planted up terrace urns with wildlife friendly plants.</p> <p>Newcastle Green Spaces Initiative have held events and provided advice to groups to promote wildlife and creation of urban meadows.</p>	
<p>Liaise with Eco/Enviro Schools to establish 3 wildlife projects with schools annually.</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Schools project with Scotswood Community Garden.</p> <p>Newcastle's Great Park Ranger has been working with Brunton First School on environmental projects.</p> <p>Havannah red squirrel project working in conjunction with Kirkley Hall to carryout red squirrel surveys.</p> <p>Wildflower seed and advice/support provided to schools in North Tyneside</p>	<p><b>Completed but target ongoing</b></p>
<p>Liaise with local businesses to establish 1 wildlife project annually.</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Joint Newcastle, Gateshead, RSPB and Nexus peregrine falcon survey project.</p> <p>Quayside businesses and kittiwakes group set up to ensure safety of nesting kittiwakes.</p> <p>Tree planting event on bankside at Tynemouth with Spanish Battery Group and TVLB.</p> <p>Nature garden created at DS Smith Packaging with support</p>	<p><b>Completed but target ongoing</b></p>

		from NTC staff	
Produce 'Business & Biodiversity' pack to promote wildlife enhancements on business premises.	2013		<b>Completed</b>
Liaise with Council departments to promote wildlife friendly gardening in parks and create at least one wildlife area annually.	Annually	<p>Planting events carried out in Benton Quarry Park, Rising Sun, Killingworth Lakeside Park</p> <p>4 wildflower areas created in Killingworth Park &amp; Benton Quarry Park</p> <p>Wildflower meadow at Gosforth Park Central.</p> <p>Pictorial Meadow proposed to be planted outside Civic Centre again in 2019.</p> <p>Friends of Leazes Park have created wildlife areas and planted up terrace urns with wildlife friendly plants.</p>	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Promote the use of native species in all planting schemes.	Ongoing	Undertaken for all landscaping schemes through planning.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Raise awareness of the importance of Parks and gardens and encourage more sympathetic management.	Ongoing	<p>Events carried out throughout the parks to promote biodiversity, including planting events, bat walks, bird and bee events.</p> <p>A variety of events have been held by Rangers at all the City's main parks.</p> <p>Advice provided to Gosforth Central, Iris Brickfield, Little Dene and North Walbottle Waggonway.</p> <p>Friends of Leazes Park are managing areas for wildlife.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>

Promote and enhance biodiversity in all park regeneration schemes and ensure that protected species issues are taken into consideration.	Ongoing	Biodiversity and landscaping fully considered through the Killingworth Lake Park Flood Scheme. (e.g floating islands, tree and scrub planting, meadow creation, aquatic marginal planting)  Ecological advice and guidance has been provided on all the City's parks ready for the formation of the Parks Trust.	Ongoing
Native wildlife is considered in the landscaping of open spaces associated with new developments as part of the planning process.	Ongoing	Implemented through all appropriate planning applications. Native planting requested along with features for wildlife such as bird & bat boxes, hedgehog highways, ponds and SuDs.	Ongoing
<b>Churchyards &amp; Cemeteries Targets</b>			
Manage churchyards and cemeteries in a way that will benefit wildlife.	Annually	All cemeteries in North Tyneside designated as wildlife sites are appropriately managed  Friends of Jesmond Old Cemetery and St James Churchyard manage the sites for wildlife.	Completed but ongoing
Produce promotional material aimed at raising awareness of the biodiversity.	2012		Completed
Establish 2 wildlife projects within churchyards or cemeteries.	2013		Completed

8. Native Woodland Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Maintain current extent of ancient semi-natural woodland.	Ongoing	Current extent maintained.	Ongoing
Maintain current extent of native woodland. Where development may lead to loss of woodland, ensure adequate mitigation or compensation.	Ongoing	No woodland lost through development without securing appropriate mitigation.	Ongoing
Ensure where possible, that all areas of semi-natural woodlands are managed in a way that will maintain or restore their nature conservation interest.	2021	<p>Woodland management works undertaken in Rising Sun Country Park, Killingworth Lake Park, Holywell Dene.</p> <p>Gosforth Park is managed by the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) and Newcastle Racecourse.</p> <p>S106 funds secured for woodland management works in: Havannah, Walbottle and Throckley Dene.</p> <p>Woodland management works by the Rangers and volunteers have continued at Havannah LNR.</p> <p>Dene woodland is managed by Newcastle's Rangers and will be moved across to the Parks' Trust.</p>	Ongoing
Create native woodland on 10 new sites.	2015	<p>Native woodland and tree planting is secured in all major planning applications:-</p> <p>Newcastle:- Lower Callerton, West Middle Callerton and East Middle Callerton</p> <p>North Tyneside:- Station Road east and west; Backworth, Howdon, Scaffold Hill, Killingworth Depo, Killingworth Lake Park</p>	Completed but ongoing

<p>Increase linkage between fragmented woodland sites by the creation of green corridors on 4 sites.</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>New native planting proposed as part of Kingston Village and NGP Cell A providing new future connections with Woosington Woods.</p> <p>Native planting proposed for station road east and west providing connections with Rising Sun.</p> <p>Scaffold Hill native planting scheme providing connections to Silverlink &amp; RSCP.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>
<p>Promote the value of native woodland to the public by undertaking 4 events per year.</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Newcastle's Rangers have carried out planting events at – Havannah &amp; Three Hills Nature Reserve and Jesmond Dene.</p> <p>Tree planting event at Tynemouth with Spanish Battery Group</p> <p>Tree planting events undertaken through parks and community groups in North Tyneside.</p>	<p><b>Completed but ongoing<sup>3</sup></b></p>
<p>Manage/replant 3 sites of amenity woodland to native woodland.</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>S106 funding secured for woodland management work at Rising Sun Country Park to replace non-native species with native trees and understorey trees.</p> <p>Management Plan has been produced for all woodland at High Gosforth Park and to be implemented by Newcastle Racecourse management company.</p> <p>Non-native areas of woodland are being felled and replanted at Gosforth Park by NHSN.</p> <p>Non-native species are being</p>	<p><b>Completed but ongoing</b></p>

		<p>felled by the Rangers and volunteers at Havannah and replacement planting using native species has been carried out.</p> <p>S106 funding secured for woodland management at Walbottle &amp; Throckley Dene.</p>	
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9. Lowland Grassland Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Maintain current extent of lowland meadows.	Ongoing	Implemented through current management regimes and mitigation through planning.	Ongoing
Identify new lowland meadows sites and map on GIS.	2016	Local Wildlife Sites Review was carried out in 2016. All qualifying sites designated through Local Site Partnership (LSP) system.	Completed
Designate all qualifying sites as Local Wildlife Sites.	Ongoing	All qualifying sites designated through Local Site Partnership (LSP) system. All Local Wildlife Sites now included within the draft Development and Allocations Plan	Completed but ongoing
Secure favourable management on all species rich grasslands within Local Wildlife Sites.	2021	Target not completed as many sites are not within Council ownership.	Ongoing
Create or restore 10ha of lowland species rich grassland.	2021	<p>Additional wildflower meadow creation is being secured through planning at the Strategic Land Review sites, NGP and open cast sites.</p> <p>Species rich grasslands are being secured through housing allocation sites and other Planning schemes in North Tyneside.</p> <p>14,000sqm of wildflower biodiversity areas created and enhanced across sites in North Tyneside</p>	Completed but ongoing
Review current grass cutting regimes in parks and open space and introduce a change of management at 4 sites that will be beneficial to wildlife.	2013	1.4ha of wildflower grassland created and managed in North Tyneside along road verges and open spaces	Completed

10. Scrub, Shrub & Hedgerow Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Create 10 ha of new native scrub/shrub.	2021	<p>Large areas of new scrub planting have been secured through planning schemes:-</p> <p>Newcastle:- NGP, Hazelrigg, West Middle Callerton, East Middle Callerton, Lower Callerton, Throckley South, Throckley North.</p> <p>North Tyneside:- Station Road east and west; Howdon; Killingworth Lake Park; Killingworth Depo; Scaffold Hill</p>	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Create 5000 linear metres of native species rich hedgerow.	2021	<p>A net increase of approx 1,135m of new hedgerow has been secured at Throckley North development site.</p> <p>80m of native hedge have been planted at Eastgarth, Newbiggin Hall</p> <p>Large areas of new hedgerow planting have been secured through planning schemes:-</p> <p>Newcastle:- NGP, Hazelrigg, West Middle Callerton, East Middle Callerton, Lower Callerton.</p> <p>North Tyneside:- Station Road east and west; Howdon; Murray Hogg Site Sandy Lane; Killingworth Depo; Scaffold Hill</p>	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Improve 2000 linear metres of species poor hedgerow.	2021	<p>Hedgerow improvements have been secured at the following SLR sites in Newcastle:- Throckley South, Throckley North, Dinnington North, NGP and Callerton sites.</p> <p>North Tyneside:- Station Road</p>	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>

		east and west; Howdon; Scaffold Hill; Backworth	
Retain existing scrub and hedgerow on development schemes and maximise opportunities for native planting in landscaping schemes.	Ongoing	Undertaken as part of planning. Where hedgerows haven't been retained full mitigation has been provided on all schemes.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Ensure that management of scrub and hedgerow are undertaken at the appropriate times of year to maximise opportunities for wildlife and minimise disturbance.	Ongoing	Undertaken annually by Grounds Maintenance teams. Advice conditioned on all appropriate planning applications.	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>

## SPECIES ACTION PLANS

1. Farmland Bird Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Promote Agri-Environment options for farmland birds, particularly in targeted areas.	Ongoing	Implemented by Defra.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Create 1000 linear metres of native species rich hedgerow on or adjacent to sites that have the potential or are known to support farmland bird species.	2016	<p>North Tyneside: Native hedgerows secured through planning conditions on a number of residential and development schemes. Examples include: Land north of Holystone Roundabout; Killingworth Depo; Murray Hogg Site Sandy lane; Nexus Howdon site; Laurel End Palmersville; Weetslade depo; Cobalt Data Centre;</p> <p>420 mixed native hedge saplings planted at Red House Ramble site</p> <p>Newcastle: 1,135m of new hedgerow has been secured at Throckley North development site.</p> <p>80m of native hedge have been planted at Eastgarth, Newbiggin Hall</p> <p>Native hedgerows have been secured through planning conditions at NGP, Hazelrigg, West Middle Callerton, East Middle Callerton, Lower Callerton.</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Improve 1000 linear metres of species poor hedgerow on sites that have the potential or are known to support farmland bird species.	2021	Hedgerow improvements have been secured at the following sites:- Newcastle: Throckley South, Throckley North, Dinnington North, NGP and Callerton sites.	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>

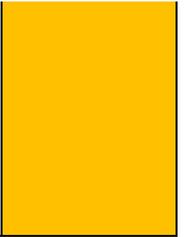
		North Tyneside – Howdon Nexus site; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane;	
Ensure that management of scrub and hedgerow on Local Authority land is undertaken at the appropriate times of year to maximise opportunities for wildlife and minimise disturbance.	Ongoing	Grounds Maintenance advised on appropriate cutting times.  Advice conditioned on all appropriate planning applications.	Ongoing
Continue to monitor the status of farmland birds at specific sites.	Annually	Bird surveys undertaken by NTBC.  North Tyneside: Monitoring of farmland birds at Scaffold Hill site as well as records for Murton Gap, Killingworth Moor West Chirton and Howdon.  Newcastle: Regular monitoring of bird populations at Newcastle Great Park, Brenkley Lane. Bird records also recorded from all SLR planning applications.	Ongoing
Identify key areas for tree sparrows and encourage provision for nesting and feeding habitat.	2013	Tree sparrow was previously under recorded in Newcastle. The previous key sites were Big Waters/Little Waters, Prestwick Carr. However, surveys carried out as part of Planning applications have recorded tree sparrow on most sites within the west of the City.  Tree sparrow recorded around Murton Gap site. Tree sparrow boxes have been erected in the vicinity of this site.	Completed but Ongoing
Install nestboxes at 10 new sites for tree sparrow and barn owl.	2015	Nestboxes to be secured at all appropriate development sites	Completed but

		through the planning process.	<b>ongoing</b>
Increase suitable habitat for ground nesting birds on 10 sites.	2016	<p>8.5ha of breeding habitat secured at Lower Callerton.</p> <p>Discussions are taking place to ensure farmland bird habitat is provided as part of Kingston Village habitat.</p> <p>Habitat secured as part of Scaffold Hill development and S106 secured for RSCP and Weetslade for Skylark through other schemes. Discussions taking place to ensure farmland bird habitat is provided as part of Murton Gap development.</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Retain existing suitable habitat for ground nesting birds.	Ongoing	<p>Undertaken as part of planning. Where it has not been possible to retain habitat then offsite mitigation has been sought on all sites.</p> <p>Newcastle: Offsite mitigation secured for Lower Callerton and NGP Cell A and D.</p> <p>North Tyneside: Offsite mitigation secured as part of Station Road east and west housing schemes</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>

2. Bat Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Collate records on the number and distribution of bat roosts.	2015	Records submitted to the Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC).	Completed but ongoing
Ensure that every demolition or renovation project provides at least one bat box on the new building.	Annually	<p>All planning applications where demolition or renovation is being undertaken have installed batboxes.</p> <p>North Tyneside: 81 bat boxes/features have been secured through planning schemes e.g Holystone roundabout; Walker Place; Killingworth Depo; Killingworth Flood Alleviation Scheme; Greymartins; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Nexus Howdon; Mylord Crescent; Wallsend Health Centre</p> <p>Newcastle: 133 bat boxes/features and 71 bird boxes secured through planning schemes e.g Clumber street; Dinnington; Coach Lane, Wideopen; Newcastle General Hospital; Newcastle City Sports Centre</p>	Completed but ongoing
Erect bat boxes on 5 suitable sites on an annual basis.	Annually	See above.	Completed but ongoing
Create 5000 linear metres of foraging/commuting habitat for bats.	2016	See woodland, hedge, shrub and wetland targets.	Completed but ongoing
Produce bat guidance document for planners and developers.	2012	Bat Guidance produced and available on Councils' websites.	Completed
Protect all mature trees and standing deadwood and ensure that if felling or pruning is required, a bat survey is	Ongoing	Undertaken through planning process.	Ongoing

undertaken, and appropriate mitigation implemented.

Advice given to grounds maintenance and tree team. Bat risk assessments of all Council trees is undertaken before works.



3. Amphibian Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Maintain the current distribution of great crested newt (GCN) breeding ponds and provide any new records of GCN sites to ERIC.	Annually	Current distribution in Newcastle and North Tyneside maintained. New records and updates sent to ERIC.	Completed but ongoing
Ensure that all great crested newt sites are managed in a way that will maintain the viability of the population.	Annually	<p>GCN method statements conditioned as part of appropriate major planning applications.</p> <p>North Tyneside: Pond maintenance works undertaken on GCN ponds in Silverlink Biodiversity Park;</p> <p>Pond management, GCN hibernacula and new hedgerow secured through planning conditions for Substation pond site at Silverlink Park</p> <p>Newcastle: Management works to Seven Mile Pond proposed for 2019 as part of Brenkley Opencast.</p> <p>NGP site wide GCN strategy to maintain and increase the current population.</p>	Completed but ongoing
Raise awareness about amphibian conservation and provide advice on habitat management.	Ongoing	Advice provided to developers and Council departments implementing projects/schemes.	Ongoing
Create 10 new amphibian ponds	2016	<p>5 new ponds created at Newcastle Great Park</p> <p>New ponds created at Rising Sun Country Park (Scaffold Hill).</p>	Completed but ongoing

<p>Undertake management that will enhance the biodiversity value of 10 ponds for amphibians.</p>	<p>2018</p>	<p>North Tyneside: Improvements to Killingworth Lake and wildlife pond, including marginal aquatic planting and planted floating islands.</p> <p>Pond maintenance works undertaken on GCN ponds in Silverlink Biodiversity Park.</p> <p>Pond management secured via planning condition for Substation pond site at Silverlink Park.</p> <p>Wildlife garden pond renovation Rising Sun Country park</p> <p>Newcastle: Additional management is proposed at Seven Mile Ponds, and Iris Brickfield pond.</p>	<p><b>Completed but ongoing</b></p>
<p>Create 10 new amphibian hibernacula at suitable locations.</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>Newcastle: 10 new amphibian hibernacula proposed for strategic open space at NGP.</p> <p>North Tyneside: Hibernacula secured for Silverlink substation pond site, Scaffold Hill and Backworth housing sites.</p>	<p><b>Completed but ongoing</b></p>

4. Dingy Skipper Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Continue to survey and map the distribution of dingy skipper.	Annually	<p>Butterfly Conservation record regionally and map distribution of Dingy skipper.</p> <p>Surveys requested as part of the planning process.</p> <p>Populations recorded at Fenwick Pit Heap, West Chirton Industrial Estate and Tyne Tunnel trading estate in North Tyneside</p> <p>All records submitted to ERIC NE.</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Establish monitoring at all key sites to determine any change in status.	Annually	<p>Butterfly Conservation, NTC and NCC.</p> <p>Monitoring also conditioned as part of planning applications e.g Howdon Nexus site &amp; West Chirton in North Tyneside.</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Protect dingy skipper sites where possible and secure appropriate mitigation where adverse impacts will occur.	Ongoing	<p>Surveys and mitigation secured where appropriate through the planning process.</p> <p>Newcastle: Lidl site at Lemmington and PreApp discussion being undertaken regarding development of Newburn Riverside.</p> <p>North Tyneside: Howdon Nexus Site; West Chirton Industrial Estate; Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate; Killingworth Depo</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Ensure that land owners and managers are aware of the presence of the species and establish appropriate methods of habitat management.	Ongoing	<p>No control over externally owned sites makes this target difficult to fully implement.</p> <p>Majority of dingy skipper sites in Councils' ownership are appropriately managed e.g. Percy Pit, Walker Riverside and</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>

		Fenwick Pit Heap.  Jobling Purser site is managed by Butterfly Conservation and owners.	
Re-survey locations where current status is not clear.	2013	No surveys required as all current sites are confirmed.	<b>Completed</b>
Maintain communication with Butterfly Conservation to raise awareness of this butterfly and its management requirements.	Ongoing	Annual report received from Butterfly Conservation (BC). BC involved in management and surveys of dingy skipper sites.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Include the habitat requirements of dingy skipper when drawing up mitigation or restoration measures in the development control process where sites are located adjacent to existing colonies.	Ongoing	All planning applications where Dingy Skipper may be affected. E.G. Lidl site at Lemmington, Nexus site at Howdon, West Chirton Industrial Estate and Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Seek and develop opportunities to establish new colonies.	Ongoing	Enhancements secured at Lidl site at Lemmington.  Forth Yards site Masterplan and Newburn Riverside are to take dingy skipper into consideration as part of its designs.  Enhancements secured at Killingworth Depo site	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>5. Otter Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Maintain the current distribution of otter in Newcastle and North Tyneside. Submit all otter records to ERIC.	Ongoing	Current distribution maintained. Otter taken into consideration in all planning applications. Any new records found through planning are submitted to ERIC.  Otter now found on all major water courses in Newcastle and North Tyneside.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Restore and improve riparian habitat along 5km of watercourse for otters.	2021		<b>Completed</b>
Ensure all operations affecting watercourses take account of otters, retaining features such as old trees, scrub and overhanging root systems.	Ongoing	Otter and water vole surveys are implemented on all watercourses and appropriate mitigation and method statements are put in place.  Full otter surveys and mitigation are required for NGP Cell D and Spine Road application these have been secured.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Encourage public participation in submission of otter sightings and otter conservation through articles and promotional material.	2015	NWT Otter Project.	<b>Completed</b>
Construct and install 5 otter holts at suitable sites.	2016	3 otter holts to be installed along the Ouseburn as part of NGP Cell D Spine Road.	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Identify priority stretches of watercourse where habitat improvement for otters should be focused.	2014		<b>Completed</b>
Limit accidental killing of otters on roads, by providing suitable underpasses where appropriate.	Ongoing	NGP Ouseburn road crossing – Designs have been secured to ensure free otter movement beneath new road and bridge.	<b>Ongoing</b>

6. Urban Bird Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Encourage public participation in urban bird surveys.	Ongoing	<p>Regular promotional events held by the Tyne kittiwake Partnership. Kittiwake numbers on the Quayside and River Tyne are recorded by volunteers for the Tyne Bird Club.</p> <p>RSPB promoting National Swift Survey &amp; Big Garden Bird Watch.</p> <p>RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch event in Northumberland Park and bird identification events in RSCP and Northumberland Park.</p>	Ongoing
Encourage public to submit sightings of swifts at roof level to the National Swift Inventory.	Ongoing	<p>RSPB promoting national swift survey.</p> <p>Breeding Bird Surveys from development proposals submitted to ERIC NE.</p>	Ongoing
Continue to monitor current sites for priority species.	Annually	<p>Annual bird surveys no longer undertaken due to lack of resources.</p> <p>Regular bird surveys are carried out to monitor populations for some planning sites e.g. Brenkley Lane; NGP; Scaffold Hill.</p>	Ongoing
Encourage winter feeding of urban birds on an annual basis through public events and/or the media.	Autumn/Winter	<p>Undertaken through 'Parks' and Ranger events at both Newcastle and North Tyneside.</p> <p>Bird boxes erected by cubs at red house ramble; Bird feeder event at Northumberland Park</p>	Ongoing
Encourage nest box construction and installation for urban birds on an annual basis through public events and /or the media.	Autumn/Winter	<p>Undertaken through regular Ranger events in Newcastle e.g. National Bird Box Week.</p> <p>Undertaken through 'Parks'</p>	Ongoing

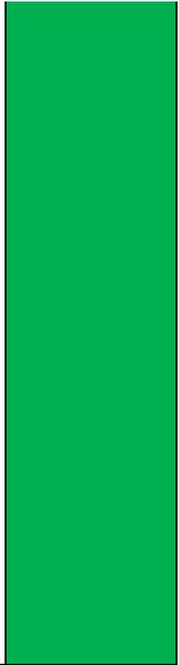
		<p>Events and by Community Groups in North Tyneside e.g. Northumberland Park, RSCP, Red House Ramble Friends of Group</p> <p>Promoted through 'Wildlife Gardening Leaflet' on website.</p> <p>Staff at HMRC held nest box event.</p>	
Install 20 nest boxes on suitable sites for a wide variety of urban bird species.	Annually	<p>North Tyneside: 151 bird boxes secured through planning schemes e.g. Holystone roundabout; Walker Place; Killingworth Depo; Killingworth Flood Alleviation Scheme; Greymartins; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Nexus Howdon; Mylord Crescent; Wallsend Health Centre</p> <p>Newcastle: 71 bird boxes secured through planning schemes e.g. Clumber street; Dinnington; Coach Lane, Wideopen; Newcastle General Hospital; Newcastle City Sports Centre</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Encourage developers to incorporate nesting features on all new development projects through the planning process.	Ongoing	Nesting features for birds requested on new development projects and on renovated building projects. See target above for examples.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Encourage wildlife friendly gardening through media articles, websites, events and printed material.	Annually	'Wildlife Gardening Leaflet' on Council websites.	<b>Completed</b>

7. Water Vole Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Initiate a baseline survey for water voles in Newcastle and North Tyneside along key watercourses to update current records.	2013	Water vole is now thought to be almost absent in Newcastle and North Tyneside despite suitable habitat. No recent surveys for planning applications has recorded any sightings.	Not completed
Submit all water vole records to ERIC.	Ongoing	All new records or survey information submitted on annual basis.	Ongoing
Improve riparian habitat along 5km of watercourse to help increase connectivity for water voles.	2020	<p>Improvements to 500m of the Ouseburn at Brunton Park carried out and approximately 500m of new watercourse created.</p> <p>Restoration of 400m of Milkhope Burn at Brenkley Lane.</p> <p>Enhancements conditioned to watercourses at East Middle Callerton, West Middle Callerton, NGP Cell D and Throckley North and Throckley South.</p> <p>Hartley Burn catchment group set up to examine riparian issues.</p>	Completed but ongoing
Encourage public participation in submission of water vole sightings and their conservation through articles, leaflets and activities.	2014	No resources available.	Not completed
Identify priority stretches of watercourse where habitat improvement for water voles should be focussed.	2013	<p>Improvements to 500m of the Ouseburn at Brunton have been carried out and approximately another 500m of watercourse created.</p> <p>Continued Restoration of 400m of Milkhope Burn, Brenkley Lane.</p> <p>This has been considered at all</p>	Completed but ongoing

Newcastle's SLR sites and at NGP.

Ouseburn River Restoration Project Feasibility Report includes these aims within its proposed projects. This is a partnership project between Newcastle, North Tyneside, Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and Groundwork.

Groundwork and Environment Agency project improved 250m of the Ouseburn near Callerton.



8. Red Squirrel Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Report all red squirrel sightings to ERIC and RSNE.	Ongoing	Reports sent to ERIC.	Ongoing
Carry out public awareness activities to promote red squirrel conservation and discourage people from feeding grey squirrels close to red squirrel sites.	Ongoing	<p>Undertaken by NWT as part of RSNE Project and the NHSN.</p> <p>The Red Squirrel Tyneside Project has been set up in the Tyneside area. This involves raising awareness of the issues and carrying out red squirrel conservation in selected areas.</p> <p>New red squirrel interpretation panels have been created and installed at Havannah Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Red squirrel mitigation strategy has been secured as part of Hazlerigg S106 agreement; raising awareness and training will form part of this strategy.</p>	Ongoing
Carry out grey squirrel control at remaining red squirrel sites and surrounding areas.	Ongoing	<p>Undertaken by NWT as part of RSNE, NHSN and by Jesmond Dene Volunteers.</p> <p>The Red Squirrel Tyneside Project has been set up in the Tyneside area. This involves control of grey squirrels at red squirrel sites and strategic wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Grey squirrel control will be part of the Red squirrel mitigation strategy secured as part of Hazelrigg S106 agreement.</p>	Ongoing
In areas where red squirrels are still present, improve woodland management of the site and surrounding area where possible.	Ongoing	<p>Northumbria Natural History Society manage Gosforth Park and Newcastle Rangers/volunteers manage Havannah.</p> <p>Newcastle Rangers and</p>	Ongoing

		<p>volunteers have put in new fencing and signage to restrict access to red squirrel habitat. Habitat management is also being undertaken.</p> <p>Hoys Wood is being managed for red squirrel by Banks/ Blagdon Estates.</p>	
<p>Monitor grey squirrel control measures and effects to both grey squirrel and red squirrel populations through RSNE recognised methods.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Undertaken by RSNE, Jesmond Dene Volunteers &amp; Northumbria Natural History Society.</p> <p>The Red Squirrel Tyneside Project are monitoring squirrel populations as part of its work.</p> <p>Monitoring is to form the first part of the red squirrel mitigation strategy as part of Hazelrigg S106 agreement.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>9. Hedgehog Targets</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Engage the public in surveys to determine the distribution of hedgehogs in Newcastle and North Tyneside.	2012	Press release and article undertaken spring 2012. Website links to organisations for recording sightings.	<b>Completed</b>
Produce advisory information for managing gardens and urban green space for hedgehogs.	2013	Press release and article undertaken spring 2012. Website links to organisations for recording sightings. Wildlife gardening Leaflet produced 2012.	<b>Completed</b>
Create and install 20 hibernacula at appropriate sites throughout Newcastle & North Tyneside.	2015	<p>Three hedgehog hibernacula created at former Throckley school housing scheme.</p> <p>2 hedgehog homes/hibernacula installed at the Red House Farm site.</p> <p>Hedgehog hibernacula secured through appropriate planning conditions at numerous sites</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>

<b>10. Slow Worm Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Determine the current extent and distribution of habitats supporting or likely to support slow worm.	Ongoing	Only one site recorded in Newcastle and North Tyneside.	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Seek to designate confirmed slow worm habitats as Local Wildlife Sites.	Ongoing	Station Masters Garden Site to be considered for designation at next LWS review.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Target allotment owners to raise awareness of conservation requirements of slow worm and encourage recording of sightings.	2012	Information sheets, posters and survey forms on slow worm distributed to allotment tenants in NT and NCC. Article included in City Life.	<b>Completed</b>
Advise land managers on suitable management of current and potential slow worm habitats. Prevent loss or degradation of these existing sites.	Ongoing	Friends of Station Masters Garden advised of slow worm habitat requirements, best practice & management. New habitats created on site.	<b>Completed</b>
Create 5 hibernacula on current and potential sites.	2013	9 hibernacula created at Station Masters Garden site.	<b>Completed</b>

11. Bee Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Develop bee projects with local Universities/ educational establishments.	2013	<p>Newcastle's Bee Strategy started to promote the importance of bees. Project worked with numerous schools.</p> <p>20 habitat creation projects undertaken at various schools in Newcastle and North Tyneside sites.</p> <p>Wildflower workshop at Newcastle University with Friends of the Earth.</p>	<b>Completed</b>
Create 6 flagship bee gardens on appropriate sites to raise awareness of bee conservation and encourage appropriate planting.	2014	Newcastle University Garden; Civic Centre Pictorial Meadow, Moorside bee allotment, Cowgate Community Garden, Newburn Sensory Garden.	<b>Completed</b>
Promote the retention or provision of suitable nesting and over wintering sites in public and private gardens and allotments.	Ongoing	<p>Wildlife Gardening leaflet produced; Information/advice given to householders by pest control officers.</p> <p>Newcastle's Bee Strategy provides website information.</p> <p>North Tyneside's Bee Leaflet provides website information</p> <p>North Tyneside Council have created over 70 'biodiversity' areas in public open spaces and along road verges to benefit bees and other insects</p> <p>Members of the public and staff advised on an ad hoc basis.</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Advise landowners on suitable management of sites for bumblebees.	Ongoing	<p>Newcastle's Bee Strategy provides website information.</p> <p>North Tyneside's Bee Leaflet provides website information</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>

Carry out a survey of bees on 10 appropriate sample sites.	2015	No resources available.	<b>Not completed</b>
Raise skills level by delivering bee identification workshop.	2014	Buglife Bee ID workshop held at Jesmond Dene.	<b>Completed</b>

12. Brown Hare Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Seek to secure sympathetic management of habitat for brown hares through the planning system.	Ongoing	<p>Sympathetic habitat creation and management carried out at Brenkley Lane for brown hare.</p> <p>Note: Target difficult to achieve due to size of habitat required.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Create 500 linear metres of native species rich hedgerow.	2021	<p>A net increase of approx 1,135m of new hedgerow has been secured at Throckley North development site.</p> <p>80m of native hedge have been planted at Eastgarth, Newbiggin Hall</p> <p>Large areas of new hedgerow planting have been secured through planning schemes:-</p> <p>Newcastle:- NGP, Hazelrigg, West Middle Callerton, East Middle Callerton, Lower Callerton.</p> <p>North Tyneside:- Station Road east and west; Howdon; Murray Hogg Site Sandy Lane; Killingworth Depo; Scaffold Hill</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Improve 500 linear metres of species poor hedgerow.	2021	<p>Hedgerow improvements have been secured at the following SLR sites in Newcastle:- Throckley South, Throckley North, Dinnington North, NGP and Callerton sites.</p> <p>North Tyneside:- Station Road east and west; Howdon; Scaffold Hill; Backworth</p>	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>
Create or restore 2ha of lowland species rich grassland.	2021	Brenkley Opencast restoration scheme has created 9.8ha of semi improved neutral grassland to date.	<b>Completed but ongoing</b>

		<p>Additional wildflower meadow creation has been secured through planning at the SLR sites and NGP.</p> <p>Species rich grassland secured through Planning schemes in North Tyneside:-Station Road; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Howdon Nexus site;</p> <p>14,000sqm of wildflower biodiversity areas created and enhanced across sites in North Tyneside</p>	
Increase public awareness about the conservation status of brown hare.	2014	Undertaken by UK organisations such as Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust & Wildlife Trusts	<b>Completed</b>

**Meeting:** Environment Sub-committee

**Date:** 9 July 2019

**Title:** Work Programme 2019/20

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**Author:** Dave Parkin, Democratic Services Tel: 643 5316

**Service:** Law and Governance

**Wards affected:** All

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## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the Sub-committee with a number of potential topics for inclusion in the 2019/20 work programme and to invite members to identify any additional topics which they consider should be included in the Sub-committee's work programme.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Sub-committee is recommended to agree a work programme and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee that could be included in the 2019/20 work programme.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 As part of the process for establishing the 2019/20 overview and scrutiny work programme, Members and Senior Officers have been asked to put forward suggestions for possible topics to be considered. As in previous years the focus of overview and scrutiny will be on contributing to policy development.
- 3.2 Senior officers have identified a range of scrutiny activities for the year ahead. These have been shared with and discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub-committee. Members of the Sub-committee are also invited to put forward their suggestions for topics that the Sub-committee might wish to consider.

## **4. Topics**

- 4.1 Following discussions with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment Sub-committee, the Cabinet Member for Environment and senior officers, the topics below have been identified as possible areas for the Sub-committee to consider over the coming year:

- Waste Strategy including waste collection, flytipping and recycling
- Environmental Enforcement
- Air Quality Strategy (including the annual return sent to Defra)
- Low Carbon Project
- Water Quality along the coast
- Climate Change emergency

- 4.2 In order to manage the Sub-committee's work programme effectively members will also receive information reports on various topics. These reports can be used to determine whether there are any specific areas that the Sub-committee would like to consider further.
- 4.3 Members are requested to prioritise the agreed topics to be included in the work programme for the year ahead.
- 4.4 During the meeting members will have the opportunity to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee for inclusion in the work programme, these topics will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub-committee.

## **5. In-depth Studies**

- 5.1 To ensure that the work programme is effective it is suggested that when evaluating topics for inclusion in the work programme the following criteria should be considered:
- Is it timely?
  - Will it duplicate any other work on-going within the Council or the North of Tyne Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
  - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?
- 5.2 As has been practice in previous years, it is recommended that sub groups (of around 4/5 members) be established to carry out the scrutiny of the topics that have been selected for in-depth investigation. These sub groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub group per Committee/Sub-committee can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.

## **6. Appendices**

None

## **7. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

- Suggestions for topics for scrutiny received from elected members and senior officers.
- North Tyneside Scrutiny Handbook
- North Tyneside Constitution