Newcastle and North Tyneside Biodiversity Action Plan Monitoring Review 2018.

In 1992 at the Earth Summit, the UK signed the *'Convention on Biological Diversity'* along with 154 other countries to halt the global decline in biodiversity. As a result of this, the UK published *'Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan'* in 1994 and a duty was placed on Local Authorities to produce Local Biodiversity Action Plans. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan has now been replaced by 'Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services', 2013.

The Newcastle Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), 'Your Wildlife' was launched in October 2001 and formally adopted as Corporate Council Policy and Supplementary Planning Guidance in July 2002.

Both Newcastle and North Tyneside BAPs share most of the same habitats and species. Therefore, a new Joint Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP was published in 2012 after agreement by the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP Steering Group, to merge the previous two BAPs into a more strategic joint Action Plan covering both local authority areas. The joint BAP got the full support of Natural England and making it more eligible for joint funding of projects.

The joint BAP was approved by North Tyneside Council Cabinet in February 2012 and Newcastle City Council in June 2012.

This Local BAP is a ten-year vision for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Newcastle and North Tyneside. It contains targets to protect and enhance nationally and locally important species and habitats that can be delivered at a local level. The BAP includes plans for species and habitats which are of national importance (e.g. Water Voles & Wetlands) as well as plans for species and habitats which are locally important (Managed Urban Greenspaces and Dingy Skipper). Many of these species and habitats are protected by National and European legislation and Local Authorities have a duty under the NERC Act (2006) to conserve biodiversity.

The BAP is also used by external organisations such as Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency, Highways England and Northumbria Water. Consultants also quote species and habitat targets within their reports. While organisations such as Banks, Newcastle Great Park and Newcastle University have produced their own Site BAPS, which link in with the Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP aims and objectives.

Community groups and local schools also contribute to the achievement of targets through work in their local area. Contributing to Local BAP targets also adds weight to funding applications by volunteer groups and charities as well as the Local Authorities. Funders such as the Big Lottery often require projects to link in with Local BAP targets before agreeing funding.

The BAP, which contains 10 Habitat Action Plans and 12 Species Action Plans (Table 1), is over halfway through its ten-year life span and a review on the progress of targets was required.

Habitat Action Plans	Species Action Plans
Buildings and Structures	Farmland Birds
Estuary and Coastal Habitats	Bats
Brownfield Land	Amphibians
Transport Corridors	Dingy Skipper
Open Water and Wetland	Otter
River and Watercourses	Urban Birds
Managed Urban Greenspace	Water Vole
Native Woodland	Red Squirrel

Table 1. Newcastle's Habitat and Species Action Plans

Lowland Grassland	Hedgehog
Scrub, Shrub and Hedgerow	Slow Worm
	Bumblebees
	Brown Hare

The BAP monitoring process has been carried out by both Local Authority ecologists; the reviewed table of targets are included in Appendix 1. These tables contain a traffic light system consisting of red for target not completed, amber for target underway or ongoing and green for target completed. The Actions column of the tables provides information on the activities undertaken in Newcastle to achieve completion of the target. The aim is to provide information on progress towards completion of the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP and to help raise awareness of this document and its aims and objectives. Information on progress towards the BAP in North Tyneside can be found on their website https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/meeting/20922

The report is to be approved by Delegated Decision, and there-after an annual monitoring report will be produced and presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The BAP Monitoring Review will then be published on the Council's website. This document will then continue to act as a material consideration within the planning process and help to steer the Councils' everyday actions, as well as informing the local community.

<u>APPENDIX 1</u>: <u>Newcastle & North Tyneside BAP Monitoring Review.</u>

Progress report of the targets from each Habitat and Species Action Plan from the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP, which have been delivered in Newcastle for 2012-18.

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

HABITAT ACTION PLANS

1. Buildings & Structures Targets	Original Target Date	Actions	Status
Produce best practice guidelines for planners, developers & internal council departments regarding biodiversity value of buildings & structures.	2012	Buildings & Bats Guidance document produced Nov 2012. Guidance on bird deterrents produced for Listed Building Consent 2018.	Complete
Secure or create nesting habitat for kittiwakes along the River Tyne to enable existing colonies to expand or move.	2016	Regional Tyne Kittiwake Partnership (TKP) group set up to consider impacts and issues relating to the Tyneside kittiwakes. Viability study carried out in 2014 on potential nesting sites along the Tyne.	Ongoing
Ensure existing kittiwake sites are protected	Ongoing	Existing sites in Newcastle and North Tyneside are protected through planning policies. River Tyne now designated as a Local Wildlife Site. TKP is consulted on all potential impacts on kittiwakes and provides detailed advice and guidance.	Ongoing
Incorporate 1 new green roof into new developments in both Newcastle & North Tyneside.	2014	Numerous green roofs have been created in Newcastle e.g.: 5 green roofs secured – Building 8 Student Village, Portland Green, 1 green roof – Former warehouse, Pitt Street, 1 green roof at Toffee Factory, lower Ouseburn, Green roof created on Manors Nursery, 3 green roofs- Walker Road Apartments,	Completed but target ongoing

		Hanover Square, Portland Road student accommodation – 266 Sqm, former Liquid Envy nightclub site – 241 sqm, Motor World – 110sqm.	
Produce guidance on green roofs for developers & planners.	2012	Draft Green Roofs Guidance Document produced Dec 2012 but superseded by other organisations guidance e.g.: <u>http://www.greenroofguide.co.uk</u>	Complete
Incorporate 15 nest boxes within buildings along the metro line.	2014	Target completed in 2014 e.g.: Kingston Park adjacent to the metro line, M&S at Gosforth and Aldi at Fawdon which back onto Metro line.	Completed but target ongoing
Request nesting/roosting features on all new and renovated developments requiring ecological consultation.	Ongoing	Hundreds of bat and bird boxes secured and installed through planning and community projects e.g.: Bat boxes - 5 at Throckley School, 4 at walker Park, 7 at Newcastle Church School, 24 at Brenkley opencast, 50 at Richardson Road,2 bat heated maternity bat houses created at Richardson Rd Campus, 10 at Coach Lane Campus. Nest boxes – 4 at Throckley School, 4 at Walker Park, 12 at Former Walker College, 11 at Kenton Lodge, 10 at Brenkley Opencast, 10 at Coach Lane Campus, 15 at La Sagesse, 10 swift bricks at Foundry Lane, 13 at Harehills.	Ongoing
All information acquired on nesting/roosting sites for protected species will be submitted to ERIC.	Ongoing	Data submitted to record centre on annual basis.	Ongoing
Encourage public to submit sightings of swifts at roof level to the National Swift Inventory.	Ongoing	Project collaboration between RSPB, NTC and NCC. Swift guidance leaflet produced which is on Council website. This has now changed to the Swift Conservation Project which is included on our websites. Information to be updated as part of new website.	Ongoing

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
Designate River Tyne corridor as Local Wildlife Site.	2015	Site designated by Local Site Partnership March 2013.	Complete
Create two high tide wader roost sites and manage existing roost sites appropriately.	2016	Grazing project at St Mary's wetlands and scrub removal by conservation group.	Complete
		St Marys wetlands high tide wader roost site is being managed to create additional open water areas for waders.	
		Proposed golden plover mitigation site at St Mary's will create additional high tide wader roost sites.	
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	Few opportunities available so far. However, masterplans for Calder's site at Newcastle are to include interpretation panels as part of any future development.	Not completed.
Create or restore up to 0.5ha of saltmarsh habitat.	2020	Few opportunities to create saltmarsh due to lack of suitable sites. Two floating habitat rafts created at Lemington Gut in Newcastle City	Ongoing
		Council Two floating habitat rafts created at Willington Gut in North Tyneside.	
Develop partnership projects with Big Sea Survey (Dove Marine Laboratory).	2013	NTC worked in partnership with Dove Marine Laboratory projects. Big Sea Survey project has finished.	Complete
Plant 15000 dune grasses over 3 years to regenerate extended dune system at Tynemouth Longsands.	2012-15	Engineering works at Longsands for new footpaths & dune planting completed 2013/2014.	Complete
		New sand dunes created at the Haven and planted up with dune grasses.	

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.	Ongoing
Access improvements incorporated along the Tynemouth Longsands coastal strip to aid dune regeneration.	2012	Footpath work (new boardwalks) completed at Tynemouth Longsands Feb/March 2014.	Complete
Investigate potential for a coastal heritage trail along the North Tyneside coastline.	2015	Ongoing.	Not Completed
Create new priority habitats at St Mary's headland.	2015	New grassland area created through grazing and scrub management.	Complete
Promote the importance of coastal waders through publicity material and events.	Ongoing	Promotion events/materials undertaken by RSPB and NTBC.	Ongoing
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. Any works planned in these areas are appropriately mitigated e.g. through Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRA) for Planning Applications.	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	No resources available. Bird club and RSPB have data on these sites.	Not completed

3. Brownfield Land Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Create habitats along Hadrian's Way to enhance current brownfield land and link up fragmented habitat.	2015	Newcastle St Anthony's Tar restoration Works completed in Oct 2017. Habitat created for brownfield butterflies such as dingy skipper.	Complete but target ongoing
Create/renew management plans for all brownfield land designated as local wildlife sites.	2015	Paradise and Weetslade management plans completed in 2011 and implemented. Local Wildlife Sites review has been carried out and includes management recommendations for each site.	Target part completed
Identify new brownfield sites that could be designated as local wildlife sites (LWS).	Ongoing	Parkside at Newburn was designated for species rich grassland and Scotswood Community garden for great crested newt. All Wildlife Sites included in the new Development Allocations Plan.	Complete but ongoing
Undertake one brownfield site management project annually.	2012-2021	Newcastle St Anthony's Tar restoration Works completed in Oct 2017. Habitat created for brownfield butterflies. Annual management of Paradise Local Wildlife Site for butterflies. Management of Shelley Road for dingy skipper.	Ongoing
Identify key sites that could be targeted for priority species.	2013	GIS map of all key brownfield sites created.	Completed

4. Transport Corridor Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Produce roadside verge management strategy in partnership with Grounds Maintenance.	2015	Scotswood Road wildlife roadside embankment verge managed for biodiversity. Grassland verges on Coast Road continue to be enhanced for biodiversity in Newcastle. 80 sites sown and managed as biodiversity areas in North Tyneside.	Complete
Produce best practice guidelines for rail side land management to minimise disturbance to wildlife.	2014	Land is outside of Councils' control.	Target not completed
Undertake habitat creation/management projects on five sites along metroline.	2014	Land is outside of Councils' control.	Target not completed
Ensure the installation of appropriate wildlife warning signs or wildlife underpasses/bridges in areas where road kills are considered to be negatively impacting on priority species.	Ongoing	Undertaken on all appropriate planning applications e.g. Whitehouse Farm, Big Waters and Brenkley opencast.	Ongoing
Incorporate wildlife tunnels or other features in development schemes where road kills are an issue.	Ongoing	Undertaken on all appropriate planning applications e.g. Whitehouse Farm, Big Waters, Brenkley opencast and NGP Cell D.	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, e.g. Newcastle Great Park, East Middle Callerton.	Ongoing

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.	Completed ongoing
Create 20 new ponds of conservation value in appropriate areas with emphasis on providing stepping stones between existing ponds of wildlife value.	2021	3 new ponds created at Newcastle Football Training Ground (Coach Lane), 15 new ponds and swales created at Brenkley opencast, 2 new ponds created at Brunton Farm.	Completed ongoing
Undertake management that will enhance the biodiversity value of 20 ponds.	2021	Sacred Heart Ponds, Denton Dene ponds, Percy pit ponds, Seven Mile Ponds, brenkley and Iris Brickfield pond have all undergone clearance works to provide open water areas.	Completed ongoing
Produce leaflet to raise awareness of wetland issues.	2014	Wildlife at Work leaflets produced and put on Newcastle and North Tyneside websites.	Completed
Assess the status of invasive, non-native species in the ponds and lakes and implement a strategy for their eradication or control.	2015	Newcastle Rangers and volunteers have carried out management works on invasive species in the Ouseburn Parks. Newcastle Japanese knotweed guidance strategy has been produced in 2018 and is available on Council's website.	Part completed
Investigate installation of common tern rafts in appropriate locations.	2015	Tern raft installed at Royal Quays Marina.	Complete
Identify and map the location and extent of reedbed habitat in Newcastle & North Tyneside	2012	All reedbed ponds mapped on GIS.	Complete
Create 1 ha of new reedbed habitat.	2015	New reed beds are being planted up at Brenkley Opencast site. Reedbeds created at Brunton Park alleviation scheme. Over 2ha created at Newcastle Great Park.	Completed ongoing
Maintain and improve reedbeds in Gosforth Park and Weetslade Country Park.	2020	Reedbeds managed by Natural History Society of Northumbria	Ongoing

Fen & Mire		(NHSN) & Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT).	
Improve the condition of lowland raised mire at Prestwick Carr.	2015	Northumberland Wildlife Trust are managing Prestwick Carr and have created a management plan.	Complete but Ongoing
Improve the condition and increase extent of Sacred Heart Fen and Dinnington Road Fen	2015	Management works, following the management plan have been completed at Dinnington Fen by Newcastle Airport. Management Plan for Sacred Heart Fen as part of the Bellway Housing Scheme to maintain, improve and increase habitat on the site.	Complete
General Open Water and Wetland Record rare plant species listed by the botanical Society of British Isles www.bsbi.org.uk	Ongoing	No rare plant records to submit.	Ongoing

6. River & Watercourse Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Raise awareness of non-native invasive species along watercourses and encourage their control.	Ongoing	Advice provided on all planning applications and to Council departments or projects as required.	Ongoing
		Newcastle Rangers and volunteers have carried out work on invasive species in the Ouseburn Parks.	
		Newcastle Japanese knotweed guidance strategy has been produced in 2018 and is available on the Council's website.	
Map non-native invasive species along 10km of watercourse in Newcastle and North Tyneside.	2021	Japanese knotweed mapped on GIS.	Ongoing
		Newcastle Japanese knotweed guidance strategy will allow the public to report sightings of knotweed.	
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 all planning applications and included in masterplans for Strategic Land Review sites in Newcastle e.g. West Middle Callerton, East Middle Callerton, Throckley North, Lower Callerton.	Ongoing
Deliver riparian improvements that will benefit wildlife along a minimum of 5km of watercourse.	2021	Improvements to 500m of the Ouseburn at Brunton Park carried out and approximately 500m of new watercourse created.	Ongoing
		Approx. 1km of enhancements implemented along the Ouseburn at NGP.	
		Restoration of 400m of Milkhope Burn at Brenkley Lane.	

Incorporation of sustainable drainage systems on appropriate schemes to aid in	Ongoing	Enhancements conditioned to watercourses at East Middle Callerton, West Middle Callerton, NGP Cell D and Throckley North and Throckley South. Hartley Burn catchment group set up to examine riparian issues. 2.5km of watercourse improvements have been undertaken on the Seaton Burn Watercourse, Brierdene Burn and the Wallsend Burn. All new residential schemes have had SuDs conditioned, e.g.	Ongoing
the minimisation of high flows and pollution from surface water.		East Middle Callerton, West Middle Callerton, NGP Cell D, NGP Cell A, Kenton Bankfoot Phase 1a & 1b, Avant, Dinnington North, Dinnington South, Throckley North and Throckley South.	
Ensure there is no net loss of watercourses to culverting through planning or engineering works	Ongoing	All watercourses to be retained and enhanced at Newcastle's SLR sites. Considered in all appropriate planning applications and Council schemes.	Ongoing

7. Managed Urban Greenspace Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Implement targets in Council's Allotment Strategy.	Annually	Biodiversity targets/initiatives being undertaken annually (see below).	Ongoing
Raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity to all allotment sites and encourage wildlife friendly gardening.	2014	Awareness raised through the annual wildlife allotment competition held in Newcastle. Ecological advice provided to allotment holders and sites.	Ongoing
Establish a category for wildlife friendly gardening in the annual allotment competition.	2012	Annual wildlife allotment competition set up and held in Newcastle. North Tyneside in Bloom has a Wildlife Gardening category.	Complete
2 allotment sites per year to incorporate areas of native hedging or wildlife habitat.	Annually	The following allotments in Newcastle have all planted native hedges: Denton Bank at Fenham, Three Mile allotments at Parklands, Dene Terrace at Newburn, Walker Road, Tweed St, Moorside, Thropton Terrace and High Heaton.	Ongoing
Increase allotment entries into North Tyneside in Bloom (NTIB) competition. Parks & Gardens Targets	Annually	Allotment site entries increased from 4 to 6.	Ongoing
Encourage wildlife friendly gardening through media articles, websites, events and printed material.	Ongoing	 Leaflets produced and are available on Councils' websites - Wildlife at Work, Churchyards, Urban meadows and Wildlife Friendly Gardening. Buzz Word Newsletter produced as part of Newcastle's Bee Strategy. Wildflower Workshop held in partnership with Newcastle Uni and Friends of the Earth. Wildlife gardening at Leazes Park, Gosforth Park Central, Walker Park and Newburn Country Park with volunteers. Newcastle Green Spaces 	Ongoing
		Newcastle Green Spaces Initiative have held events and	

		provided advice to groups to promote wildlife and creation of urban meadows.	
Liaise with Eco/Enviro Schools to establish 3 wildlife projects with schools annually.	Annually	Pictorial Meadows project launched with Newcastle's Enviro Schools.	Ongoing
		Schools project with Scotswood Community Garden.	
		Newcastle's Great Park Ranger has been working with Brunton First School on environmental projects.	
Liaise with local businesses to establish 1 wildlife project annually.	Annually	Wildlife at Work pack produced and put on website.	Ongoing
		Northumbrian Waters 'Just an Hour' scheme habitat improvement Sugley dene. Dept of Transport woodland management at Denton Dene, EE telecommunications co. works at Brandling Park.	
		Proctor & Gamble - Insect hotels for wildlife garden.	
		Wildflower meadows created at HMRC and Nestle in Newcastle.	
Produce 'Business & Biodiversity' pack to promote wildlife enhancements on business premises.	2013	Wildlife at Work pack produced and put on website.	Complete
Liaise with Council departments to promote wildlife friendly gardening in parks and create at least one wildlife area annually.	Annually	Wildlife pond and meadow at Gosforth Park Central and wildflower meadows at Walker Park and Heaton Park.	Ongoing
		A number of biodiversity projects have taken place in the following parks and Council managed sites: - Iris Brickfield, Walker Park, Jesmond Dene, Nunsmoor Park, Kingston Park Green, Spital Tongues triangle, Summerhill Park and Little Dene.	

		'Bee Borders' garden created at	
Promote the use of native species in all planting schemes.	Ongoing	Newcastle University library. Undertaken for all landscaping schemes through planning.	Ongoing
Raise awareness of the importance of Parks and gardens and encourage more sympathetic management.	Ongoing	 Wildlife Friendly Gardening Leaflet Produced. Urban Meadows leaflet produced and available on websites. A variety of events have been held by Rangers at all the City's main parks. Advice provided to Gosforth Central, Iris Brickfield, Summerhill Park and Little Dene. 	Ongoing
Promote and enhance biodiversity in all park regeneration schemes and ensure that protected species issues are taken into consideration.	Ongoing	Ecological advice and guidance has been provided on all the City's parks ready for the formation of the Parks Trust.	Ongoing
Native wildlife is considered in the landscaping of open spaces associated with new developments as part of the planning process.	Ongoing	Implemented through all appropriate planning applications. Native planting requested along with features for wildlife such as bird & bat boxes, hedgehog highways, ponds and SuDs.	Ongoing
Churchyards & Cemeteries Targets			
Manage churchyards and cemeteries in a way that will benefit wildlife.	Annually	Friends of Jesmond Old Cemetery and St James Churchyard manage the sites for wildlife.	Ongoing
Produce promotional material aimed at raising awareness of the biodiversity.	2012	Cemetery Leaflet produced and on websites.	Complete
Establish 2 wildlife projects within churchyards or cemeteries.	2013	Wildflower planting and management at Jesmond Old and St James' Cemetery in Newcastle.	Complete

8. Native Woodland Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Maintain current extent of ancient semi- natural woodland.	Ongoing	Current extent maintained.	Ongoing
Maintain current extent of native woodland. Where development may lead to loss of woodland, ensure adequate mitigation or compensation.	Ongoing	No woodland lost through development without securing appropriate mitigation.	Ongoing
Ensure where possible, that all areas of semi-natural woodlands are managed in a way that will maintain or restore their nature conservation interest.	2021	 Gosforth Park is managed by the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) and Newcastle Racecourse. S106 funds secured for woodland management works in: West Middle Callerton, East Middle Callerton, Hazlerigg and Newbiggin Dene. Dene woodland is managed by Newcastle's Rangers. 	Ongoing
Create native woodland on 10 new sites.	2015	 5.4 ha of new native woodland planted up at Brenkley Lane, Dinnington. Woodland secured as part of landscape schemes for the following planning applications: East Middle Callerton, West Middle Callerton, Throckley south, Throckley North and Hazlerigg housing schemes and Brenkley Opencast site. 2.25ha of woodland created at NGP, Cells I and G. 	Completed but ongoing
Increase linkage between fragmented woodland sites by the creation of green corridors on 4 sites.	2021	 New native woodland secured through S106 agreement at Throckley South housing scheme. Provides link with Walbottle Dene. 5.4 ha of new native woodland planted up at Brenkley Lane, Dinnington. 	Ongoing

Promote the value of native woodland to the public by undertaking 4 events per year.	Annually	Newcastle's Rangers have carried out planting events at – Havannah & Three Hills Nature Reserve and Jesmond Dene.	Ongoing
Manage/replant 3 sites of amenity woodland to native woodland.	2016	Management Plan has been produced for all woodland at High Gosforth Park and to be implemented by Newcastle Racecourse management company. Non-native areas of woodland are being felled and replanted at Gosforth Park by NHSN. Non-native species are being felled by the Rangers and volunteers at Havannah and replacement planting using native species has been carried out. S106 funding secured for woodland management at Newbiggin Dene and plantation	Completed but ongoing
		at West Middle Callerton.	

9. Lowland Grassland Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Maintain current extent of lowland meadows.	Ongoing	Implemented through current management regimes and	Not completed
meadows.		mitigation through planning.	completed
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.	Complete
Designate all qualifying sites as Local Wildlife Sites.	Ongoing	All qualifying sites designated through Local Site Partnership (LSP) system. Parkside at Newburn was designated in 2016.	Ongoing
Secure favourable management on all species rich grasslands within Local Wildlife Sites.	2021	Target not completed as many sites are not within Council ownership.Percy Pit, Big Waters, Parkside and Havannah have undergone management.	Ongoing
Create or restore 10ha of lowland species rich grassland.	2021	Brenkley Opencast restoration scheme has created 9.8ha of semi improved neutral grassland to date. Additional wildflower meadow creation has been secured through planning at the SLR sites and NGP.	Completed but ongoing
Review current grass cutting regimes in parks and open space and introduce a change of management at 4 sites that will be beneficial to wildlife.	2013	Cutting regimes changed on 103 grassland sites in Newcastle to create urban meadows. Guidance produced on Creating and Managing Urban Meadows.	Complete

10. Scrub, Shrub & Hedgerow Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Create 10 ha of new native scrub/shrub.	2021	5.4 ha of new native woodland planted up at Brenkley Lane, Dinnington, which includes large areas of native shrub.	Ongoing
		2,053sqm of scrub planted at Knoplaw School, Newcastle.	
		2 ha of new native planting secured at Throckley South Development site.	
		Large areas of new scrub planting have been secured through planning conditions at NGP, Hazelrigg, West Middle Callerton and East Middle Callerton, West Middle Callerton, Throckley South, Throckley North and Kenton Bankfoot Phase 1 and 2.	
Create 5000 linear metres of native species rich hedgerow.	2021	1,110m of native hedge created at Brush Technology.	Ongoing
		1,600m of native hedgerow was planted at Brenkley opencast. In addition, 75m of mature hedgerow was translocated.	
		300m of native hedge have been secured through planning. conditions at Wideopen housing development.	
		Native hedgerows secured through planning condition at Dinnington South residential development.	
Improve 2000 linear metres of species poor hedgerow.	2021	Hedgerow improvements to be carried out at the following SLR sites: Throckley South, Throckley North, Dinnington North and Callerton sites.	Ongoing

Retain existing scrub and hedgerow on development schemes and maximise opportunities for native planting in landscaping schemes.	Ongoing	Undertaken as part of planning. Where hedgerows haven't been retained full mitigation has been provided on all schemes.	Ongoing
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.	Ongoing

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	 1,600m of native hedgerow was planted at Brenkley opencast. In addition, 75m of mature hedgerow was translocated. 300m of native hedge have been secured through planning conditions at Wideopen housing development. Native hedgerows adjacent to farmland secured through planning condition at Dinnington South residential development. 	Completed but 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 to be carried out at the following SLR sites: Throckley South, Throckley North, Dinnington North and Callerton sites.	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. Regular monitoring of bird populations at Newcastle Great Park and Brenkley Lane. Bird records also recorded from all SLR planning applications.	Ongoing
Identify key areas for tree sparrows and encourage provision for nesting and feeding habitat.	2013	Key sites include Big Waters/Little Waters, Prestwick Carr. Tree Sparrow nest boxes erected at Big Waters/Little Waters and Havannah.	Ongoing

Install nestboxes at 10 new sites for tree sparrow and barn owl.	2015	Nestboxes installed at 2 sites: - Havannah in Newcastle and Brenkley.	Completed but ongoing
Increase suitable habitat for ground nesting birds on 10 sites.	2016	Brenkley Lane Opencast - Creation of 55.8ha of species rich grassland on the larger storage mounds and 10.4ha on the progressive restoration to date. Scrapes also created within arable land. S106 funding secured for farmland birds at East Middle Callerton, West Middle Callerton, Throckley North and Hazlerigg.	Ongoing
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.	Ongoing

2. Bat Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Collate records on the number and distribution of bat roosts.	2015	Records submitted to the Environmental Records Information Centre North East (ERIC).	Completed but ongoing
Ensure that every demolition or renovation project provides at least one bat box on the new building.	Annually	 At Richardson Rd student accommodation 40 bat boxes, (maternity boxes and hibernation) 10 multi- chambered bat boxes and two purpose built heated maternity roosting houses have been installed/created so far. All planning applications where demolition or renovation is being undertaken have installed batboxes e.g. Coach Lane Campus - 9 Dinnington South – 20 NGP Cell C – 30 Dinnington North – 6 Avant housing – 15 Benfield School – 2 Walker Rd Apartments – 3 Throckley South – 8 Havannah – 4 High Beeches – 4 Stepney Yard -3 	Completed but ongoing
Erect bat boxes on 5 suitable sites on an annual basis.	Annually	See above and in addition bat boxes installed at: Jesmond Old Cemetery, All Saints, Walker Permanent Allotments and numerous YHA housing renovation schemes.	Ongoing
Create 5000 linear metres of foraging/commuting habitat for bats.	2016	See woodland, hedge, shrub and wetland targets.	Complete
Produce bat guidance document for planners and developers.	2012	Bat Guidance produced and available on Councils' websites.	Complete
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 given to grounds maintenance and tree team. Bat risk assessments of all	Ongoing

1		
	Council trees is undertaken	
	before works.	

3. Amphibian Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Maintain the current distribution of great	Annually	Current distribution in	Ongoing
crested newt (GCN) breeding ponds and		Newcastle and North Tyneside	
provide any new records of GCN sites to		maintained. One new record	
ERIC.		and updates sent to ERIC.	
Ensure that all great crested newt sites	Annually	S106 and conditions secured for	Ongoing
are managed in a way that will maintain		works to Brenkley Lane ponds	
the viability of the population.		and Seven Mile Ponds.	
		S106 secured for Sacred Heart	
		ponds through Gosforth Park	
		Walled garden residential	
		development.	
		S106 secured for works to GCN	
		ponds at Havannah LNR.	
Raise awareness about amphibian	Ongoing	Management advice provided	Ongoing
conservation and provide advice on		to Newcastle Rangers,	
habitat management.		Ouseburn City Farm, Scotswood	
		Community Garden, Iris	
		Brickfields, Gosforth Central	
		Park. Advice also provided to	
		developers and Council	
		departments implementing	
		projects/schemes.	
Create 10 new amphibian ponds	2016	1 new pond created at	Completed
		Newcastle football training	but
		ground and Gosforth Central	ongoing
		Park.	
		15 new ponds created at	
		Brenkley Opencast site in	
		Newcastle.	
Undertake management that will enhance	2018	2 ponds re-profiled at	Completed
the biodiversity value of 10 ponds for		Newcastle football training	but
amphibians.		ground.	ongoing
		Seven Mile Ponds have	
		undergone clearance works to	
		provide open water areas and	
		over-hanging tree removal.	
		S106 agreement secured for	
		management of Sacred Heart	
1		Ponds.	

Create 10 new amphibian hibernacula at suitable locations.	2016	8 created at Brunton Lane School, West Brunton Farm and Little Benton.	Completed but ongoing
		3 New Hibernacula created around Sacred Heart Ponds.	

4. Dingy Skipper Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Continue to survey and map the distribution of dingy skipper.	Annually	Butterfly Conservation record regionally and map distribution of Dingy skipper. Surveys requested as part of the planning process. New population recorded at Newcastle Heliport site.	Ongoing
Establish monitoring at all key sites to	Annually	All records submitted to ERIC NE. Butterfly Conservation, NTC and	Ongoing
determine any change in status.	,	NCC.	
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. Planning permission and appeal refused for Newcastle Heliport development due to dingy skipper and species rich grasslands.	Ongoing
Ensure that land owners and managers are aware of the presence of the species and establish appropriate methods of habitat management.	Ongoing	No control over externally owned sites makes this target difficult to implement fully. Majority of dingy skipper sites in Council ownership are appropriately managed e.g. Percy Pit and Walker Riverside Jobling Purser site is managed by Butterfly Conservation and owners.	Ongoing
Re-survey locations where current status is not clear.	2013	No surveys required in Newcastle as all sites confirmed by Butterfly Conservation.	Complete
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.	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 exiting colonies.	Ongoing	All planning applications where Dingy Skipper may be affected. E.g. Newcastle Heliport Site, Fisher Street site and St Anthony's Tar Works.	Ongoing
Seek and develop opportunities to establish new colonies.	Ongoing	St Anthony's Tar Works depot site restored for dingy skipper. Dingy skipper habitat created at Fisher Street site.	Ongoing
		Forth Yards site Masterplan and Lidl site at Lemmington are to take dingy skipper into consideration as part of its designs.	

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. Any new records found through planning are submitted to ERIC. Otter now found on all major water courses and wetlands in Newcastle and North Tyneside.	Ongoing
Restore and improve riparian habitat along 5km of watercourse for otters.	2021	 1km of watercourse improved along Ouseburn at Newcastle Great Park. Improvements to 500m of the Ouseburn at Brunton Park carried out and approximately 500m of new watercourse created. Restoration of 400m of Milkhope Burn at Brenkley Lane. Enhancements conditioned to watercourses at East Middle Callerton, West Middle Callerton, NGP Cell D and Throckley North and Throckley South. Hartley Burn catchment group set up to examine riparian issues. 	Ongoing
Ensure all operations affecting watercourses take account of otters, retaining features such as old trees, scrub and overhanging root systems.	Ongoing	Otter and water vole surveys are implemented on all watercourses and appropriate mitigation and method statements are put in place.Otter Method Statements and mitigation produced for Brunton Park, Brenkley Opencast.Full otter surveys and mitigation are required for NGP Cell D and Spine Road application these have been secured.	Ongoing

Encourage public participation in submission of otter sightings and otter conservation through articles and promotional material.	2015	Otter is now found on all major water courses and wetlands in Newcastle and North Tyneside. Habitat Heroes event at Ouseburn City Farm focusing on otters.	Not completed
Construct and install 5 otter holts at suitable sites.	2016	 2 otter holts installed along the Ouseburn. 2 Otter holts have been requested as part of NGP Cell D and Spine Road application. 4 otter holts have been conditioned along the Whorlton Burn as part of East Middle Callerton and on the Ouseburn at West Middle Callerton housing developments. 1 otter holt secured through conditions at Woolsington Hall. 1 Otter Holt Installed at Holywell Dene, 1 at Seaton Burn (little waters) and 1 installed at Northumbrian Water Site 	Completed but ongoing
Identify priority stretches of watercourse where habitat improvement for otters should be focused.	2014	 (Howdon). Improvements to 500m of the Ouseburn at Brunton have been carried out and approximately another 500m of watercourse created. Continued Restoration of 400m of Milkhope Burn, Brenkley Lane. This has been considered at all Newcastle's SLR sites and at NGP. Ouseburn River Restoration Project Feasibility Report includes this these aims within its proposed projects. This is a 	Completed but ongoing

		partnership project between Newcastle, North Tyneside, Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and Groundwork. They have completed the first project at Woolsington Ponds.	
Limit accidental killing of otters on roads, by providing suitable underpasses where appropriate.	Ongoing	Underpass design under A189 connecting with Gosforth Park as part of Whitehouse Farm Scheme has been implemented. Brenkley Lane – improvements to Ponteland Road culvert have been carried out.	Ongoing
		NGP Ouseburn road crossing – Designs have been produced to ensure free otter movement beneath new road and bridge.	

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. Newcastle & Gateshead's' Peregrine Falcon project- Volunteers trained to survey for peregrines along River Tyne Quayside.	Ongoing
		RSPB promoting National Swift Survey & Big Garden Bird Watch.	
Encourage public to submit sightings of swifts at roof level to the National Swift Inventory.	Ongoing	RSPB promoting national swift survey.	Ongoing
		Breeding Bird Surveys from development proposals submitted to ERIC NE.	
Continue to monitor current sites for priority species.	Annually	Annual bird surveys not undertaken due to lack of resources. Regular bird surveys are carried	Target not completed
		out to monitor populations at Brenkley Lane and NGP.	
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. Promoted through 'Wildlife	Ongoing
Encourage nest box construction and installation for urban birds on an annual basis through public events and /or the media.	Autumn/Winter	Gardening Leaflet' on website. Undertaken through regular Ranger events in Newcastle e.g. National Bird Box Week.	Ongoing
		Undertaken through 'Parks' Events at NTC e.g. Killingworth Lake Park, Springfield Park, Northumberland Park, Marden Quarry, Wallsend Parks.	

		Promoted through 'Wildlife Gardening Leaflet' on website. Staff at HMRC held nest box event.	
Install 20 nest boxes on suitable sites for a wide variety of urban bird species.	Annually	Bird boxes installed/ secured on properties in Newcastle, recent examples below: Dinnington South – 15 NGP Cell C – 30 Dinnington North – 6 Avant housing – 18 Benfield School – 4 Walker Rd Apartments – 3 Throckley South – 20 Havannah – 13 Blucher Terrace – 3 3 sparrow terraces at 42 Westgate Rd, 1 sparrow terrace and 3 boxes installed at Stepney Yard. 2 Sparrow terraces and 5 nestboxes to be installed at Front Street Dinnington development. 1 Sparrow terrace and 9 nestboxes to be installed at Coach Lane Campus. 6 nestboxes installed within bat towers at Richardson Road Campus.	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. See target above for examples.	Ongoing
Encourage wildlife friendly gardening through media articles, websites, events and printed material.	Annually	'Wildlife Gardening Leaflet' on Council websites.	Ongoing

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

Ouseburn River Restoration
Project Feasibility Report
includes this these aims within
its proposed projects. This is a
partnership project between
Newcastle, North Tyneside,
Environment Agency,
Northumbrian Water and
Groundwork.
Groundwork and Environment
Agency project improved 250m
of the Ouseburn near Callerton.

8. Red Squirrel Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Report all red squirrel sightings to ERIC and RSNE.	Ongoing	Reports sent to ERIC.	Ongoing
Carry out public awareness activities to promote red squirrel conservation and discourage people from feeding grey	Ongoing	Undertaken by NWT as part of RSNE Project and the NHSN.	Ongoing
squirrels close to red squirrel sites.		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.	
		New red squirrel interpretation panels have been created and installed at Havannah Local Nature Reserve.	
		Red squirrel mitigation strategy has been secured as part of Hazlerigg S106 agreement; raising awareness and training will form part of this strategy.	
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.	Ongoing
		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.	
		Grey squirrel control will be part of the Red squirrel mitigation strategy secured as part of Hazelrigg S106 agreement.	
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.	Ongoing
		Newcastle Rangers and volunteers have put in new fencing and signage to restrict	

		access to red squirrel habitat. Habitat management is also being undertaken. Hoys Wood is being managed for red squirrel by Banks/ Blagdon Estates.	
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. Monitoring is to form the first part of the red squirrel mitigation strategy as part of Hazelrigg S106 agreement.	Ongoing

9. Hedgehog Targets	Target date	Action	Status
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.	Completed
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.	Completed
Create and install 20 hibernacula at appropriate sites throughout Newcastle & North Tyneside.	2015	Three hedgehog hibernacula created at former Throckley school housing scheme. Hedgehog hibernacula secured through appropriate planning conditions at numerous sites.	Not completed but ongoing

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

11. Bee Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Develop bee projects with local	2013	Newcastle's Bee Strategy	Complete
Universities/ educational establishments.		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.	
Create 6 flagship bee gardens on	2014	Newcastle University Garden;	Complete
appropriate sites to raise awareness of		Civic Centre Pictorial Meadow,	
bee conservation and encourage		Moorside bee allotment,	
appropriate planting.		Cowgate Community Garden,	
		Newburn Sensory Garden.	
Promote the retention or provision of	Ongoing	Wildlife Gardening leaflet	Ongoing
suitable nesting and over wintering sites in		produced; Information/advice	
public and private gardens and allotments.		given to householders by pest	
		control officers.	
		Newcastle's Bee Strategy	
		provides website information.	
		Members of the public and staff	
		advised on an ad hoc basis.	
Advise landowners on suitable	Ongoing	Newcastle's Bee Strategy	Ongoing
management of sites for bumblebees.		provides website information.	
Carry out a survey of bees on 10	2015	No resources available.	Not
appropriate sample sites.			completed
Raise skills level by delivering bee	2014	Buglife Bee ID workshop held at	Complete
identification workshop.		Jesmond Dene.	

12. Brown Hare Targets	Target Date	Action	Status
Seek to secure sympathetic management of habitat for brown hares through the planning system.	Ongoing	Sympathetic habitat creation and management carried out at Brenkley Lane for brown hare. Note: Target difficult to achieve	Ongoing
Create 500 linear metres of native species rich hedgerow.	2021	due to size of habitat required.1,110m of native hedge created at Brush Technology.1,600m of native hedgerow was planted at Brenkley opencast. In addition, 75m of mature hedgerow was translocated.	Completed but ongoing
		Approx. 2km of native hedgerow are to be planted as part of Newcastle Great Parks Cell D and A. These will be secured through appropriate planning conditions.	
		300m of native hedge have been secured through planning conditions at Wideopen housing development.	
		Native hedgerows secured through planning condition at Dinnington South residential development.	
Improve 500 linear metres of species poor hedgerow.	2021	Hedgerow improvements to be carried out at the following SLR sites: Throckley South, Throckley North, Dinnington North and Callerton sites.	Completed but ongoing
Create or restore 2ha of lowland species rich grassland.	2021	Brenkley Opencast restoration scheme has created 9.8ha of semi improved neutral grassland to date.	Completed but ongoing
		Additional wildflower meadow creation has been secured	

		through planning at the SLR sites and NGP.	
Increase public awareness about the conservation status of brown hare.	2014	Lack of resources.	Not Completed