



**North Tyneside Council**

# Environment Sub Committee

Friday 2 September 2022

**Tuesday, 6 September 2022** 0.02 Chamber - Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY **commencing at 6.00 pm.**

## **Agenda Item**

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5. **Biodiversity Action Plan and Biodiversity Net Gain** **3 - 32**

To receive a presentation on the annual report in relation to the Newcastle and North Tyneside Biodiversity Action Plan and the biodiversity requirements of the Environment Act 2021 in relation to biodiversity net gain.

**Circulation overleaf ...**

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## **Members of the Environment Sub Committee**

Councillor Davey Drummond (Chair)

Councillor Gary Bell

Councillor Brian Burdis

Councillor Margaret Hall

Councillor Gary Madden

Councillor Pam McIntyre

Councillor Martin Murphy (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Linda Bell

Councillor Michelle Fox

Councillor Chris Johnston

Councillor Louise Marshall

Councillor Jane Shaw

**Meeting: Environment Sub-committee**

**Date: 6 September 2022**

**Title: Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2020-22**

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|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
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| <b>Service:</b>        | Environmental Sustainability |                    |
| <b>Wards affected:</b> | 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 Report for 2020-22, covering a two-year period that includes the lockdown/Covid period of 2020/21.

## 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 between 2020-22.

### 3.1 Examples of BAP Projects Delivered between 2020-22

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

- 23,135sqm (2.3ha) of wildflower grassland restored, managed and created across 84 amenity, green space and roadside verge sites in North Tyneside
- Species rich grassland secured through a number of planning schemes including sites at Murton, Backworth, Wallsend and North Shields
- Annual grassland and invertebrate monitoring surveys undertaken at Howdon Nexus site and submitted to the Local Authority
- Species rich grassland areas managed and new areas created within the Brierdene, Holywell Dene, Killingworth Lake Park and Benton Quarry
- Scrub management undertaken by the Friends of Brierdene to prevent encroachment into wildflower meadow areas
- Annual bee and butterfly surveys undertaken in Brierdene by the FoB
- Monthly bee surveys undertaken at Northumberland Park (Citizen Science Surveys)
- Management of grassland and meadows undertaken annually in the Rising Sun Country Park and creation of new species rich grassland areas
- Grazing project at St Mary's Island Nature Reserve continues to restore and enhance the species rich meadow areas
- Botanical surveys undertaken at St Mary's Island Nature Reserve by the Friends of St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group.

#### ***Native Woodland, Scrub & Hedgerow***

- Woodland, hedgerow and scrub planting secured as part of a number of planning schemes including sites at Murton, Backworth and Wallsend
- Tree and scrub management work undertaken in Holywell Dene, Brierdene, St Marys wetland, RSCP and Killingworth Lake Park
- 5760m of native hedgerows managed annually in RSCP
- Trees and native scrub planted in Northumberland Park, RSCP, Wallsend Parks and Brierdene
- 500 native bluebell bulbs planted in woodland at Killingworth Lake Park
- More than 300 standard street trees planted across the borough by the Council
- 3.8ha of woodland/trees planted through the NECF (North East Community Forest) and Trees for Cities (TfC) projects at RSCP, Henley Gardens and Love Avenue. Over 8000 native trees were planted as part of the project.
- 350 trees (whips) and 56 heavy standard trees have been planted across the borough as part of the Local Authority Treescape Fund.
- 500 native bluebell bulbs and a standard cherry tree planted at the Suez site in Wallsend

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

- SUDs features including ponds and swales secured through Planning on various development schemes including sites at Murton, Backworth, Monkseaton and North Shields.
- Pond restoration works carried out at RSCP on the educational pond which included a survey for great crested newt prior to works commencing.
- Management of St Mary's wetlands undertaken through Friends of St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group.
- 0.3km of watercourse improvements (re-profiling works) undertaken in the RSCP which also included the planting of native hedgerow, native scrub and wildflowers in spring 2021.
- 0.3km of watercourse improvement undertaken on the Seaton Burn at Wideopen to reduce flooding and improve biodiversity. S106 funding has also been secured to treat Japanese Knotweed along the watercourse around Little Waters Local Wildlife Site (LWS).
- Watercourse improvements undertaken in Wallsend Parks (Wallsend Burn), Holywell Dene (Seaton Burn) and Brierdene.

### ***Urban Birds***

- 195 bird boxes secured through planning schemes including 1 no. Kittiwake Ledge and Oystercatcher habitat
- Bird boxes installed at a number of parks including Killingworth Lake Park and Benton Quarry
- 5760m of native hedgerows managed annually in RSCP to provide bird feeding and nesting habitat
- St Mary's Wetlands annual vegetation management to maintain suitable habitat for roosting waders
- St Mary's Wetlands regular bird surveys/monitoring, including annual breeding bird surveys and monthly WeBS surveys
- Bird surveys undertaken at Brierdene, Northumberland Park, and Marden Quarry
- RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' events at Northumberland Park

### ***Bats***

- Habitat secured for bats (woodland, hedgerow, grassland etc) through Planning development schemes
- 180 bat boxes/features secured through a number of planning schemes
- Bat training events (BCT) Northumberland Park
- Organised bat walks in parks and Local Wildlife Sites including RSCP and Wallsend 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*

- Over 9000 volunteer hours between 2020-2022 including work in the Dene, school visits and website management
- Wildflower grassland management
- Tree and scrub management
- Watercourse management (clearance and bankside repairs)
- Invasive plant management
- Footpaths repairs
- Community events including pond dipping event
- Wildlife surveys including water vole and plant surveys
- 27 new species recorded in the Dene between 2020-2022.
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold each month
- Royal Horticultural Society “*It’s Your Neighbourhood*” (IYN) Inspection with Judges
- Wildflower sowing of 20 areas in Dene, plug planting and collection of wildflower seed
- Native scrub planting in lower reach
- Bridge repairs and fencing improvements
- Clearing fallen timber, cutting back damaged trees and clearing footpaths
- Litter picking/graffiti removal

### *2) St Mary’s Island Wetland Conservation Group*

- Wetland Restoration / Management
- Conservation grazing with Exmoor ponies Jan-Mar 21 and Feb-May 22 to manage the species-rich grassland. The conservation group provided signage and carried out daily checks on the ponies’ welfare.
- Managing vegetation on the islands –annual strimming of the islands to maintain suitable habitat for roosting waders in August 2020; 2021 and 2022.
- Regular litter picks undertaken throughout the year.
- Viewpoints maintained by removal of vegetation and strimming in front of main screen.
- Fencing repaired following damage due to Storm Arwen in Nov 21.
- St Mary’s Island Wetland Management Plan updated in February 2021 covering the period 2021-25.
- Regular bird surveys/monitoring, including annual breeding bird surveys and monthly WeBS surveys.
- Annual botanical surveys/monitoring in June/July
- Monitoring data provided to ERIC North-East
- Won the Royal Horticultural Society ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ ‘Outstanding’ award for Northumbria in October 2021

- Bi-monthly newsletters produced and Facebook page regularly updated. Facebook page now has 950 followers an increase from 530 two years ago
- Public engagement activities have been limited due to Covid. The Group will have a stand at the SMI Wildlife Festival August 2022 and will be offering a guided walk to members on September 3<sup>rd</sup>

### 3) *Friends of Holywell Dene*

- Strimming - upstream meadow and surrounding paths
- Sycamore bashing - between wooden bridges, south side
- Strimming - NTC land from upstream wooden bridge working downstream
- Strimming - upstream and downstream meadows
- Downstream from wooden bridge - clearing big tree in river and river sweep upstream
- NTC south side - path edging, mesh replacement on boardwalk, repairing fence near side waterfall
- Opposite meadow - extending walkway path by waterfall
- South side opposite gabions - rerouting path behind tree
- Production of FoHD calendars
- Bird feeding, squirrel box checking and hedgehog rescuing all continued during lockdowns.
- Six monthly newsletters produced and continued throughout Covid.
- Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC) training event "Introduction to Wildlife Recording" attended by members
- Members took part in the 'New Year Plant Hunt' (ERIC) in January 2022 and in April collected data for the 'City Nature Challenge' using the iNaturalist and iRecord Apps.
- Red Squirrel Project in partnership with North East Red Squirrel Group

### 4) *Northumberland Park & Marden Quarry*

- Regular RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' events
- Monthly bee walk and survey (Citizen Science Surveys)
- Easter chick trail
- Tree planting events
- Pond management
- Management of butterfly meadow
- Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) staff training (prepare & lead bat walks)
- Volunteer meetings and activities
- Regular monthly wildlife/biodiversity surveys (Northumberland Park)
- Quarterly biodiversity surveys (Marden Quarry)
- Gardening group
- Northumberland Park Wildlife Group regular newsletter/sightings board and Facebook page.

#### 5) *Rising Sun Country Park*

- 5760m of native hedgerows managed annually
- 0.3km of watercourse improvements including planting of native hedgerow and scrub and wildflowers.
- 2.7ha of native woodland created through NECF project
- Pond restoration works carried out in Nature Reserve which included a survey for great crested newt prior to works commencing
- 4 wildflower meadows managed annually including removal of invasive species and scrub removal to prevent encroachment.
- 200m of new post and rail fence provided along the route into the Nature Reserve.
- Tree management/thinning works in Hadrian Woodland with habitat piles created for wildlife and over 300m of redundant fencing removed.
- Vegetation clearance to improve viewing areas in front of bird hides at Swallow Pond.
- Wildflower meadows cut and hay used at donor sites within park to create/enhance species rich grassland
- 386 volunteer hours provided within the Park.
- 189 Education visits with 2680 participants including bat events
- Red Squirrel Project in partnership with North East Red Squirrel Group

#### 6) *Killingworth Lake Park & Benton Quarry Park*

- Management and sowing of wildflower areas
- Woodland management works (Killingworth)
- Commemoration Project (Killingworth)
- 500 bluebell bulbs planted (Killingworth Lake Woodland)
- Bird boxes installed in trees at both parks
- Control of invasive plants by volunteers at Killingworth

#### 7) *Wallsend Parks*

- 1298 Volunteer hours
- Volunteers have carried out hedgerow management, weeding and litter picking
- 23 Environmental education visits with 360 participants (2021/22 – Covid affected education events the previous year)
- Regular bat walks
- Wildflower areas managed and sown with wildflower seed. Three new areas installed in 2021/22
- Areas of long grass created and maintained for invertebrates
- Watercourse improvements – North Burn and Wallsend Burn cleared between 2020-2022
- All grass risings composted on site and re-used for annual bedding
- Over 1000 shrubs planted including species for pollinators
- Tree management in Hall grounds to enhance woodland ground layer
- Five trees planted in Richardson Dees Park and Hall Grounds.
- Lime tree planted by Elected Mayor to commemorate Platinum Jubilee





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## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP Annual Monitoring Review 2020-22.**

Progress report of the targets from each Habitat and Species Action Plan from the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP, which have been delivered between 2020-22.

**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>                       |
|---|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Secure or create nesting habitat for kittiwakes along the River Tyne to enable existing colonies to expand or move. | 2016                        | Habitat for kittiwakes continues to be secured through the Tyne Kittiwake Partnership and Planning process.<br><br>1 No. Kittiwake Ledge secured for Smulders site along riverside at Wallsend | <b>Completed but target 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   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Incorporate 1 new green roof into new developments in both Newcastle & North Tyneside.                              | 2014                        | Green roofs secured on planning schemes e.g Roddam Close, Backworth  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Request nesting/roosting features on all new and renovated developments requiring ecological consultation.          | Ongoing                     | 195 bird boxes and 180 bat boxes/features secured. In addition, 1no. Kittiwake ledge and Oystercatcher habitat was secured   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| All information acquired on nesting/roosting sites for protected species will be submitted to ERIC.                 | Ongoing                     | Data submitted to record centre  | <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 RSPB 'Swift Mapper' Project.   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |

| 2. Estuary & Coastal Habitat   | Target Date | Action  | Status                       |
|--|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| Ensure no net loss of mudflats and saltmarsh, other than by natural processes.                                 | Annually    | No net loss reported.   | Ongoing                      |
| Create two high tide wader roost sites and manage existing roost sites appropriately.                          | 2016        | <p>Grazing project at St Mary's wetlands and management of site by St Mary's Wetlands Conservation Group.</p> <p>St Mary's wetlands high tide wader roost site is being managed to create additional open water areas for waders.</p>   | Ongoing                      |
| 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. WeBs surveys also undertaken by Friends of St Mary's Wetlands Group   | Ongoing                      |
| Investigate funding opportunities for interpretation panels along 4 locations on the River Tyne and the coast. | 2015        | A Coastal Interpretation Strategy will be implemented as part of the Coastal Mitigation Strategy in North Tyneside to mitigate impacts on the SPA along the coast   | Ongoing                      |
| Create or restore up to 0.5ha of saltmarsh habitat.  | 2020        | The Tyne Estuary Partnership is seeking to deliver a number of projects along the River Tyne including Howdon Wetlands. A floating ecosystem has been created at Royal Quays Marina with native salt tolerant plants as well as a small reef system under the water to provide a nursery for fish and other marine organisms (2021) | Completed but target ongoing |
| Investigate potential for a coastal heritage trail along the North Tyneside coastline.                         | 2015        | Ongoing; if opportunities arise   | Ongoing                      |
| Promote the importance of coastal waders through publicity material and events.                                | Ongoing     | Promotion events/materials undertaken by RSPB and NTBC. Annual events carried out by St Mary's Wetland. Development schemes in close proximity to the coast are required through Planning to provide information to residents regarding the importance of   | Ongoing                      |

|  |         |   |         |
|--|---------|---|---------|
|  |         | designated coastal sites and the waders they support .  |         |
| 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. Information provided to residents through Planning on appropriate schemes. | Ongoing |
| 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. The St Mary's Wetland Group also collect data on the high tide roost and SPA/SSSI area at St Mary's.  | Ongoing |

| <b>3. Brownfield Land Targets</b>   | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Status</b>                |
|---|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Identify new brownfield sites that could be designated as local wildlife sites (LWS). | Ongoing            | No new sites identified.  | Completed but target ongoing |
| Undertake one brownfield site management project annually.                            | 2012-2021          | Management Plan secured at West Chirton site for dingy skipper/brownfield butterflies. Nexus Howdon site managed annually for dingy skipper and brownfield grassland with annual reports submitted to LA. | Completed but target ongoing |

| <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               | 23,135sqm (2.3ha) of wildflower grassland restored, managed and created across 84 amenity, green space and roadside verge sites in North Tyneside | Completed but target ongoing |
| Produce best practice guidelines for rail side land management to minimise disturbance to wildlife. | 2014               | Appropriate advice provided through Planning in relation to habitat creation & management and protected species                                   | Ongoing                      |

|  |         |   |         |
|--|---------|---|---------|
| 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     | Ongoing |
| Incorporate wildlife tunnels or other features in development schemes where road kills are an issue.   | Ongoing | Undertaken on all appropriate planning applications     | Ongoing |
| 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 | Ongoing |

| <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. Natural England have mapped ponds as part of the Great Crested Newt District Level Licencing scheme.  | Completed but target ongoing |
| Create 20 new ponds of conservation value in appropriate areas with emphasis on providing stepping stones between existing ponds of wildlife value | 2021               | New ponds and wetlands created through planning schemes e.g Murton, Whitley Bay, Wallsend  | Completed but target ongoing |
| Undertake management that will enhance the biodiversity value of 20 ponds.   | 2021               | Management works undertaken by Friends of St Mary's Wetland including grazing, vegetation clearance and scrub management.<br><br>Restoration of Education pond at RSCP and vegetation management around Swallow Pond | Completed but target ongoing |
| Assess the status of invasive, non-native species in the ponds and lakes and implement a strategy for their eradication or control.                | 2015               | Japanese Knotweed treatment undertaken annually in North Tyneside  | Completed but target ongoing |

|   |         |   |                                     |
|---|---------|---|-------------------------------------|
|   |         | <p><i>Crassula helmsii</i> management undertaken at St Mary's wetlands through Friends of St. Mary's Wetland group.</p> <p>Regional INNS Partnership (Invasive Non-Native Species) set up to provide training and advice and share best practice regionally</p> |                                     |
| <b>Reedbed</b>  |         |   |                                     |
| Create 1 ha of new reedbed habitat.   | 2015    | New reedbeds continue to be created as part of SUDs schemes through planning schemes.   | <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>Completed but target ongoing</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            | <p>Advice provided on all planning applications and Council schemes/ projects as required.</p> <p>Japanese Knotweed treatment undertaken annually in North Tyneside</p> <p>Regional INNS Partnership (Invasive Non-Native Species) set up to provide training and advice and share best practice regionally</p> | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Map non-native invasive species along 10km of watercourse in Newcastle and North Tyneside.     | 2021               | Japanese knotweed mapped on GIS and 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   | Ongoing                      |
| 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 planning applications   | Ongoing                      |
| Deliver riparian improvements that will benefit wildlife along a minimum of 5km of watercourse.  | 2021    | 0.6km of watercourse improvements at RSCP and Seaton Burn, Wideopen<br><br>Watercourse improvements at Wallsend Dene, Brierdene Burn and Seaton Burn in Holywell Dene | Completed but target ongoing |
| Incorporation of sustainable drainage systems on appropriate schemes to aid in the minimisation of high flows and pollution from surface water.  | Ongoing | Development schemes have SuDs conditioned through Planning where appropriate.   | Ongoing                      |
| 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.  | Ongoing                      |

| <b>7. Managed Urban Greenspace Targets</b>   | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b>                |
|--|--------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity to all allotment sites and encourage wildlife friendly gardening. | 2014               | Ecological advice provided to allotment holders and at allotment sites where appropriate.  | Completed but target ongoing |
| <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, Friends of Holywell Dene, Northumberland Park, Rising Sun Country Park, Wallsend Parks, Killingworth Lake Park and Benton Quarry. | Ongoing                      |



|  |          |  |                                     |
|--|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Liaise with local businesses to establish 1 wildlife project annually.   | Annually | Project with Suez site Wallsend. Provision of bulbs, wildflower seed and a standard cherry tree. Native hedge to also be planted in Autumn 2022  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Liaise with Council departments to promote wildlife friendly gardening in parks and create at least one wildlife area annually.          | Annually | Planting events carried out in Northumberland Park (tree planting); RSCP (scrub and wildflower planting, pond restoration, watercourse improvements); Killingworth Lake Park (management of wildflower areas, bird boxes); Brierdene (Bulb and wildflower planting, tree planting) | <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  | Annual events carried out throughout the parks to promote biodiversity, including planting events, bat walks, bird and bee events  | <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 any schemes e.g RSCP pond and watercourse restoration works; Silverlink Commemoration Project; Waggonway/Killingworth Lake Park regeneration schemes   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| 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 features, amphibian hibernacula; ponds and SuDs   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| <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  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

| 8. Native Woodland Targets   | Target Date | Action  | Status                       |
|--|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| Maintain current extent of ancient semi-natural woodland.  | Ongoing     | Current extent maintained (Holywell Dene)   | 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 and a biodiversity net gain.   | 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 continuing in Rising Sun Country Park, Killingworth Lake Park, Holywell Dene and Brierdene Park.</p> <p>NECF funding secured to create new native woodland with sites managed for a minimum period of 15 years</p> <p>Woodland management secured through Planning Schemes and S106 contributions.</p> | Ongoing                      |
| Create native woodland on 10 new sites.  | 2015        | <p>Native woodland and tree planting secured through Planning. Examples include schemes at Murton, Backworth, Wallsend, Whitley Bay and North Shields.</p> <p>3.8ha of new woodland created through NECF project at RSCP Farm, Henley Gardens and Love Avenue.</p>  | Completed but target ongoing |
| Increase linkage between fragmented woodland sites by the creation of green corridors on 4 sites.  | 2021        | Native woodland and tree planting secured where appropriate through Planning. Woodland planting secured through NECF project that has increased woodland linkages at RSCP, Henley Gardens and Love Avenue.  | Completed but target ongoing |

|  |          |   |                                     |
|--|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Promote the value of native woodland to the public by undertaking 4 events per year. | Annually | Events undertaken at sites such as RSCP, Northumberland Park, Wallsend Parks, Holywell Dene and Brierdene.  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Manage/replant 3 sites of amenity woodland to native woodland.                       | 2016     | S106 funding secured and works commenced for woodland management work at Rising Sun Country Park to replace non-native species with native trees and understorey trees. | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

| <b>9. Lowland Grassland Targets</b>  | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b>                       |
|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Maintain current extent of lowland meadows.  | Ongoing            | Implemented through current management regimes and mitigation through planning   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| 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.  | <b>Completed</b>                    |
| Designate all qualifying sites as Local Wildlife Sites.                                  | Ongoing            | All qualifying sites designated through Regional Local Site Partnership (LSP) system.  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Secure favourable management on all species rich grasslands within Local Wildlife Sites. | 2021               | Sites such as Silverlink Park and St Mary's Island Nature Reserve are managed through grazing. Existing/new meadows are currently managed in RSCP and S106 is secured for additional and more extensive management. Some sites are privately owned and not managed by the Local Authority. | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |

|   |      |  |                                     |
|---|------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Create or restore 10ha of lowland species rich grassland.   | 2021 | Species rich grasslands are being secured through housing allocation sites and other Planning schemes in North Tyneside.<br><br>23,135sqm (2.3ha) of wildflower grassland (biodiversity areas) created and enhanced across 84 sites in North Tyneside. | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| 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 | 2.3ha of wildflower grassland created and managed on 84 sites within open spaces, parks and road verges in North Tyneside.   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

| <b>10. Scrub, Shrub &amp; Hedgerow Targets</b>             | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b>                       |
|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Create 10 ha of new native scrub/shrub.                    | 2021               | Native scrub planting has been secured through planning schemes at Murton, Backworth, North Shields and Wallsend as well as through NECF (North East community Forest) and Trees for Cities (TfC) funding at RSCP Farm, Henley Gardens and Love Avenue | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Create 5000 linear metres of native species rich hedgerow. | 2021               | Native hedgerow planting has been secured through planning schemes (example sites above)   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Improve 2000 linear metres of species poor hedgerow.       | 2021               | Hedgerow improvements are secured through landscaping associated with planning applications. E.g Murton Housing Site   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

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| 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 or scrub are not retained, appropriate mitigation and biodiversity net gain is secured 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. 5760 linear metres of native hedgerows are managed annually in RSCP for wildlife. Advice conditioned on all appropriate planning applications. | <b>Completed but target 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  | Ongoing                      |
| 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        | Native hedgerow planting has been secured through planning schemes e.g schemes at Murton, Backworth, Whitley Bay, Wallsend  | Completed but target ongoing |
| 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 through planning schemes e.g. Murton housing scheme (Backworth compensation land)   | Completed but target ongoing |
| 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. 5760 linear metres of native hedgerows are managed annually in RSCP for wildlife. 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.<br><br>Monitoring of birds secured via 'Management & Monitoring Plans' for appropriate planning schemes. Farmland bird surveys undertaken on housing allocation sites and other development sites where appropriate. | Ongoing                      |
| Identify key areas for tree sparrows and encourage provision for nesting and feeding habitat.  | 2013        | Tree sparrow continues to be recorded in North Tyneside & Newcastle through development schemes (Planning) and appropriate habitat/nesting features secured as mitigation where appropriate. E.g Murton Housing Site                                  | Completed but target ongoing |

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| Install nest boxes at 10 new sites for tree sparrow and barn owl. | 2015    | Nest boxes secured at all appropriate development sites through the planning process  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Increase suitable habitat for ground nesting birds on 10 sites.   | 2016    | Habitat for ground nesting and farmland birds continues to be secured through planning to mitigate the impacts of development schemes e.g Murton Housing Scheme (Backworth Compensation land)<br><br>Field margin improvements (Species rich grassland) identified at RSCP farm for ground nesting birds such as grey partridge, skylark and lapwing. | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Retain existing suitable habitat for ground nesting birds.        | Ongoing | Habitat retained where possible through Planning. Where it has not been possible to retain habitat then offsite mitigation secured on all sites   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |

| <b>2. Bat Targets</b>   | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b>                       |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Collate records on the number and distribution of bat roosts.   | 2015               | Records collated by Northumberland Bat Group. Records also submitted to the Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC).                                | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Ensure that every demolition or renovation project provides at least one bat box on the new building. | Annually           | Bat boxes secured for planning applications where demolition or renovation is being undertaken. 180 bat boxes or roosting features have been secured through Planning. | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

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| Erect bat boxes on 5 suitable sites on an annual basis.   | Annually | Installed through Planning (see above)   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Create 5000 linear metres of foraging/commuting habitat for bats.   | 2016     | See woodland, hedge, scrub and wetland targets.  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Protect all mature trees and standing deadwood and ensure that if felling or pruning is required, a bat survey is undertaken, and appropriate mitigation implemented. | Ongoing  | Undertaken through planning process.<br><br>Advice provided to grounds maintenance and tree teams. | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |

| <b>3. Amphibian Targets</b>  | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b>                       |
|--|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 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.   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Ensure that all great crested newt sites are managed in a way that will maintain the viability of the population.              | Annually           | Introduction of the Natural England District Level Licencing Scheme will ensure the conservation status of the species is maintained.<br><br>Pond restoration project at RSCP in winter 2021/22 ensures that existing ponds are managed and maintained for GCN and amphibians generally within the Park. | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Raise awareness about amphibian conservation and provide advice on habitat management.   | Ongoing            | Advice provided to developers and Council departments implementing projects/schemes.   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Create 10 new amphibian ponds  | 2016               | New ponds/wetlands secured/created through Planning schemes.<br><br>S106 secured for new ponds/wetlands in RSCP  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |



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| Undertake management that will enhance the biodiversity value of 10 ponds for amphibians. | 2018 | Restoration/management of the education pond at RSCP carried out over winter 2021/22. | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Create 10 new amphibian hibernacula at suitable locations.                                | 2016 | Amphibian hibernacula secured on appropriate development schemes through planning     | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

| <b>4. Dingy Skipper Targets</b>   | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b>                       |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Continue to survey and map the distribution of dingy skipper.   | Annually           | Butterfly Conservation record regionally and map distribution of Dingy Skipper.<br><br>Surveys requested as part of the planning process on appropriate sites.<br><br>Populations recorded at Fenwick Pit Heap, Eccles Colliery, West Chirton Industrial Estate, Tyne Tunnel trading estate and Howdon in North Tyneside | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Establish monitoring at all key sites to determine any change in status.  | Annually           | Butterfly Conservation, NTC and NCC.<br><br>Monitoring of populations secured through planning e.g Howdon Nexus site; Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate; West Chirton.<br><br>Butterfly Conservation also monitor sites in North East.  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Protect dingy skipper sites where possible and secure appropriate mitigation where adverse impacts will occur.                        | Ongoing            | Surveys and mitigation secured where appropriate through the planning process.   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Ensure that landowners and managers are aware of the presence of the species and establish appropriate methods of habitat management. | Ongoing            | Appropriate habitat management is secured on sites through the Planning process  | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |

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|  |         | Council sites (e.g Fenwick Pit Heap) are monitored to ensure habitat is suitable for species  |         |
| 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 survey and management of dingy skipper sites  | Ongoing |
| 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 Nexus site, Howdon, West Chirton Industrial Estate   | Ongoing |
| Seek and develop opportunities to establish new colonies.  | Ongoing | Enhancements secured through the planning process to provide appropriate habitat for the species and other invertebrates<br><br>Partnership work with Stephenson Museum to enhance existing brownfield habitat and create new grasslands for dingy skipper/brownfield butterflies | Ongoing |

| 5. Otter Targets  | Target Date | Action  | Status                       |
|---|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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.<br><br>Otter found on all major water courses in Newcastle and North Tyneside (e.g Seaton Burn watercourse) | Ongoing                      |
| Restore and improve riparian habitat along 5km of watercourse for otters.                                     | 2021        | Watercourse improvements undertaken at RSCP (Feb 2021) and Seaton Burn (Wideopen) in Feb 2022 totalling approximately 0.6km. FoHD also carried out  | Completed but target ongoing |

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|  |         | watercourse improvements in Holywell Dene.  |         |
| 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 undertaken through the Planning process where watercourses may be impacted by development schemes and appropriate mitigation/ method statements secured where appropriate. | Ongoing |
| Limit accidental killing of otters on roads, by providing suitable underpasses where appropriate.  | Ongoing | Suitable wildlife features/mitigation secured through planning or development schemes where appropriate   | Ongoing |

| 6. Urban Bird Targets   | Target Date | Action   | Status  |
|---|-------------|--|---------|
| Encourage public participation in urban bird surveys.   | Ongoing     | 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.<br><br>Urban bird events held at RSCP; Northumberland Park; St Mary's Wetland Nature Reserve and Brierdene. | Ongoing |
| Encourage public to submit sightings of swifts at roof level to the National Swift Inventory. | Ongoing     | RSPB promoting 'Swift Mapper' Project.<br><br>Park/Community events encourage public to participate in bird surveys and submit records   | Ongoing |
| Continue to monitor current sites for priority species.                                       | Annually    | Priority bird species are monitored at sites through planning process for development schemes.   | Ongoing |

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|  |               | <p>NTBC survey and monitor key species and carry out WeBS surveys.</p> <p>St Mary's Island Wetland Group survey and monitor breeding birds and undertake WeBS (Wetland Bird Survey)</p>  |                                     |
| Encourage winter feeding of urban birds on an annual basis through public events and/or the media.                           | Autumn/Winter | Undertaken through 'Parks' events in North Tyneside  | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Encourage nest box construction and installation for urban birds on an annual basis through public events and /or the media. | Autumn/Winter | Undertaken through 'Parks' Events and by Community Groups in North Tyneside e.g. Killingworth Lake Park  | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Install 20 nest boxes on suitable sites for a wide variety of urban bird species.  | Annually      | <p>195 bird boxes/features have been secured through Planning schemes on various development sites. In addition, oystercatcher habitat at Killingworth Depo and a Kittiwake ledge at Smulders Yard have also been secured through Planning.</p> <p>A variety of bird boxes have been installed within Park sites such as Killingworth Lake Park and the Rising Sun Country Park (RSCP)</p> | <b>Completed but target 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.   | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Encourage wildlife friendly gardening through media articles, websites, events and printed material.                         | Annually      | 'Wildlife Gardening Leaflet' on Council websites. Also promoted through community groups and parks events  | <b>Completed</b>                    |

| <b>7. Water Vole Targets</b>   | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Status</b>                |
|--|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Submit all water vole records to ERIC.   | Ongoing            | If recorded (e.g through Planning Schemes) any new records or survey information is submitted to ERIC   | Ongoing                      |
| Improve riparian habitat along 5km of watercourse to help increase connectivity for water voles.                                       | 2020               | Watercourse improvements secured through Planning where appropriate.<br><br>0.3km of watercourse re-profiled and improved within the Rising Sun Country Park.<br><br>0.3km of watercourse improvements undertaken at Seaton Burn in Wideopen. | Completed but target ongoing |
| Encourage public participation in submission of water vole sightings and their conservation through articles, leaflets and activities. | 2014               | PTES run the National Water Vole Monitoring Programme (NWVMP)   | Ongoing                      |
| Identify priority stretches of watercourse where habitat improvement for water voles should be focussed.                               | 2013               | Watercourse improvements are secured through Planning where appropriate.<br><br>0.6km of watercourse improvements have been undertaken in RSCP & Seaton Burn in Wideopen.   | Completed but target ongoing |

| <b>8. Red Squirrel Targets</b>  | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b> |
|---|--------------------|--|---------------|
| 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            | Undertaken by NWT as part of RSNE Project and the NHSN.<br><br>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. | Ongoing       |

|  |         |   |         |
|--|---------|---|---------|
| Monitor grey squirrel control measures and effects to both grey squirrel and red squirrel populations through RSNE recognised methods. | Ongoing | Undertaken by RSNE & Northumbria Natural History Society.<br><br>The Red Squirrel Tyneside Project are monitoring squirrel populations as part of its work. | Ongoing |
|--|---------|---|---------|

| 9. Hedgehog Targets   | Target date | Action   | Status                       |
|---|-------------|--|------------------------------|
| Create and install 20 hibernacula at appropriate sites throughout Newcastle & North Tyneside. | 2015        | Hedgehog hibernacula secured through the planning process on appropriate sites. Hedgehog gaps in fencing conditioned on planning applications to allow movement of hedgehogs through sites | Completed but target ongoing |

| 10. Slow Worm Targets  | Target Date | Action  | Status                       |
|--|-------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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. Surveys for reptiles undertaken where appropriate through the Planning process. | Completed but target ongoing |
| Seek to designate confirmed slow worm habitats as Local Wildlife Sites.                              | Ongoing     | Confirmed slow worm sites will be considered for designation through the regional Local Sites Partnership.                              | Ongoing                      |

| 11. Bee Targets   | Target Date | Action   | Status                       |
|---|-------------|--|------------------------------|
| Promote the retention or provision of suitable nesting and over wintering sites in public and private gardens and allotments. | Ongoing     | Wildlife Gardening leaflet produced; Information/advice given to householders by pest control officers.<br><br>North Tyneside's Bee Leaflet provides website information | Completed but target ongoing |

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|   |         | North Tyneside Council have created over 80 'biodiversity' areas in public open spaces and along road verges to benefit bees and other insects<br><br>Members of the public and staff advised on an ad hoc basis. |                                     |
| Advise landowners on suitable management of sites for bumblebees. | Ongoing | North Tyneside's Bee Leaflet provides website information   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Carry out a survey of bees on 10 appropriate sample sites.        | 2015    | Surveys undertaken at Brierdene and monthly bee surveys at Northumberland Park (Citizen Science project)  | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

| <b>12. Brown Hare Targets</b>   | <b>Target Date</b> | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Status</b>                       |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Seek to secure sympathetic management of habitat for brown hares through the planning system. | Ongoing            | Where appropriate, habitat will be secured through Planning.                     | <b>Ongoing</b>                      |
| Create 500 linear metres of native species rich hedgerow.                                     | 2021               | See Hedgerow targets   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Improve 500 linear metres of species poor hedgerow.   | 2021               | See Hedgerow targets   | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |
| Create or restore 2ha of lowland species rich grassland.                                      | 2021               | Species rich grassland secured through Planning schemes. (see grassland targets) | <b>Completed but target ongoing</b> |

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