



**North Tyneside Council**

# Environment Sub Committee

4 January 2021

**Tuesday, 12 January 2021 commencing at 6.00 pm.**

The meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams and live streamed.

<b>Agenda Item</b>		<b>Page</b>
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  To receive any apologies for absence	
2.	<b>Appointment of Substitute Members</b>  To be notified of the appointment of any Substitute Members.	
3.	<b>Declaration of Interests and Dispensations</b>  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.	
4.	<b>Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2019/20</b>  To give consideration to a report on the progress made in delivering the Newcastle and North Tyneside Joint Biodiversity Action Plan.	<b>3 - 40</b>

**Circulation overleaf ...**

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and receive information about it. North Tyneside Council wants to make it easier for you to get hold of the information you need. We are able to provide our documents in alternative formats including Braille, audiotape, large print and alternative languages.

## **Members of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee**

Councillor Brian Burdis (Chair)  
Councillor Gary Madden  
Councillor Alison Austin  
Councillor Julie Cruddas  
Councillor Erin Parker-Leonard  
Councillor Steven Phillips

Councillor Linda Bell (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Janice Mole  
Councillor Lewis Bartoli  
Councillor John Harrison  
Councillor Alan Percy

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

**Date: January 2021**

**Title: Biodiversity Action Plan Report Update 2019/20**

---

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

**Service:** Local Environmental Services

**Wards affected:** All

---

## **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 2019/20.

## **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 2019/20.

### 3.1 Examples of BAP Projects Delivered in 2019/20

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

- 14,000sqm (1.4ha) of wildflower grassland restored, managed and created on approximately 70 amenity, green space and roadside verge sites in North Tyneside
- Species rich grassland secured through a number of planning schemes
- Brownfield grassland secured for butterflies on West Chirton Industrial Estate as part of housing scheme, Killingworth Depo and at Howdon as part of the Nexus scheme
- 0.25ha of upper and lower sections of the Brierdene sown with wildflower seed
- 7.25kg of native wildflower seed sown within the Brierdene
- Wildflower grassland in Brierdene is managed annually by the FoB
- 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
- Management of grassland and meadows undertaken annually in the Rising Sun Country Park
- Grazing project at St Mary's Island Nature Reserve continues to restore and enhance the meadow areas
- Botanical and Invertebrate surveys undertaken at St Mary's Island Nature Reserve by the Friends of St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group.
- Livestock grazing undertaken at Silverlink Biodiversity Park to manage wildflower areas
- Friends of Holywell Dene manage and maintain wildflower and grassland areas within the Dene

#### ***Native Woodland & Scrub***

- Woodland, hedgerow and scrub planting secured as part of a number of planning schemes
- Tree and shrub management undertaken over winter period as part of Fish Quay Management Plan
- Tree and scrub management undertaken at St Mary's Nature Reserve by Friends of St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group.
- Tree survey undertaken at St Mary's Island Nature Reserve by Friends of St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group.
- Tree and scrub management works undertaken by Friends of Brierdene
- 300 native bulbs planted in woodland areas by the Friends of Brierdene
- Tree management work undertaken in Holywell Dene by the Friends of Holywell Dene
- Friends of Rising Sun Country Park (RSCP) planted 1000 native bluebells in the Country Park

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

- SuDs (Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme) completed at Killingworth Lakeside Park. This includes floating islands and marginal aquatic planting.
- Pond improvements carried out at RSCP
- New pond and bog garden created at Northumberland Park
- 5 new ponds created along Silverlink Wagonway as part of footpath and drainage works undertaken by the Council.
- Wetland restoration works undertaken at St Mary's Island Nature Reserve. This included vegetation removal, de-silting, increasing areas of open water and wetland margins and sluice outfall improvements to control water levels.
- Management of St Mary's wetlands undertaken through Friends of St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Group.
- 0.5km of watercourse improvements (re-profiling works) undertaken in the RSCP. The area will be planted with native scrub and wildflowers in spring 2021.

### ***Urban Birds***

- 100 bird boxes secured through planning schemes
- 2 bird box building public events at Rising Sun Country Park (RSCP) centre
- Dawn chorus and early bird nature walks undertaken at Northumberland Park
- Bird boxes installed at various sites including owl boxes within the RSCP
- Bird surveys undertaken at Brierdene, St Mary's Nature Reserve, Northumberland Park, Souter Park/Churchill playing fields

### ***Bats***

- Habitat secured for bats (woodland, hedgerow, grassland etc) through Planning development schemes
- 94 bat boxes/features secured through a number of planning schemes
- 2 pole mounted maternity boxes and 2 roost maternity boxes secured along the riverside as part of a housing development scheme
- False wall/cavity built into a development site building to create a hibernation roost
- 2 bat box building public events at the Rising Sun Country Park centre
- Organised bat walks in parks and Local Wildlife Sites

## ***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***

- 0.25ha (2500sqm) of the Dene sown with wildflower seed
- 5kg of native wildflower seed sown
- 2.25kg yellow rattle seed sown
- 300 bulbs planted (native bluebells; winter aconite and snow drops)
- Wildflower grassland management (cutting and removing arisings)
- Tree and scrub management
- Tree Survey
- Watercourse management
- Invasive plant management
- Footpaths works
- Annual Links and beach litter pick -15 bags collected
- General maintenance and improvements
- Community events
- Annual moth night
- Wildlife surveys including bird and bee surveys
- Duke of Edinburgh silver and bronze each month
- Royal Horticultural Society “*It’s Your Neighbourhood*” (IYN) Inspection with Judges
- Awarded Green Flag
- March 2020: All work suspended due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

- Wetland Restoration / Management
- Grazing – Exmoor ponies.
- Managing vegetation on the islands
- Regular litter picks
- Viewpoints maintained by removal of branches and vegetation, including strimming in front of main screen.
- Bird recording took place throughout the year, including a breeding bird survey and monthly WeBS surveys.
- Preliminary tree survey in May 2019
- Annual botanical survey July 2019.
- Annual butterfly transect July 2019.
- A lower plant survey September 2019.
- Manned display boards as part of North Tyneside 10K walk in August 2019
- Won Royal Horticultural Society ‘*It’s Your Neighbourhood*’ ‘Outstanding’ award for Northumbria in September 2019
- Site visit and talk in November 2019 as part of Royal Town Planning Institute young planners annual conference, 50 attendees.

- Group members led 2 wildlife walks for World Wetlands Day in Feb 2020 in partnership with Seal Watch and the Council.
- Other talks given to local groups.
- Bi-monthly newsletters were posted on notice boards around the site and on the conservation group's Facebook page.
- Facebook page kept regularly updated, currently 532 followers.

### 3) *Friends of Holywell Dene*

- Removing fallen trees, branches and debris blocking the burn
- Removing trees and branches fallen over footpaths
- Litter picking
- Repairing erosion to the bank of the Seaton Burn watercourse
- Coppicing hazel trees
- Repairing fencing, steps, stiles and path edging
- Pulling up sycamore shoots and saplings
- Strimming path edges and meadow areas
- Digging out vegetation encroaching on path edges
- Removing Himalayan Balsam
- Red Squirrel Project in partnership with North East Red Squirrel Group

### 4) *Northumberland Park*

- Pond and bog garden project
- Early bird sights and sounds nature walks
- Spring fair
- Dawn Chorus weekend
- Wildlife walks
- Wildlife sightings/surveys
- Raising awareness about wildlife through monthly newsletter

### 5) *Rising Sun Country Park*

- 1547 Volunteer hours including those from the friends group. They worked on improving the pond within the centre grounds along with the wildlife garden. Putting up bird boxes, litter-picking were other activities.
- 476 Environmental education visits with 7677 participants.
- Two bat/bird box building public events, environmental art public events
- Wildflower areas sown
- 3 owl boxes installed in the park
- Friends planted 1000 British bluebells
- Bee survey by Friends planned for spring 2020 cancelled due to covid
- Planning and preparation for woodland thinning and re-planting in RSCP
- Red Squirrel Project in partnership with North East Red Squirrel Group

- 0.5km of watercourse improvements (re-profiling works)

6) *Killingworth Lake Park*

- Management of wildflower areas
- Floating islands and marginal aquatic planting completed
- Woodland management project planned for 2021



## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP Annual Monitoring Review 2019/20.**

Progress report of the targets from each Habitat and Species Action Plan from the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP, which have been delivered in 2019/20.

**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	Habitat for kittiwakes continues to be secured through the Tyne Kittiwake Partnership and Planning process	<b>Completed</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		<b>Completed</b>
Produce guidance on green roofs for developers & planners.	2012		<b>Completed</b>
Incorporate 15 nest boxes within buildings along the metro line.	2014		<b>Completed</b>
Request nesting/roosting features on all new and renovated developments requiring ecological consultation.	Ongoing	100 bird boxes and 94 bat boxes/features secured. In addition, 2 pole mounted maternity boxes, 2 roost maternity boxes and one	<b>Ongoing</b>

		hibernation roost (false wall/cavity within a building) were secured.	
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 RSPB 'Swift Mapper' Project.	<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.	Ongoing
Designate River Tyne corridor as Local Wildlife Site.	2015		Completed
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.	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.	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 through S106 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. Two of the potential projects are at the Royal Quays Marina and Northumberland Dock.	Ongoing
Develop partnership projects with Big Sea Survey (Dove Marine Laboratory).	2013		Completed
Plant 15000 dune grasses over 3 years to regenerate extended dune system at Tynemouth Longsands.	2012-15		Completed
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.	Completed
Access improvements incorporated along the Tynemouth Longsands coastal strip to aid dune regeneration.	2012		Completed

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. Development schemes in close proximity to the coast (e.g Blue Reef) are required through Planning to provide information to residents regarding the importance of designated coastal sites and the waders they support .	<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. Information provided to residents through Planning on appropriate schemes.	<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</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>Ongoing</b>
Identify new brownfield sites that could be designated as local wildlife sites (LWS).	Ongoing	No new sites identified.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Undertake one brownfield site management project annually.	2012-2021	Annual management of Paradise Local Wildlife Site undertaken by Butterfly Conservation.  Management Plan secured at West Chirton site for dingy skipper/brownfield butterflies. Nexus Howdon site managed for dingy skipper and species rich grassland.	<b>Completed but target 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.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
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.	<b>Ongoing</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. Pier Road Bridge planning application – wildlife tunnel incorporated into bridge as part of new design.	<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. Pier Road Bridge planning application – wildlife tunnel incorporated into bridge as part of new design	<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	<b>Ongoing</b>

5. Open Water & Wetland Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
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	5 new ponds created along Silverlink Wagonway as part of drainage and footpath works undertaken by the Council. These ponds will provide additional habitat for great crested newt (GCN) and other amphibians within Silverlink Biodiversity Park.	Completed but target ongoing
Undertake management that will enhance the biodiversity value of 20 ponds.	2021	<p>St Mary's wetland Nature Reserve - restoration work to remove excessive vegetation, de-silt and increase the extent of open water and wetland edge habitat for birds. Work to the wetland sluice gate was also carried out to effectively manage water levels.</p> <p>Killingworth Lake works completed with creation of new floating islands and marginal aquatic habitat.</p> <p>Management works undertaken by Friends of St Mary's Wetland including grazing and scrub management.</p>	Completed but target ongoing
Produce leaflet to raise awareness of wetland issues.	2014		Completed
Assess the status of invasive, non-native species in the ponds and lakes and implement a strategy for their eradication or control.	2015	<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>	Completed but target ongoing

Investigate installation of common tern rafts in appropriate locations.	2015		Completed
<b>Reedbed</b>			
Identify and map the location and extent of reedbed habitat in Newcastle & North Tyneside	2012		Completed
Create 1 ha of new reedbed habitat.	2015	New reedbeds continue to be created as part of SUDs schemes through planning schemes.	Completed but target ongoing
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).	Completed but target ongoing
<b>Fen &amp; Mire</b>			
Improve the condition of lowland raised mire at Prestwick Carr.	2015		Completed
Improve the condition and increase extent of Sacred Heart Fen and Dinnington Road Fen	2015		Completed
<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.	Ongoing



<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 Council schemes/ projects as required.  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 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.	<b>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	<b>Ongoing</b>
Deliver riparian improvements that will benefit wildlife along a minimum of 5km of watercourse.	2021	0.5km of ditches re-profiled and improved along Silverlink Wagonway. Also 0.5km of watercourse re-profiled and improved within the Rising Sun Country Park.	<b>Completed but target 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 SuDs conditioned through Planning.	<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	Allotment Strategy being updated by NTC	<b>Ongoing</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 sites where appropriate.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Establish a category for wildlife friendly gardening in the annual allotment competition.	2012		<b>Completed</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, Wallsend Parks, and Benton Quarry.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Liaise with Eco/Enviro Schools to establish 3 wildlife projects with schools annually.	Annually	Wildflower seed and advice/support provided to schools in North Tyneside (e.g wildflower seed donated to Greenfields Primary & New York Primary School )	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Liaise with local businesses to establish 1 wildlife project annually.	Annually	Quayside businesses and kittiwakes group set up to manage nesting kittiwakes.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
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	Planting events carried out in Northumberland Park (Bog garden); RSCP (Bulb planting, improving pond & wildlife garden in centre grounds, installing bird boxes); Killingworth Lake Park (management of wildflower areas); Brierdene (Bulb and wildflower 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.	Ongoing
Raise awareness of the importance of parks and gardens and encourage more sympathetic management.	Ongoing	Events carried out throughout the parks to promote biodiversity, including planting events, bat walks, bird and bee events.	Ongoing
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. Killingworth Lake Park flood scheme; RSCP watercourse improvements.	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 features, 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	Completed but target ongoing
Produce promotional material aimed at raising awareness of biodiversity.	2012		Completed
Establish 2 wildlife projects within churchyards or cemeteries.	2013		Completed

<b>8. Native Woodland Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Maintain current extent of ancient semi-natural woodland.	Ongoing	Current extent maintained.	<b>Ongoing</b>
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.	<b>Ongoing</b>
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	Woodland management works undertaken in Rising Sun Country Park, Killingworth Lake Park, Holywell Dene and Brierdene.  Regional bid for funding to create new native woodland and restore areas of non-native woodland (Climate for Trees Project)  Woodland management secured through Planning Schemes.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Create native woodland on 10 new sites.	2015	Native woodland and tree planting secured where appropriate through Planning. Examples include West Chirton housing scheme; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Sterling Pharma Dudley; Moorhouses Covered Reservoir Housing Scheme; Castle Square Housing Scheme, Lidl Rake Lane; Pier Road Bridge.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
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. Examples include West Chirton housing scheme; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Sterling Pharma Dudley; Moorhouses Covered Reservoir Housing Scheme; Castle Square Housing Scheme,	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>

		Lidl Rake Lane; Pier Road Bridge.	
Promote the value of native woodland to the public by undertaking 4 events per year.	Annually	Events undertaken at sites such as RSCP, St Mary's Nature Reserve, Holywell Dene and Brierdene.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Manage/replant 3 sites of amenity woodland to native woodland.	2016	<p>Regional bid for funding to create new native woodland and restore areas of non-native woodland (Climate for Trees Project)</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>	<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.	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 Regional Local Site Partnership (LSP) system.	Completed but target ongoing
Secure favourable management on all species rich grasslands within Local Wildlife Sites.	2021	Target not completed as some sites are not within Council ownership.	Ongoing
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.  14,000sqm of wildflower grassland (biodiversity areas) created and enhanced across 70+ sites in North Tyneside	Completed but target 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 on over 70+ sites along road verges and open spaces	Completed

<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. Examples include: West Chirton housing scheme; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Killingworth Depo; Sterling Pharma Dudley; Moorhouses Covered Reservoir Housing Scheme; Castle Square Housing Scheme, Lidl Rake Lane; Pier Road Bridge.	<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. Examples include: West Chirton housing scheme; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Moorhouses Covered Reservoir Housing Scheme; Castle Square Housing Scheme, Lidl Rake Lane	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Improve 2000 linear metres of species poor hedgerow.	2021	Hedgerow improvements are secured through landscaping on planning applications. Examples include: West Chirton housing scheme; Moorhouses Covered Reservoir Housing Scheme.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
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, 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 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. Examples include: West Chirton housing scheme; Murray Hogg Sandy Lane; Moorhouses Covered Reservoir Housing Scheme; Castle Square Housing Scheme, Lidl Rake Lane	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 landscaping on planning applications. Examples include: West Chirton housing scheme; Moorhouses Covered Reservoir Housing Scheme.	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.  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.  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	Completed but target ongoing



		secured as mitigation where appropriate.	
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.  3 owl boxes erected in the Rising Sun Country Park.	<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.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Retain existing suitable habitat for ground nesting birds.	Ongoing	Undertaken as part of Planning. Where it has not been possible to retain habitat then offsite mitigation has been sought 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 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	All planning applications where demolition or renovation is being undertaken must provide bat boxes. In excess of 94 bat boxes or roosting features have been secured through Planning. In addition, 2 pole mounted maternity boxes, 2 roost maternity boxes and one hibernation roost (false wall/cavity within a building) were also secured.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Erect bat boxes on 5 suitable sites on an annual basis.	Annually	See above.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Create 5000 linear metres of foraging/commuting habitat for bats.	2016	See woodland, hedge, shrub and wetland targets.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Produce bat guidance document for planners and developers.	2012	Bat Guidance produced and available on Councils' websites.	<b>Completed</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.  Advice provided to grounds maintenance and tree team. Bat risk assessments of trees are undertaken before works.	<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	GCN method statements conditioned as part of appropriate major planning applications. Introduction of the Natural England District Level Licencing Scheme will also ensure the conservation status of the species is maintained.  5 new ponds created along Silverlink Wagonway as part of drainage and footpath works. These ponds will provide additional habitat for great crested newt (GCN) and other amphibians within Silverlink Biodiversity 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	5 new ponds created along Silverlink Wagonway as part of drainage and footpath works to provide amphibian habitat.  Pond/bog garden created in Northumberland Park.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Undertake management that will enhance the biodiversity value of 10 ponds for amphibians.	2018	Restoration/management of the pond in the centre grounds of the Rising Sun Country Park. Works planned for the restoration of the education pond over winter 2020/21.	<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>
--	------	--	-------------------------------------

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, Eccles Colliery Wildlife Site, West Chirton Industrial Estate and Tyne Tunnel trading estate in North Tyneside</p>	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Establish monitoring at all key sites to determine any change in status.	Annually	<p>Butterfly Conservation, NTC and NCC.</p> <p>Monitoring of populations secured through planning e.g Howdon Nexus site; Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate; West Chirton.</p>	<b>Completed but target 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>Mitigation secured at following sites: Howdon Nexus Site; West Chirton Industrial Estate; Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate; Killingworth Depo</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>
Ensure that landowners and managers are aware of the presence of the species and establish appropriate methods of habitat management.	Ongoing	<p>Appropriate habitat management is secured on some sites through the Planning process e.g. Howdon Nexus Site; West Chirton Industrial Estate; Killingworth Depo.</p> <p>Dingy skipper sites in Councils' ownership (Newcastle &amp; North Tyneside) are appropriately managed e.g. Percy Pit, Walker Riverside and Fenwick Pit Heap.</p> <p>No control over externally owned sites.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>

Re-survey locations where current status is not clear.	2013	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 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 through the planning process to provide appropriate habitat for the species and other invertebrates.	<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 found on all major water courses in Newcastle and North Tyneside (e.g Seaton Burn watercourse)	<b>Ongoing</b>
Restore and improve riparian habitat along 5km of watercourse for otters.	2021	0.5km of watercourse re-profiled and improved within the Rising Sun Country Park.  Works planned for watercourse improvements at Little Waters in early 2021.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</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 undertaken through the Planning process where watercourses may be impacted by development schemes and appropriate mitigation/ method statements secured where appropriate.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Encourage public participation in submission of otter sightings and otter conservation through articles and promotional material.	2015		<b>Completed</b>
Construct and install 5 otter holts at suitable sites.	2016		<b>Completed</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	Suitable wildlife features/mitigation secured through planning or development schemes where appropriate.	<b>Ongoing</b>

<b>6. Urban Bird Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
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.  RSPB promoting 'Swift Mapper' Project & Big Garden Bird Watch.  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.  Breeding Bird Surveys from development proposals submitted to ERIC NE.	Ongoing
Continue to monitor current sites for priority species.	Annually	Priority bird species are monitored at some sites through planning obligations for development schemes.	Ongoing
Encourage winter feeding of urban birds on an annual basis through public events and/or the media.	Autumn/Winter	Undertaken through 'Parks' and Ranger events at both Newcastle and North Tyneside.	Ongoing
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. Northumberland Park and RSCP. A number of bird and owl boxes have been constructed and installed at the Rising Sun Country Park.	Ongoing
Install 20 nest boxes on suitable sites for a wide variety of urban bird species.	Annually	Over 100 bird boxes/features have been secured through Planning on various development sites. A variety of bird boxes have also been installed within Park sites such as the Rising Sun Country Park.	Completed but target ongoing



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.	<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>
Initiate a baseline survey for water voles in Newcastle and North Tyneside along key watercourses to update current records.	2013	Surveys are undertaken on appropriate sites through the Planning process. No recent surveys for planning applications has recorded any sightings. Water vole is now thought to be almost absent in Newcastle and North Tyneside despite suitable habitat.	<b>Partially completed</b>
Submit all water vole records to ERIC.	Ongoing	All new records or survey information submitted on annual basis.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Improve riparian habitat along 5km of watercourse to help increase connectivity for water voles.	2020	Watercourse improvements secured through Planning where appropriate.  0.5km of watercourse re-profiled and improved within the Rising Sun Country Park.  Works planned for watercourse improvements at Little Waters in early 2021.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
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)	<b>Ongoing</b>
Identify priority stretches of watercourse where habitat improvement for water voles should be focussed.	2013	Watercourse improvements are secured through Planning where appropriate.  0.5km of watercourse re-profiled and improved within the Rising Sun Country Park.  Works planned for watercourse improvements on the Seaton Burn (Little Waters) in early 2021.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>

<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.	<b>Ongoing</b>
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.  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.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Carry out grey squirrel control at remaining red squirrel sites and surrounding areas.	Ongoing	Undertaken by NWT as part of RSNE, NHSN and by Jesmond Dene Volunteers.  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.	<b>Ongoing</b>
In areas where red squirrels are still present, improve woodland management of the site and surrounding area where possible.	Ongoing	Northumbria Natural History Society manage Gosforth Park and Newcastle Rangers/volunteers manage Havannah.	<b>Ongoing</b>
Monitor grey squirrel control measures and effects to both grey squirrel and red squirrel populations through RSNE recognised methods.	Ongoing	Undertaken by RSNE, Jesmond Dene Volunteers & Northumbria Natural History Society.  The Red Squirrel Tyneside Project are monitoring squirrel populations as part of its work.	<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	Hedgehog hibernacula secured through the planning process on appropriate sites. Hedgehog gaps/access conditioned on planning applications to allow movement of hedgehogs through sites.	<b>Completed but target 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. Surveys for reptiles undertaken where appropriate through the Planning process.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
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.	<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>

<b>11. Bee Targets</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
Develop bee projects with local Universities/ educational establishments.	2013	Newcastle's Bee Strategy started to promote the importance of bees. Project worked with numerous schools.  20 habitat creation projects undertaken at various schools in Newcastle and North Tyneside sites.  Wildflower workshop at Newcastle University with Friends of the Earth.	<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	Wildlife Gardening leaflet produced; Information/advice given to householders by pest control officers.  Newcastle's Bee Strategy provides website information.  North Tyneside's Bee Leaflet provides website information  North Tyneside Council have created over 70 'biodiversity' areas in public open spaces and along road verges to benefit bees and other insects  Members of the public and staff advised on an ad hoc basis.	<b>Completed but target ongoing</b>
Advise landowners on suitable management of sites for bumblebees.	Ongoing	Newcastle's Bee Strategy provides website information.  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	Annual surveys undertaken at Brierdene. Surveys planned for RSCP and Northumberland Park.	<b>Ongoing</b>

Raise skills level by delivering bee identification workshop.	2014	Buglife Bee ID workshop held at Jesmond Dene.	Completed
---	------	---	-----------

<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>
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>