

Bank Top Quarry & Wellfield Wood

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Bank Top Quarry & Wellfield Wood	2.98	NZ150 666	04/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria Mature mixed native woodland and scrub within the green belt and wildlife corridor. No public access to Bank Top Quarry but open access to Wellfield Woods, also referred to as Bank Top Plantation.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Previously these were two separate SLCI's, but now merged into one larger SLCI site due to connectivity and similar habitats. There is no public access to Bank Top Quarry which is owned by Northumbrian Water and consists of secondary native mixed woodland. The site was also used for dumping of sewage sludge in the past. This part of the SLCI was an old quarry which has been naturally colonised by a variety of tree species, mainly dominated by sycamore. The field layer is species poor due to heavy shading.

Wellfield Wood to the western side of the SLCI is a mixed even aged native woodland plantation, with Scot's pine locally dominant. It was planted up by the City Council in 1986 and is well used by the public. There is a strategic recreational route leading from the sites to Tyne Riverside Country Park

Site previously used by red squirrel but no recent records.

Management considerations:-

Both woodlands are in need of sympathetic woodland management to improve their quality and manage access.

Survey Sheet for Bank Top Quarry & Wellfield Wood

<u>Site Name:</u> Bank Top Quarry and Wellfield Wood	<u>Date & Time:</u> 4/06/13	<u>Weather Conditions:</u> Sunny 19 degrees	<u>Surveyors:</u> DHB & JH	<u>Qualify as SLCI Y/N:</u> Yes																																
<u>Diversity/Quality Of Habitat</u>	<u>Diversity of Species</u>	<u>Position in Ecological Unit</u>	<u>Habitat/Species Rarity</u>	<u>Value to Community</u>																																
Mature mixed native woodland – high Mixed native scrub – High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	5	In green belt, not adjacent to any wildlife sites but in new wildlife enhancement corridor	Locally unique (quarry) and only replicated in long term	No access or management to quarry. Woodland to west has well used access but no management
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
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Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	5																																			
Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 2																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note: These were previously two separate SLCI's, but now to be merged due to close proximity and similar habitats.																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Benwell Burial Ground	4.9	NZ 212 645	21/11/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Benwell Burial Ground contains remnant areas of ancient semi natural woodland, which probably formed part of Benwell Dene. This habitat is uncommon in the local area and only replaceable in the medium to long term. There is no public access to the site, but it is within a wildlife corridor linking to Hodgkin Park.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI but full access required to assess whether it still meets criteria for next review.

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

The site can be divided up into two sections, the remnant ancient semi natural woodland to the west and cleared land that has naturally regenerated to the east. The woodland area is mixed, consisting of mature oak, sycamore, holly, yew and ash, all covered by TPO's. Ancient woodland indicator species such as wood anemone and wood sorrel have previously been reported on site.

Full access to the site was not possible at the time of this review. However previous surveys refer to a pond, a watercourse and amphibians being present on site.

Management considerations:-

No management of the woodland appears to have taken place for a long time. Japanese knotweed was present on site, but this may now be undergoing management.

Survey Sheet for Benwell Burial Ground

Site Name: Benwell Burial Grounds	Date & Time: 21/11/13	Weather Conditions: 6.5 degrees overcast	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
<p>Area of mature native Woodland – high</p> <p>Watercourse?</p> <p>Pond?</p> <p>Previous surveys report a pond and watercourse within the woodland. Not observed during this survey due to lack of access.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger		Total	4	Wildlife corridor and connected to other large green spaces over 0.1ha	<p>Habitat uncommon in the local area, and only replicated in medium to long term.</p> <p>Remnant area of semi natural ancient woodland to the west of site (A. Creedy survey 93)</p>	<p>Site virtually unused by local community and not managed or maintained.</p> <p>No access to site; fenced off.</p>
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
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Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	4																																			
Score: 3	Score: 3	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 15																																				
<p>Note: Site visit was superficial as the area is fenced off and did not have permission to access site. Therefore information is partly based on previous surveys and reports. Further surveys of this site will be required for the next review.</p>																																				

Benwell Nature Park (Local Nature Reserve)

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Benwell Nature Park (Local Nature Reserve)	1.48	NZ 217 637	04/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria: Site contains a good variety of natural habitats including wetlands, native woodland and species rich grassland. Reports of great crested newt in the ponds. LNR and within wildlife corridor.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Benwell Nature Park is a manmade urban nature park created in 1982 on inner city land formerly occupied by terraced housing. A good variety of habitats were created to illustrate the range of vegetation types to be seen in the north east. There is a large pond containing amphibians which have been rescued from other ponds in the area. Previous reports of great crested newt have been received, the most recent report was from one of Newcastle Councils Rangers in 2013.

Many natural habitats have become established including a pond and marsh, meadows and hedgerows, woodlands and stone outcrops.

Until recently the site was widely used by City schools and the local community as an educational facility. Site now be used exclusively by West Newcastle Academy.

The site was designated as a LNR in 2000

The site is within a wildlife corridor

Management considerations:-

Site formerly managed by Newcastle City Council Rangers. Management now intermittent and site being used by local school which is having a negative impact on biodiversity.

Survey Sheet for Benwell Nature Park

Site Name: Benwell Nature park	Date & Time: 4/06/13	Weather Conditions: Sunny 18 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Wetlands – good quality marginal veg – high Semi-mature mixed woodland & scrub – Med Species rich grassland - High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper	x	Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	6	In a wildlife corridor, but poor connectivity	Locally uncommon but replicated in short term	Site no longer well used due to restricted access (staff) but still limited management and valued for biodiversity
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper	x																																			
Otter																																				
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Water vole																																				
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Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	6																																			
Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 3	Score: 2	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 17																																				
Note: Great Crested Newt found again in 2013 by Rangers. LWS designation should be considered																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Brunton Mill Meadow	2.9	NZ 214 698	25/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

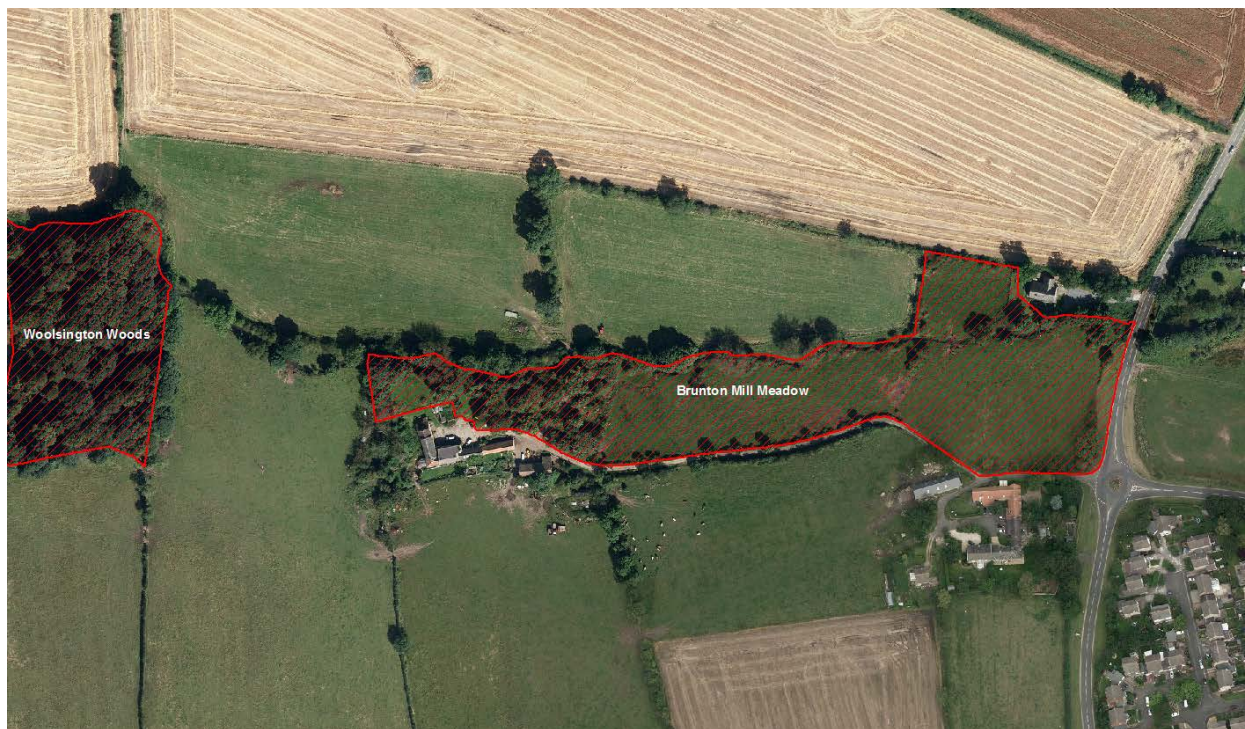
SLCI Criteria

The wooded and scrubby natural banksides of the Ouseburn provides excellent ecological connectivity in an intensively farmed area. In addition the tree and scrub cover provides valuable habitat for various bird species. Grasslands are presently poor, but could be improved with a change to the grazing regime.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This meadow lies immediately west of and adjacent to Brunton Lane, with access through Brunton Bridge Farm, therefore there is no public access. The site consists of an area of semi-improved neutral pasture which is over-grazed by horses and cattle, and consequently species poor. The meadow is bordered at its northern perimeter by the Ouseburn, which is wooded on both banks, consisting of some large ash trees, sycamore and hawthorn scrub.

The site provides a useful link in an east to west wildlife corridor, linking Woolsington Woods with Newcastle Great Park. The trees and scrub areas along the Ouseburn provide cover for a variety of birds. There are anecdotal reports of kingfisher nesting within the banks of the Ouseburn within the site.

Management considerations:-

The meadow is presently overgrazed as the number of livestock units is too high and should be reduced and the site grazed in a more sympathetic manner. In addition grazing occurs down to banksides of the Ouseburn; areas should be fenced off to reduce grazing pressure. In channel improvements to the Ouseburn should also be considered.

Survey Sheet for Brunton Mill Meadow

Site Name: Brunton Mill Meadow	Date & Time: 25/03/13	Weather Conditions: snowy 1.5 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Y																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature Native Scrub- high Uncut rough grassland - High Running Water with natural bankside habitat - High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	X	Coastal Birds		Bats	X	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter	X	Urban Birds	X	Water vole	X	Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare	X	Badger	X	Total	7	Good connectivity with watercourse and semi-natural open space	Locally common replicated in medium term	Site not well used or valued for biodiversity but well managed?
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	X																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	X																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	X																																			
Urban Birds	X																																			
Water vole	X																																			
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Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare	X																																			
Badger	X																																			
Total	7																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 3	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 20																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
East Farm Meadow	2.9	NZ 198 722	01/10/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria There is no public access to this site and it is not specifically managed for wildlife. The site is within a wildlife corridor and has connectivity through the watercourse. Though the site is a pleasant urban fringe site it is typical pastureland with only limited wildlife interest and no public access.				Recommendations Remove from SLCI list

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This is an area of grazed pastureland and bisected by a small burn with wet grassland on either side. The site is surrounded by hedges on two sides with a number of mature hedgerow trees.

The grasslands appeared to have poor species diversity and represented a typical grazed pasture. The grasslands appeared to have been heavily grazed by horses for the last few years, which has led to a considerable reduction in its diversity. This type of habitat is well represented on the fringe of the city and is replaceable in the short term.

There is no public access to this site and it is not specifically managed for wildlife. The site is within a wildlife corridor and has connectivity through the watercourse. Though the site is a pleasant urban fringe site it is typical pastureland with only limited wildlife interest and no public access and is therefore not worthy of SLCI status.

Management considerations:-

Grassland management should be changed to encourage species diversity.

Survey Sheet for East Farm Meadow

Site Name: East Farm Meadow	Date & Time: 1/10/13	Weather Conditions: 13.5 degrees mild & windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: No (no longer has meadow)																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature trees in a parkland setting - Med Improved Grassland – Low Native hedgerow – High Watercourse with poor riparian habitat - med	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare	x	Badger	x	Total	7	In a wildlife corridor, green belt and connected by watercourse	Habitat common and replicated in the short to medium term	Site un-used, not managed or maintained for biodiversity
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	x																																			
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole	x																																			
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare	x																																			
Badger	x																																			
Total	7																																			
Score: 3	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 1	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 14																																				
Note: No justification for this to be designated as the same type of habitat surrounds the site and this is not designated. Original meadow has been lost.																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Fencer Hill Wood	1.9	NZ246 698	01/10/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Fencer Hill Woods has a semi-natural, mature woodland structure which has evolved over the last 150 years. The wetland area has been created by mining subsidence. Site is managed by Northumberland Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve and used for educational and recreational purposes. It sits within a wildlife corridor linking with the Ouseburn and is an important ecological stepping stone in an urbanised area.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Fencer Hill Wood is a fragment of old mixed woodland which supports particularly varied plant communities for its size and suburban setting. The woodland consists of mature oak, sycamore, ash and elm (dead or dying), the understorey is poor supporting hawthorn, elder, willow and bramble. It has an extensive area of wetland (fen and carr), a small pond, and is bisected by the Abbotswood Burn, a tributary of the Ouseburn. It is part of a strategic north-south wildlife corridor, linking with the Ouseburn and Gosforth Park.

The site has been owned and managed by Northumberland Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve since 1992 and used as an educational resource. The amenity and recreational value of such an urban site is extremely important. The trees within the SLCI are all protected by a group Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Management considerations:-

Fencer Hill Wood is managed by Northumberland Wildlife Trust as an urban nature reserve. The site has problems with invasive species such as Himalayan balsam and some anti-social behaviour.

Survey Sheet for Fencer Hill Wood

Site Name: Fencer Hill Wood	Date & Time: 1/10/13	Weather Conditions: 14 degrees mild & windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes (could be a LWS?)																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature mixed woodland - High Native Scrub – High Marsh, reedbed & swamp – High Watercourse with poor banksides - Med	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	6	In a wildlife corridor which is linked by a watercourse (briedene burn) and connected to greenspace	Very mature veteran trees, rare habitat that is only replicated in long term.	Site well used and valued for wildlife but has limited management
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
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Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	6																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 22																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Foxcover Wood	3.4	NZ 207 713	18/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Fox Cover Wood is an area of mixed mature woodland covered by a group TPO. Much of the woodland supports a range of mature trees with native understory and some ancient woodland indicator species. The site was previously designated as a Local Wildlife site and is within a wildlife corridor and providing important connectivity with a variety of other wildlife sites and Green Belt in the local area. The woodland is only replaceable in the long term, has no public access and has little management.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This site consists of an area of mixed mature woodland. Species include birch (*Betula pendula* and *Betula pubescens*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and oak (*Quercus robur*). The shrub layer is diverse and dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*), with some hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The field layer is quite rich - wood avens (*Geum urbanum*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) being the commonest species.

Ancient woodland indicators include dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), wood forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*) and wood melick (*Melica uniflora*).

The site provides cover for a range of woodland birds, including blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*), chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) and robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). Invertebrates included speckled wood butterfly (*Pararge aegeria*) and red tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*). Evidence of roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) was also noted.

Evidence of antisocial behaviour was noted on site, including fly tipping, fires and drug use.

Management considerations:-

Overall the trees and woodlands within Foxcover Wood have been totally unmanaged and a programme of selective felling and replanting is desirable.

Survey Sheet for Foxcover Woods

Site Name: Foxcover Wood	Date & Time: 04/01/13	Weather Conditions: Dry, Mild & overcast	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Semi-natural mixed woodland with understorey = High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	5	Within a wildlife corridor and excellent links to other Local Wildlife Sites and areas of Green Belt.	Replacement value of woodland is medium to long term. (it would take potentially 50+ years to replace this type of semi-mature woodland.	No community use/public access. Management limited.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole																																				
Red squirrel	x																																			
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	5																																			
Score: 3	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 17																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Gosforth Park Woods & Pond	3.5	NZ 253 712	04/01/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria Gosforth Park Woods is a broadleaved secondary woodland with a mixed canopy including sycamore, oak, ash, lime and beech. Included within the boundary is now the SuDS pond and surrounding grassland. The site adjoins Gosforth Wood Nature Reserve LWS and it is within a strategic wildlife corridor. There is no public access to the site and management is limited.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This is an area of secondary broadleaved woodland made up of mature sycamore, oak, ash, lime and beech. The understory and ground flora are poorly developed with some small areas of hawthorn and bramble. The mature nature of the woodland does provide valuable habitat for woodland bird species, roe deer and fox.

To the south the site is bordered by scrub, SuDs pond and semi-improved grassland with some areas of wet grassland. The pond takes water from the all-weather pitches to the west of the site and is maturing well and provides good amphibian and aquatic invertebrate habitat.

The woodland forms another important part of the Gosforth to Cramlington wildlife corridor and links with Gosforth Park SSSI.

Management considerations:-

No obvious signs of management were visible and general woodland management principles are required.

Survey Sheet for Gosforth Park Woods and Pond

Site Name: Gosforth Park Woods & Pond	Date & Time: 04/01/13	Weather Conditions: Dry, Mild & overcast	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Semi-natural woodland with understorey = 5 Semi-improved grassland = 3 Pond = 4 (Pond and grassland now included within boundary)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	6	Within a wildlife corridor and excellent links to Gosforth park SSSI and other Local Wildlife Sites.	Replacement value of woodland is medium to long term. (it would take potentially 50+ years to replace this type of semi-mature woodland.	No community use/public access. Management limited.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole																																				
Red squirrel	x																																			
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	6																																			
Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 3	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 17																																				
Note: Include pond and grassland within Gosforth Park Woods SLCI and change name.																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
La Sagesse Wood	1.75	NZ 253 712	01/10/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

The existing vegetation cover of the woodland, whilst limited and dominated by non-native species of sycamore and beech, provide potential wildlife refugia, food sources and movement corridors and a link for wildlife to Jesmond Dene and the surrounding network of habitats. The site now has a management plan which is being implemented as part of the planning conditions for Jesmond Towers residential scheme.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

The site comprises the Jesmond Towers Estate which occupies a large site between Bemersyde Drive to the south and Jesmond Dene Road to the north and comprises two substantial stone buildings, North Jesmond House to the west and Jesmond Towers to the east, with the Lodges and outbuildings and modern buildings and temporary classrooms which until recently all formed La Sagesse School. The area around the woodland is presently undergoing residential development and the Towers are being converted for residential use.

The large mature trees within the site and woodland cover, notably along the northern boundary to the dene, form a feature within the surrounding landscape and provide a setting to the site and the Jesmond Towers grade II* listed building

The site consists of groups of mixed mature trees and shrubs around the buildings and along the boundaries to the site. These comprise predominantly of broadleaved planting of a similar mix to those found within Jesmond Dene including an understory of yew, holly and rhododendron.

The species includes predominantly sycamore, with abundant beech and ash. Wild cherry are also frequent with common lime English oak and horse chestnut occasionally occurring.

Large stands of established Japanese knotweed are present, which the current owners have started to control.

The field layer is poor over much of the woodland due to heavy shade from both sycamore and beech which shades out the native flowers and under-scrub, and reduces the wildlife value of some areas. The ground flora where it occurs includes predominantly dense bramble and ivy.

There are a number of trees within the woodland, which have the potential for supporting roosting bats comprising areas of dead wood, broken limbs and dense ivy cover. The site and wider area provides high quality habitat for commuting and foraging bats.

A formal manmade pond is also present and located to the northeast of Jesmond Towers and forms part of the former gardens of the house.

The Jesmond Towers site is surrounded by a stone wall for most of its length which would constrain movement of terrestrial wildlife into and out of the site.

Management considerations:-

A woodland management plan has been agreed and conditioned as part of the surrounding Jesmond Towers residential development. Woodland management works will entail removal of non-native species, treatment of Japanese planting and replanting of native species.

Survey Sheet for La Sagesse Wood

Site Name: La Sagesse Wood	Date & Time: 1/10/13	Weather Conditions: 13.5 degrees mild & windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature native broadleaved woodland - High Native Scrub – High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger		Total	4	In a wildlife corridor, adjacent to LWS and connected to greenspace	Habitat not rare as next to Jesmond Dene but can only be replicated in long term.	Site well used, valued for wildlife and has limited management
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole																																				
Red squirrel	x																																			
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	4																																			
Score: 4	Score: 3	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Moory Spot Farm	0.74	NZ 198 722	19/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria The main pond is well established and is surrounded by a collection of smaller ponds and wetlands all providing valuable amphibian habitat. The presence of great crested newts means the site should be designated as a Local Wildlife Site.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI until designated as a LWS

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Moory Spot Farm Pond is a large mining subsidence pond which is surrounded by a conifer plantation to the west and arable land to the east. There is no public access to the site and it has been managed as a fishing and duck pond. The pond was well fringed with vegetation including common reed and rush species. There have been reports of great crested newt (GCN) being present since 1986, but to date no comprehensive amphibian surveys of the pond and surrounding area have been carried out. Great crested newt eggs and a juvenile GCN were observed by DHB & JH in 2013. Previous reports have also recorded common frog, common toad, smooth newt and possibly palmate newt. There is now no doubt that the ponds and watercourses around this area are used as breeding sites by great crested newt and the ponds and surrounding area should be designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

The site will remain as an SLCI until future designation as a LWS. However the boundary should be expanded to include other wetland and grassland areas and the coniferous woodland which all provide valuable amphibian habitat.

Management considerations:-

Ponds and terrestrial habitat should be managed for amphibian species, in particular great crested newt. Drainage channels from arable land into pond have led to some eutrophication of the pond. A decrease in eutrophication would be beneficial and increase the species diversity.

Survey Sheet for Moory Spot Farm

Site Name: Moory Spot Farm Pond	Date & Time: 19/6/13	Weather Conditions: Evening Survey (GCN)	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes (LWS due to GCN?)																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Wetlands - High Coniferous Plantation – Low Watercourse – High Arable land – Low Poor Semi-improved grassland – Med Native hedgerows - High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds	x	Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare	x	Badger	x	Total	7	In greenbelt with good connectivity to open space	GCN on site (rare) and at least 4 species of amphibian as well as foraging bats and possible bat roosts in farm buildings. Habitat locally uncommon and only replicated in medium term.	Site un-used, well managed but not valued for biodiversity
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds	x																																			
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole																																				
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare	x																																			
Badger	x																																			
Total	7																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 22																																				
Note: Need to expand the boundary of this site up to the airport. Also, look at having this site designated as LWS due to GCN.																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Newburn Haugh Wetland	2.4	NZ 179 647	12/11/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Forms an important link in the Wildlife Corridor linking together multiple Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Pond habitat is rare in this area and further value is added by the inclusion of native tree and scrub. Access to the site is good and hence the site is well used and valued.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This site consists of a wetland situated between the old mineral line, which is now a public footpath and Riversdale Way. It incorporates areas of open water, swamp vegetation and species poor grasslands. The northern boundary of the site well vegetated with native tree and scrub vegetation. While the western end has an area of species poor semi-improved grassland with scattered scrub.

The site is well used as it fully accessible due the footpath running along its southern boundary but no management of the site occurs at the present time.

This site will border a residential development for 500 new homes that has been allocated as part of the Core Strategy (adopted 2015).

Management considerations:-

Areas of shrub and rush need to be removed to provide additional open water. Full ecological assessment and the surrounding area are required.

Survey Sheet for Newburn Haugh Wetlands

Site Name: Newburn Haugh Wetlands	Date & Time: 12/11/13	Weather Conditions: Clear & Sunny, 9oc	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Y																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Semi Mature Native broadleaved woodland – M Species poor semi-improved grassland – M Native Scrub – H Standing water with good quality aquatic and marginal vegetation and naturalised margins - H	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	5	Within a wildlife corridor and reasonable connections to semi-natural open space	Habitat locally uncommon but only replicated in the medium term	Site well used, valued for wildlife but has limited management.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	x																																			
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole																																				
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	5																																			
Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Newcastle Golf Course	52.7	NZ 234 697	21/11/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

The golf course consists of a mosaic of habitats with the Ouseburn forming the northern boundary. There are many singular and grouped plantings of established trees and shrub throughout the site, along with more recent extensive plantings of saplings. The site is within a Wildlife Corridor providing an important link with green belt to the west and Gosforth Park to the east. The site is well used but not open to the general public and not always managed with wildlife in mind.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

The golf course has a mosaic of habitats including scrub, heathland, wetland, marsh, plantation woodland, rough grassland and amenity grassland. The Ouseburn forms the northern boundary of the site providing a valuable aquatic corridor; kingfisher have been recorded nesting along this stretch of the river. Mixed woodland plantations within the site are dominated by beech, Corsican pine and poplar, with other areas of native shrub dominated by hawthorn. In addition there is one area of dense mature scots pine. There are reports that the site is used by fox, badger and red squirrel.

Unfortunately much of the acid heathland has been lost due to the recent flood alleviation project which has re-routed the Ouseburn.

Management considerations:-

Overall the site is managed by the golf course, but this is not always with biodiversity in mind.

Survey Sheet for Newcastle Golf Course

Site Name: Newcastle Golf Course	Date & Time: 21/11/13	Weather Conditions: 6.5c, Light Rain	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Semi-mature mixed woodland = M Running water with natural bankside = H Acidic grassland = H Native scrub = H Amenity Grass = L Standing water, <u>man made</u> , poor - L	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>10</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds	x	Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	10	Within a wildlife corridor and green belt excellent links to other habitats.	Habitat is common in the local area but only replaced in the medium term.	Well used and managed but not for biodiversity.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds	x																																			
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
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Red squirrel	x																																			
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	10																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 4																																
Total Score: 25																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Ouseburn Meadows	6.4	NZ 218 702	26/04/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Ouseburn meadows comprises of areas of semi-improved neutral grassland meadow, marshy grassland and hedgerows are present at the east and south east boundaries. The Ouseburn forms the sites southern boundary. Previously designated as a Local Wildlife Site for its wet meadows, downgraded to SLCI due to a limited diversity of species present.

The site is within a wildlife corridor providing important connectivity with a variety of other wildlife sites and open space in the area. The Ouseburn corridor ranges from parish to district value for its wildlife value and is locally uncommon in the local area but the meadows could be replicated in the short term. A public footpath crosses the site and this will be ungraded as part of the development to a Strategic Route.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Ouseburn meadows are a series of small fields adjoining the river Ouseburn to the north of Kingston Park. They are within the Newcastle Great Park Development area. The site was designated as a Local Wildlife Site for its wet grassland, but much of its interest was lost due to inappropriate grazing with horses and general neglect. It was therefore downgraded to a SLCI in 2009.

A road and bridge over the Ouseburn is also proposed across the western end of the site linking future surrounding residential development. A small area to the east of the site becomes seasonally wet and is

probably the most interesting remaining feature, dominated by meadowsweet but with a number of orchid species and breeding snipe. Further west and north are small patches of quite diverse neutral grassland. The rest of the site tends to be dominated by rank vegetation. In its current state the site does not qualify for Local Wildlife Site designation under the grassland criteria. However, a change in the grazing regime and appropriate management could bring the site into favourable condition within the short term.

Management considerations:-

A change in the grazing regime and appropriate management could bring the site back into favourable condition within the short term. This will hopefully be achieved as part of the mitigation for the new road and bridge crossing as the site is now contained within the Biodiversity Mitigation and Management Plan for the Cell D development.

Survey Sheet for Ouseburn Meadows

Site Name: Ouseburn Meadow	Date & Time: 26/4/13	Weather Conditions: 10 degrees sunny spells, windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Semi-improved grassland – High Native Mature Hawthorn Hedgerows – High Watercourse with natural edges – High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>10</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare	x	Badger	x	Total	10	Watercourse and within a wildlife corridor with good connectivity to greenspace.	Locally uncommon but easily replicated.	Public footpath through the site but no longer managed or well used.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	x																																			
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole	x																																			
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare	x																																			
Badger	x																																			
Total	10																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 2	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 17																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Pecks House Farm	3.1	NZ 204 685	26/04/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Site consists mainly of species poor semi improved grassland and rank grassland. Site has little public access and management is poor with areas of fly tipping. Site does not meet SLCI criteria and is to be removed from SLCI list.

Recommendations

Remove from as SLCI list as does not meet criteria.

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Most of the site has been agriculturally improved and consequently the site is species poor consisting mainly of rank vegetation with signs of fly tipping around the boundary. The best area is towards the eastern end which had a slightly better species diversity and some native scrub.

The site is poorly managed and scores poorly on most of the SLCI criteria except for its role as greenspace within the wildlife corridor. It is therefore recommended for removal and the site is proposed for residential development except for the eastern end which is to be retained and enhanced as part of the wildlife corridor.

Management considerations:-

No management recommendations as site is to be de-designated.

Survey Sheet for Pecks House Farm

Site Name: Pecks House Farm	Date & Time: 26/4/13	Weather Conditions: 10 degrees sunny spells, windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: No																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Species poor semi-improved grassland – Med Native Hedgerows - High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	5	In a wildlife corridor with good connectivity to greenspace.	Habitat common, and easily replicated in short term.	Site not managed and un- used.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	x																																			
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Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	5																																			
Score: 3	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 1	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 13																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Prestwick Burn	1.02	NZ 182 711	01/10/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
<p>SLCI Criteria Little open water was visible during the site visit and the site consisted mainly of reedbed swamp with some colonisation by native scrub. There is a well-used public footpath running along the southern boundary of the site. The site is within a wildlife corridor with the Burn connecting with the Ouseburn and Woolsington Lake SLCI to the south. GCN present.</p>				<p>Recommendations Retain as SLCI</p>

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This is a subsidence pond which is surrounded by arable land to the south and pasture to the north. To a certain extent the A686 dual carriageway has now damned the flow of Prestwick Burn on the eastern boundary. Little open water was visible during the site visit and the site consisted mainly of reedbed swamp with some colonisation by native scrub. There is a well-used public footpath running along the southern boundary of the site. The site is within a wildlife corridor with the Burn connecting with the Ouseburn and Woolsington Lake SLCI to the south.

Full surveys should be carried out on this site, as great crested newt, common frog, common toad and smooth newt are all reported present within the pond area. Reliable records of GCN have been received, but as yet no surveys have been carried out to confirm this. Prestwick Burn is therefore a potential LWS as GCN and three other species of amphibian are reportedly found here and may meet Lowland wetlands under 5.21 Reed beds.

The northern area of the SLCI appears to lie within Northumberland County Council land.

Management considerations:-

Areas of scrub and reed need to be removed to provide additional open water. Full ecological assessment of the site is required to determine the presence of great crested newt.

Survey Sheet for Prestwick Burn

Site Name: Prestwick Burn	Date & Time: 1/10/13	Weather Conditions: 13.5 degrees mild & windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Native Scrub – High <u>Reedbed</u> swamp – High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger		Total	6	On a watercourse in greenbelt and connected to open space	Habitat uncommon and only replicated in medium term	Site well used, not valued for wildlife and has limited management
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	x																																			
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole	x																																			
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	6																																			
Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 2																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note: <i>Potential LWS; as GCN reportedly found here</i>																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Prestwick Carr	173.7	NZ193 740	18/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Prestwick Carr is designated for its extensive wet grasslands which are of value to wading birds. It also provides important links with Prestwick Carr SSSI and the wider countryside. The site is presently managed by Northumberland Wildlife Trusts Flexigraze project. There is no public access but the surrounding roads provide good views of the site. Information boards and a bird hide are situated along the minor road to Dinnington.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Prestwick Carr is located on the north - western Boundary of the City of Newcastle, to the west of Dinnington Village. The site forms part of a wider area designated as a Site of Local Conservation Interest (SLCI), and adjoins Prestwick Carr Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a site of national conservation importance.

Prestwick Carr was originally designated as a LWS for its interest as a breeding site for lowland wading birds. The site no longer qualifies under the bird criteria and was recommended for de-designation in 2003. Part of the site is currently in the ownership of Newcastle City Council, and is managed with a view to enhancing the value of the lowland meadow and grazing marsh. The existing grasslands are however considered to be in an unfavourable condition and still fail to meet the new LWS criteria.

The site is predominantly grassland with herb species frequent throughout. Many fields are separated by species poor and gappy hedges. These are intersected by connected drainage ditches whose water levels vary significantly with season and specific location. There are no rare or notable plants on the site. After the cessation of arable farming in 1996, several fields were left to naturally regenerate vegetation cover. Rushes have inundated many of the wetter fields. The aim of the management plan is to restore the hay and wet meadows by seeding with native plant species and managing through NWT's Flexigraze scheme.

The site is not open to public access. The surrounding roads provide good views of the site. Information boards are situated along the minor road to Dinnington. Controlled public access to the site is under consideration.

Management considerations:-

The Newcastle owned area is managed by Northumberland Wildlife Trust and grazed for conservation purposes by the Flexigraze project. Section 106 funding should be available from the neighbouring Dinnington residential developments which will be used to manage access and enhance the site further for biodiversity.

Survey Sheet for West Brunton Wetlands

Site Name: Prestwick Carr	Date & Time: 26/4/13	Weather Conditions: 8.5 degrees sunny spells, windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
<p>Species poor Semi Improved Grassland = M</p> <p>Mature Mixed Native Hedge = H</p> <p>Standing Water - With good quality aquatic and marginal vegetation and naturalised margins = H</p> <p>Running Water - Man-made bankside with good quality vegetation = M</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats		Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare	x	Badger		Total	6	<p>In a wildlife corridor. Good connectivity with greenbelt and other wildlife sites and SSSI. Site surrounded by drains / watercourses.</p>	<p>Habitat which is common in the local area but could only be replicated in the medium term. The size of area is an important factor.</p>	<p>No access to general public. But viewing points into site with bird hide and interpretation panels. Site managed for biodiversity by NWT's Flexigraze project.</p>
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats																																				
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
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Brown hare	x																																			
Badger																																				
Total	6																																			
Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 5	Score:3	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 20																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Reigh Burn and Engine Plantation	14.28	NZ 154 659	04/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria Forms an important link in the Wildlife Corridor linking together multiple Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Hallow Hill SSSI and SLCI's. Good selection of habits ranging from the Reigh Burn, mature and semi-mature broadleaved woodland, native scrub and semi-improved grasslands. Access to the site is good and hence the site is well used and valued for wildlife.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Large landscape scale site consisting of the Reigh Burn watercourse, a mix of broadleaved woodland, native scrub, woodland plantation, and semi-improved grasslands, some of which contain good numbers of bee orchid. The area plays an important role as a wildlife corridor linking together Hallow Hill SSSI with a variety of Local Wildlife Sites and other SLCI's associated with Tyne Riverside Country Park. The area is very well used by the general public and appreciated for its wildlife value and natural beauty.

Management considerations:-

Woodland management, reduced grazing of semi-improved grasslands and some clearance along banksides of the Reigh Burn.

Survey Sheet for Reigh Burn & Engine Plantation

Site Name: Reigh Burn & Engine Plantation	Date & Time: 4/06/13	Weather Conditions: Sunny 19 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature broadleaved woodland – high Mature hawthorn hedge – High Watercourse – natural with good quality riparian habitat - High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	8	Adjacent to SSSI, watercourse running through site, in green belt and wildlife corridor.	Habitat rare to local area and only replicated in long term	Site well used, valued for wildlife but limited management
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	x																																			
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Water vole	x																																			
Red squirrel	x																																			
Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	8																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 23																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Rye Hill	14.1	NZ 162 658	04/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria Forms an important link in the Wildlife Corridor linking together multiple Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Hallow Hill SSSI and Tyne Riverside Countrypark. Habitats within the redline boundary include pasture, wet grassland, a pond and semi natural broadleaved woodland of District importance.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Rye Hill is a large area of heavily grazed pasture which is species poor, with more interesting areas of wet pasture and a pond to the south eastern corner of the site. In addition and area of semi natural broadleaved woodland is present to the north western corner of the site. In a recent survey (E3 Ecology, Oct 2016) this woodland was assessed as being of District value and it is likely to have supported woodland for over 200 years.

A public footpath gives general access through the woodland areas from north to south; although there is no access to the rest of the site. Rye Hill forms an important section of the wildlife corridor linking Tyne Riverside Countrypark with Walbottle Dene.

Management considerations:-

A reduction in the intensity of grazing would improve the species diversity of the grasslands. Woodland management works are also required which are to be included as part of the new residential development to the north of the SLCI. Additional tree planting is proposed within the pasture area to the north which will increase the woodland linkage with Parkside Meadow and Walbottle Dene.

Survey Sheet for Rye Hill

SLCI Site Scoring

Site Name: Rye Hill, Newburn	Date & Time: 4/06/13	Weather Conditions: Sunny 19 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature native broadleaved woodland - high Mature hawthorn hedge – High Standing water – with good quality aquatic and marginal vegetation and neutralised margins - High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	9	Adjacent to SSSI, SLCI, LWS, in green belt and wildlife corridor.	Habitat rare to local area and only replicated in long term (score 5) This only applies to the mature woodland. Rest of site would be replicated in the short term (Score 2). Therefore entire site is only scored 3	Site well used but not valued for biodiversity and has limited beneficial management.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
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Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	9																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 3	Score: 2																																
Total Score: 20																																				
Note: Habitat improvement to be carried out due to Throckly housing proposals																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Seven Mile Ponds	4.8	NZ 232 747	28/11/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

This is a site of varied habitat, with good species diversity within intensively cultivated arable land. The pond contains 4 species of amphibian including great crested newt. There is no public access and the site is totally unmanaged. The features are locally uncommon and could only be replicated in the medium term

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI at the moment but recommended for upgrade to LWS.

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Seven Mile Pond is a small subsidence pond which is largely covered by emergent vegetation and is situated amidst arable fields with the A1 trunk road to the east. The open water area is located to the northern end of the pond. Other smaller seasonal ponds are present to north of the site. The northern section of the site is more heavily wooded than the south with hawthorn, silver birch and pine species.

Great crested newt, smooth newt, common frog and common toad were all recorded on site during surveys by AES-Ltd in 2013. The presence of GCN means the site now meets the criteria to be designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). The following plant species were also recorded during this survey: soft rush, water forget-me-not, water milfoil, common water starwort, water cress, bulrush, water plantain, water crowfoot and a variety of sedges.

Seven Mile Ponds should be upgraded to LWS due to presence of GCN, along with terrestrial habitat within 250m. Designate under Amphibian criteria 5.60 and 5.61 (4 amphibian species recorded).

Management considerations:-

Management has been secured through a S106 agreement with Banks Mining to selectively de-silt areas of the pond, thin surrounding dense vegetation and create hibernacula.

Survey Sheet for Seven Mile Pond

Site Name: Seven Mile Pond	Date & Time: 28/11/13	Weather Conditions: 9.0 Cloudy and damp	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Standing water with good vegetation– high Mature broadleaved woodland and Native scrub/shrub – High Semi-improved grassland - High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	5	Good connectivity within greenbelt and wildlife corridor	Locally uncommon and replicated in the medium term	Site unused, unmanaged and not valued for wildlife
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
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Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	5																																			
Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 18																																				
<p>Note: GCN were recorded on site during 2013 survey period by AES-Ltd. Pond also contained smooth newts, frogs, <u>toad</u>. Management and enhancement works to site are due as part of Brenkley Opencast biodiversity enhancements 2016.</p> <p>Pond should be upgraded to LWS due to presence of GCN, along with terrestrial habitat within 250m. Designate under Amphibian criteria 5.60 and 5.61 (4 amphibian species recorded)</p>																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Sunnyside Pond	0.95	NZ 205 709	26/4/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Sunnyside Pond lies within the Newcastle International Airport land holding and is surrounded by arable land. It comprises of a permanent water body with marginal vegetation. The habitat is locally uncommon in the surrounding area and there is anecdotal reports of great crested newt being present. There is no public access to the site but it is In a wildlife corridor, has good connectivity to open space, SLCI's and LWS.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Sunnyside Pond lies within the Newcastle International Airport land holding and is surrounded by arable land. It comprises of a permanent water body with marginal vegetation. It is believed that this wetland may have arisen following localised subsidence and is fed by rising mine water and surface runoff. The pond is now surrounded by willow carr.

There are anecdotal reports of great crested newt being present in the pond and within a neighbouring pond to the south. A review of this pond should be included within the next LWS review.

There is no public access to the site.

Management considerations:-

Wetland would benefit from removal of some of the surrounding scrub and increase areas of open water.

NIAL have a management plan for this site (2000), but it has never been implanted.

Survey Sheet for Sunnyside Ponds

Site Name: Sunnyside Ponds	Date & Time: 26/4/13	Weather Conditions: Overcast 5 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Scrub - willow carr – high Pond with reed bed margin – high	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger		Total	4	In a wildlife corridor, good connectivity to open space, SLCI's and LWS	Locally uncommon but replicated in short term	Site not well used and no management.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	x																																			
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole	x																																			
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	4																																			
Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 2	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 15																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Town Moor	281	NZ 240 660	26/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

The Town Moor represents a very large area of accessible greenspace in close proximity to the City centre, forming a valuable wildlife corridor. The majority of the site consists of grazed pasture, rough grassland, small woodland plantations and avenues of trees around the periphery.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

The Town Moor is the largest and most important open space within the City of Newcastle, providing a green lung to the centre of the City. The majority of the habitat is cattle-grazed pasture giving it a rural character in an urbanized area. There are peripheral areas of woodland plantation and avenues of trees associated with the site. The City Council owns the land while the herbage rights are vested to the Freeman, ensuring that the public has recreational access to most of the Moor. The north west corner of the site is used as a golf course.

Artificial fertilizers, herbicides and drainage have all significantly reduced the nature conservation value of this site in recent years.

Management considerations:-

The style of management limits the species diversity. Extension of the woodland plantation areas and the enclosure of cattle and reduction of fertilizer from some sections would greatly diversify the Moor's wildlife value.

Survey Sheet for Town Moor

<u>Site Name:</u> Town Moor	<u>Date & Time:</u> 26/4/13	<u>Weather Conditions:</u> 10 degrees clear & sunny	<u>Surveyors:</u> DHB & JH	<u>Qualify as SLCI Y/N:</u> yes																																
<u>Diversity/Quality Of Habitat</u>	<u>Diversity of Species</u>	<u>Position in Ecological Unit</u>	<u>Habitat/Species Rarity</u>	<u>Value to Community</u>																																
Poor semi-improved grassland – Med Semi-mature native woodland – Med Mature avenues of trees and native scrub/hedgerows – High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	5	Within a wildlife corridor with good connectivity to greenspace.	Size of the site makes it locally uncommon habitat and difficult to replicate	Well used, valued for wildlife but with limited management, especially for wildlife.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole																																				
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Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	5																																			
Score: 3	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 18																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Walker Vicarage	1.4	NZ 291 644	18/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Walker Vicarage woodland is an important island of native broadleaved habitat in an extremely urban area. It lies directly adjacent to Walker Park and forms a wooded extension to the park, while linking to the Tyne River Wildlife corridor and Hadrian's Way. The woodland is of parish value for its biodiversity value and is rare in the local area and only replaceable in the long term.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This is a mature area of mature broadleaved woodland within the grounds of Walker Vicarage and adjoining Walker Park. It is a small site, with mature trees, dense scrub, woodland edge and sheltered 'glade'. Tall herb, damp grassland. Foundations of old vicarage remains. Very high bird activity. The major tree species are sycamore, willow, poplar, ash and beech. The understory is open and consists of bramble, elder and ash seedlings, while the ground flora is dominated by ivy. A large patch of Japanese knotweed is present to the western end of the site.

Walker Vicarage woodland is an important island of native broadleaved habitat in an extremely urban area. It lies directly adjacent to Walker Park and forms a wooded extension to the park while linking to the Tyne River Wildlife corridor and Hadrian's Way.

Management considerations:-

Overall the trees and woodlands surrounding Vicarage have been totally unmanaged and a programme of selective felling and replanting is desirable. Japanese knotweed should be managed and eradicated. Spanish bluebell has also been reported and should be removed and replaced with the native species. A variety of animal boxes could be installed to expand the breeding opportunities of birds and bats.

Survey Sheet for Walker Vicarage

Site Name: Walker Vicarage	Date & Time: 18/06/15	Weather Conditions: 14.0 Overcast	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature broadleaved woodland–high	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	4	In a wildlife corridor and links to Hadrian's Way, River Tyne and other Local Wildlife Sites.	Replacement value of woodland is medium to long term. (it would take potentially 50+ years to replace this type of semi-mature woodland.	Site well used and valued for biodiversity but with limited management.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
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Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	4																																			
Score: 3	Score: 3	Score: 3	Score: 5	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 17																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Woolsington Lake	19.0	NZ 202 700	26/04/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria
 Forms an important link in the Ouseburn Wildlife Corridor linking together other Sites of Local Conservation Interest. The Lake itself contains little open water except for the Ouseburn but the SLCI does have wildlife value due to its reed-swamp community, willow carr, mature broadleaved trees and watercourse.

Recommendations
 Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Woolsington Lake was originally a steep sided man-made lake which lies within the Woolsington Park estate. However the Lake is now largely terrestrial, not having been dredged for many years. A channel remains open along the northern edge but the remainder supports a hydrosere consisting of open water with aquatic species grading into reed-swamp community and into willow carr. The southern side is shaded by a belt of mature beech and willow whilst the northern edge is separated by from an arable field by a steep grassy bank. The main watercourse flowing into the lake is the Ouseburn flowing from west to east through the northern part of the Lake. In addition Abbotswood Burn joins the Lake from the north.

Management considerations:-

Dredging of the Lake along the northern bank to create areas of open water would be beneficial. In addition woodland management works along the southern bank are required. Eutrophication of the Lake has been an ongoing problem and methods to reduce this issue should be considered in a management proposals.

Survey Sheet for Woolsington Lake

<u>Site Name:</u> Woolsington Lake	<u>Date & Time:</u> 26/4/13	<u>Weather Conditions:</u> 8.5 degrees sunny spells, windy	<u>Surveyors:</u> DHB & JH	<u>Qualify as SLCI Y/N:</u> Yes																																
<u>Diversity/Quality Of Habitat</u>	<u>Diversity of Species</u>	<u>Position in Ecological Unit</u>	<u>Habitat/Species Rarity</u>	<u>Value to Community</u>																																
Mature native broadleaved woodland – high Willow Carr Scrub – High Watercourse with natural banksides – High Swamp & <u>Reedbed</u> - High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>7</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	7	In a wildlife corridor. Watercourse with good connectivity to SLCI, Greenbelt.	Habitat uncommon, and only replicated in medium to long term	Site not managed and un- used.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
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Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	7																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note: 4 Roe Deer seen in woodland adjacent to lake																																				

Cochrane Park

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Cochrane Park	1.83ha	NZ 273 673	06/02/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria Mature mixed native woodland with poor diversity of understorey and ground flora. Within wildlife corridor and good connectivity. Has value to local community due to position adjacent to Waggonway and Newcastle University playing pitches.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Relic native mixed woodlands to former Cochrane Hall Estate (now demolished); planted sometime in the 1800's. Now forms part of Northumbria University grounds. Area consists of mature native tree canopy but understory and ground flora are poor.

The site is adjacent to the Coxlodge Waggonway and within the wildlife corridor, with good connections to other areas of semi-natural greenspace.

Site not open to the general public and neighbouring amenity areas are used by students for sports. No obvious management of the woodland and some signs of tipping garden/ grounds waste.

Site just meets Newcastle & North Tyneside SLCI criteria due to mature woodland, which is rare in the local area and only replaceable in the medium term. It also has an important role within the wildlife corridor and will therefore will be retained as an SLCI.

Management considerations:-

No major management considerations to be made, however woodland conservation would increase species diversity.

Survey Sheet for Cochrane Park

Site Name: Cochrane Park, Newcastle	Date & Time: 06/02/13	Weather Conditions: Cold, sunny, Windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: No																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature Native Broadleaved/ mixed Woodland (High)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger		Total	3	Within a wildlife corridor and has good connections to some semi-natural open space	Habitat locally uncommon and only replicated in the medium term	Site virtually unused by local community and not managed or maintained
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
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Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	3																																			
Score: 3	Score: 2	Score: 4	Score: 3	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 13																																				
Note: Remove from SLCI list																																				

Dene Terrace

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Dene Terrace Grassland	1.9ha	NZ 170 660	01/10/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria The site is within a wildlife corridor and adjacent to Walbottle Brickworks LWS and Greenbelt. However the site has been overgrazed for many years which has considerably reduced its wildlife value. Site is not managed in a favourable manner and is unused by the public.				Recommendations De-designate - remove from SLCI list

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

An area of poor semi-improved, manmade pasture which has been extensively grazed by horses. The site now consists of poor habitat diversity and species diversity. There are areas of scrub dominated by hawthorn at the edges of the field.

Forms part of the Walbottle wildlife corridor and lies adjacent to Walbottle Brickworks Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

Site does not meet Newcastle & North Tyneside SLCI criteria and will therefore be de-designated.

Management considerations:-

Site is overgrazed by horses which have now reduced the pasture to poor semi-improved grasslands.

Survey Sheet for Dene Terrace

<u>Site Name:</u> Dene Terrace	<u>Date & Time:</u> 1/10/13	<u>Weather Conditions:</u> 13.5 degrees mild & windy	<u>Surveyors:</u> DHB & JH	<u>Qualify as SLCI Y/N:</u> No																																
<u>Diversity/Quality Of Habitat</u>	<u>Diversity of Species</u>	<u>Position in Ecological Unit</u>	<u>Habitat/Species Rarity</u>	<u>Value to Community</u>																																
Native Scrub - High Poor semi-improved grassland (overgrazed by horses) - Med	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats		Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	2	In a wildlife corridor, adjacent to LWS and in greenbelt	Habitat common and replicated in short term	Site un-used, not managed or valued for biodiversity
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats																																				
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
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Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	2																																			
Score: 3	Score: 1	Score: 5	Score: 1	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 11																																				
Note: Remove from SLCI list.																																				

Dentsmire Bridge/ Salter's Bridge Wood

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Dentsmire/ Salters Bridge Wood	4.47ha	NZ 254 687	06/02/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria The site consists of mature semi-natural mixed woodland, with the river Ouseburn forming its western boundary. The habitats provide excellent connectivity and a good variety of habitats and species. The golf course manages the woodland and neighbouring golf course and there are good links through the woodland due the public footpath.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-

The site consists of mature semi-natural mixed woodland, with the river Ouseburn forming its western boundary. The habitats provide excellent connectivity and a good variety of habitats and species. The golf course manages the woodland and neighbouring golf course and there are good links through the woodland due to the public footpath.

**Site Description:-**

This is an area of semi-natural mixed woodland managed by the Golf Club. Habitats can be divided into; mixed woodland, wetland areas and grasslands along northern margin, and the River Ouseburn. The canopy is varied and consists mainly of native trees such as oak and ash, while the understory and ground flora is made up of hawthorn, bramble, meadow foxtail and false oat grass.

The area is recognised as a wildlife reservoir and forms part of the strategic wildlife corridor connecting Jesmond Dene and Gosforth Park.

This stretch of the Ouseburn and associated woodland is used by kingfisher, badger and otter. Kingfisher has been reported to be nesting in the stone walls beneath Salters Bridge. Himalayan balsam, a non-native invasive plant species has also been recorded along this stretch.

Management considerations:-

As stated, the site acts as a wildlife reservoir so management should be undergone to ensure all habitats remain intact and thriving. Dutch elm disease was formerly noted. There have also been issues with the Golf course tipping waste in areas to the west of the public footpath.

Dentsmire Bridge/ Salter's Bridge Wood Survey Sheet

Site Name: Dentsmire Bridge/ Salters Bridge Wood, Newcastle	Date & Time: 06/02/13	Weather Conditions: Cold, sunny, Windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat Mature Native Broadleaved/ mixed Woodland (High) Running Water - Natural bankside with good quality riparian habitat (High)	Diversity of Species <table border="1" data-bbox="475 376 667 757"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	6	Position in Ecological Unit Within a wildlife corridor and associated with a watercourse and has good connections to semi-natural open space	Habitat/Species Rarity Habitat locally uncommon and only replicated in the medium to long term	Value to Community Site not well used by general public as it is owned and managed by the golf course. Valued for wildlife but has limited management by golf course. Public footpath going north to south through the middle of the woodland gives the public some access to the site.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
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Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	6																																			
Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 4																																
Total Score: 21																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Dinnington Road Fen	3.7	NZ 255 703	26/04/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria High value habitats consisting of mature native plantation, natural watercourse and fen/marsh. Habitats are uncommon in the Newcastle area. Forms part of an important wildlife corridor linking other SLCIs and Local Wildlife Sites.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Dinnington Road Fen is located to the south of the Newcastle Airport runway and is owned and managed by the Airport. The site is a linear feature which supports three distinct habitat compartments:

- i. Southern section – Supports mature mixed plantation woodland with TPO status. Tree canopy consists of beech, sycamore, oak and Scots pine. The understorey is dominated by hawthorn, bramble and rhododendron.
- ii. Middle section – Supports marsh and fen habitat dominated by reed mace and reed canary grass. Dinnington Road Fen has been identified as a community with NVC grading's of S8 common club-rush, *Scirpus lacustris* swamp, S12 bulrush, *Typha latifolia* swamp and S28 reed canarygrass, *Phalaris arundinacea* tall-herb fen (Penn Associates 2004).
- iii. Attenuation lagoons lie to the northern section and have been created by the Airport with the purpose of retaining run-off from the runway prior to discharge to the watercourse or sewer. The original lagoon which is included in the SLCI is effectively a swamp being densely vegetated with common reed. The area around the lagoon was sown as a low nutrient wildflower meadow.

In addition the Sunnyside Drain flows north to south through Dinnington Road Fen. It is this water course which feeds directly into the marsh and fen habitat.

Dead wood provides niche habitats for fungi and invertebrates. There is medium species and habitat diversity. The following birds have been recorded at this site: Heron, yellow hammer, reed bunting, barn owl.

Management considerations:-

Maintenance of the Sunnyside Drain is crucial to the survival of the Fen. Management works to the fen area were carried out in 2015 to improve drainage and provide open water areas. The fence surrounding the Fen may benefit from repair in order to reduce the risk of damage to habitats, however there is no evidence of trespass. Rhododendron requires management in the woodland areas.

Survey Sheet Dinnington Road Fen

<u>Site Name:</u> Dinnington Fen	<u>Date & Time:</u> 26/4/13	<u>Weather Conditions:</u> 5 degrees overcast	<u>Surveyors:</u> DHB & JH	<u>Qualify as SLCI Y/N:</u> Yes																																
<u>Diversity/Quality Of Habitat</u>	<u>Diversity of Species</u>	<u>Position in Ecological Unit</u>	<u>Habitat/Species Rarity</u>	<u>Value to Community</u>																																
Mature native Woodland – high Watercourse with natural banksides – High Fen - High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians	x	Dingy skipper		Otter	x	Urban Birds	x	Water vole	x	Red squirrel		Hedgehog		Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	6	Watercourse, in a wildlife corridor. Good connectivity with SLCI, green space & greenbelt	Habitat uncommon, unique and only replicated in long term	No management and not used.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians	x																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	x																																			
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Water vole	x																																			
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog																																				
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	6																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 20																																				
Note:																																				

<u>Site Name:</u> Dinnington Fen	<u>Date & Time:</u> 26/4/13	<u>Weather Conditions:</u> 5 degrees overcast	<u>Surveyors:</u> DHB & JH	<u>Qualify as SLCI Y/N:</u> Yes																																
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	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
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Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	5																																			
Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Gosforth Park Hotel Woods	14.2	NZ 245 713	25/03/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria The site is well situated within a wildlife corridor connecting with a variety of other designated wildlife sites. The mature broadleaved woodland is complemented by a small watercourse which flows through the site connecting with the Ouseburn, south of Gosforth Park. The area is managed as part of the grounds of the hotel.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

The majority of the site consists of mature secondary broadleaved woodland with natural colonisation, originally forming part of the Gosforth Park Estate and dating back to the late 1700's. The site now forms part of the grounds of the Marriott Hotel Gosforth Park and guests are encouraged to use the walks around a woodland trail.

A small stream flows through the middle of the woodland which provides additional habitat and interest. There are no known species or habitats of national, regional or local rarity associated with this site. However no surveys have been carried out and it is likely to have species a

Management considerations:-

General woodland management and replanting of conifers may be advisable. Previous reports of Japanese knotweed being present on site. If present a management plan to eradicate this invasive

species should be produced and implemented. At the present time the site is well managed but for wildlife and is not open to the general public.

Survey Sheet for Brunton Mill Meadow

Site Name: Gosforth Park Hotel Woods, Newcastle	Date & Time: 25/03/13	Weather Conditions: snowy 1.5 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Y																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature Broadleaved woodland - high Uncut rough grassland - High Running Water with natural bankside habitat - High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	X	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter	X	Urban Birds	X	Water vole	X	Red squirrel	X	Hedgehog	X	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	X	Total	7	Good	Locally uncommon replicated in medium term	Site well used and managed but not primarily for biodiversity
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	X																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter	X																																			
Urban Birds	X																																			
Water vole	X																																			
Red squirrel	X																																			
Hedgehog	X																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	X																																			
Total	7																																			
Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 4																																
Total Score: 22																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Matts Bank & Blackroad Plantations	13.6	NZ 249 717	25/01/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter
SLCI Criteria The woodlands consist of a mixture of mature native broadleaved trees and areas of mixed plantation. The site forms an important link with the strategic Gosforth to Cramlington wildlife corridor and generally has good connections with a variety of semi-natural open space. The site is well used and managed by Newcastle Racecourse and has recently been included within their site management plan.				Recommendations Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

This woodland was originally two separate SLCI's and they have now been merged into one large T-shaped SLCI providing good connectivity with the rest of Gosforth Park.

Matts Bank Plantation lies to the north of Blackroad plantation and is an area of secondary broadleaved woodland. The canopy consists mainly of sycamore, oak, beech and silver birch. The understorey is poorly developed and the field layer is species poor.

Blackroad Plantation consists of a mix of conifers planted as a commercial forestry crop plus a mixed canopy of broadleaved trees including ash, sycamore, silver birch and beech. Like Matts Bank Plantation the understorey and field layers are species poor in this woodland.

The area is well used by the general public who use the area as accessible natural greenspace. In addition the whole area of Gosforth Park serves as a wildlife reservoir and forms part of an important strategic wildlife corridor. Matts Bank & Blackroad Plantations form an important link within this strategic corridor.

Management considerations:-

These areas of woodland have been subject to a good deal of recreational pressures from the public. There is extensive damage to footpaths and surrounding vegetation, adding to the poor diversity of ground flora. In addition there are areas where rubbish has been dumped in Blackroad plantation.

Survey Sheet for Matts Bank & Blackroad Plantation.

Site Name: Matts Bank & Blackroad Plantation, Newcastle	Date & Time: 25/01/13	Weather Conditions: Cold, snow	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature Native Broadleaved/ mixed Woodland (High) Mature Hawthorn Hedge (High)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>3</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger		Total	3	Site Adjacent to a Wildlife Site and within wildlife corridor or Green Belt and has very good connections to a variety of semi-natural open space.	Habitat locally uncommon and only replicated in the medium term	Site well used, valued for wildlife but has limited management. Mainly Dog walkers and unsure if it is public access
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
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Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	3																																			
Score: 4	Score: 3	Score: 5	Score: 4	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Jesmond Central Cemetery	4.1	NZ 257 655	04/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria
 Designate for its uniqueness as a historic green site, containing mature trees and scrub in largely urban surroundings. Within wildlife corridor and has good connectivity. Also provides valuable habitat for butterfly species such as holly blue and wall brown.

Recommendations
 Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

The cemetery was created in 1835 and consecrated in 1836. The site is still an active cemetery today and is currently used for burials. The cemetery contains two grade II listed buildings and 7 grade II listed monuments and common to many cemeteries of the early 19th century is surrounded by a high wall, originally built to deter grave robbers.

The cemetery is bordered by mature trees, predominantly sycamore and maple species, but ash, oak and common lime are also present. Yew, willow and hazel are also found on site. The majority of the cemetery is made up of amenity grassland; however, some areas of the cemetery have been allowed to become overgrown leading to the development of rank grassland and bramble thickets. Where no management has been carried out for a number of years, scrub habitats are beginning to develop. Japanese knotweed has also invaded the site and stands can be found across the site.

The site is part of a linkage connecting three major wildlife corridors, one running along the Ouseburn Valley, the second is formed by the verges of the city's Metro rail tracks which run north through the suburbs and out to Newcastle Airport and the other running westwards from Exhibition Park to the Town Moor and beyond.

Surveys of the cemetery have recorded up to 12 butterfly species including the holly blue and wall brown butterflies.

Management considerations:-

Management of the cemetery is undertaken by Newcastle City Council's Bereavement Services. In 2008 the Friends of Jesmond Old Cemetery formed and has been active in clearing vegetation from graves and monuments in the cemetery. As well as protecting and conserving the cultural and historical heritage of the site the Friends of Group are aware of the importance of the site for wildlife and biodiversity and are keen to develop the site as a wildlife site. They have consulted the City Council and organisations such as Butterfly Conservation, about the best way to manage the site for wildlife culminating in the production of this management plan. The main management objectives for the site are as follows:

- To maintain the condition and number of mature trees and enhance woodland habitat through additional planting with appropriate species.
- Manage existing scrub habitats and prevent further scrub incursion into other habitats.
- Create a pond/wetland area in the vicinity of the south lodge.
- To increase the species diversity of the grassland on site creating wildflower meadow and species rich verges.
- To maintain the wildlife interest that has developed around and within the architecture, walls and monuments within the cemetery.
- Maintain and improve existing access routes and connections to the wider network within the City. It is important that improved access does not conflict with cultural/historical and ecological conservation goals.
- Promote the educational value of the cemetery and further increase community involvement in the cemetery.
- Manage Japanese knotweed within the site.

Survey Sheet for Newcastle Central Cemetery

Site Name: Newcastle Central Cemetery	Date & Time: 04/06/13	Weather Conditions:	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature scattered native trees in parkland setting - Med Native Scrub – High Species poor semi-improved grassland – Med Amenity grasslands with uncut margins - med	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	4	In a wildlife corridor which is linked to areas of green space.	Mature trees, habitat locally uncommon that is only replicated in medium/ long term.	Site well used and valued for wildlife and managed by Council and Friends of Jesmond Old Cemetery
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
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Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	4																																			
Score: 3	Score: 3	Score: 3	Score: 4	Score: 5																																
Total Score: 18																																				
Note: Good population of holly blue butterfly and hedgehogs.																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Walker Riverside SLCI	10.3	NZ 288 630	18/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Walker Riverside was formerly an industrial site and was reclaimed in the 1980s to create a mosaic of grassland, scrub and tree plantations. The Parkland is well used by the general public and has good access to all parts. The site is managed for wildlife by Newcastle City Council and forms a major link in the River Tyne wildlife corridor.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Walker Riverside is now parkland and was formerly an industrial site including areas of ship ballast. Asbestos contamination led to the reclamation of the site in the 1980's and the site was capped and re-seeded with wildflower mixes between linear blocks of plantation woodland. Walker Riverside is divided into three sections, a central area which is designated as a Local Wildlife site and two areas to the east and west which are designated as SLCI's. The sites sit within the River Tyne wildlife corridor.

The plantation woodlands contain a wide variety of ornamental and native species including silver birch, alder, hazel, gorse, elder and willow species and there are still areas of neutral grassland with reasonably diversity.

Dingy skipper butterfly have been recorded in the past but there are no recent records. Notable species such as song thrush, whitethroat and kestrel have been recorded on site.

Management considerations:-

Selective thinning and replanting of the woodland plantations is required. Changes to the mowing/cutting regimes of the grassland areas would benefit biodiversity. Areas of fly tipping were observed on site.

Survey Sheet for Walker Park SLCI

Site Name: Walker Riverside SLCI	Date & Time: 18/06/15	Weather Conditions: 14.0 Overcast	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Semi- mature mixed woodland – Med Native Scrub – High Species poor SI grassland – Med	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td>x</td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>4</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare		Badger		Total	4	In a wildlife corridor is adjacent to Walker Riverside LWS, Walker Old Station LWS and River Tyne LWS. Hadrian's Way runs through the entire site.	Habitat common in the local area but only replicated in the medium term.	Site well used and valued for wildlife but with limited management. Fly tipping and litter is an issue.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
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Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare																																				
Badger																																				
Total	4																																			
Score: 3	Score: 5	Score: 5	Score: 3	Score: 3																																
Total Score: 17																																				
<p>Note: Fly tipping and litter is an issue.</p> <p>Middle part of site is designated as a LWS</p>																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
West Brunton Wetlands	1.5	NZ221 713	26/02/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

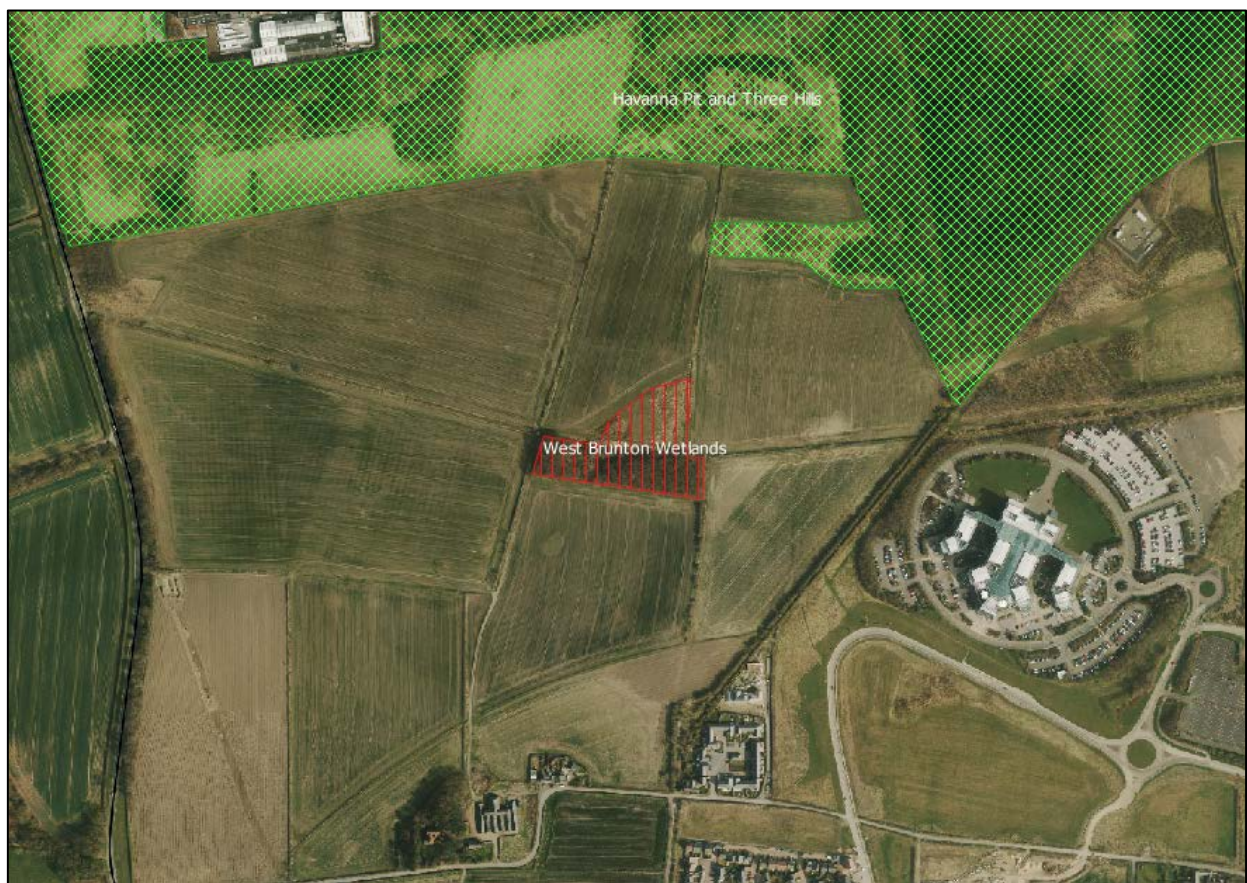
SLCI Criteria

The site supports a good diversity of habitats – ponds, wet grassland and mature oak woodland. The wetlands have developed due to mining subsidence. The site forms an important link within the Wildlife Corridor and lies in close proximity to Havannah Local Wildlife Site. There is no public access to the site which is located within arable farmland. The mature oak dominated woodland is rare in the local area and not easily replaced in a reasonable time scale.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

West Brunton Wetlands is a small wooded area that surrounds a small pond. The woodland is dominated by oak with a canopy to 12m most probably of plantation origin, but with a good semi-natural character. Trees vary from 100-500 DBH. Canopy cover is approximately 95% with a shrub layer primarily of hawthorn with around 10% cover. The ground flora is dominated by bramble, tufted hair grass, herb bennet and Yorkshire fog together with some locally abundant honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), hawthorn saplings and broad buckler fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). There is a triangular shaped pond dominated by *Typha* and willow. In the past this pond has been deepened to increase its biodiversity value. Recent surveys have recorded smooth newt in the associated wetland, but not great crested newt. Buzzard are often present, used frequently by roe deer and the woodland is included in a route used by commuting bats at dusk.

To the north of the woodland is a triangle of low lying unmanaged wet land. Generally this supports marshy grassland communities with tufted hair grass locally dominated and bulrush, reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and *juncus* rush establishing areas of local dominance. Areas of bare ground suggest standing water through much of the year and generally marshy grassland would be the dominant community.

Management considerations:-

Overall the woodland and pond within West Brunton Wetlands have been totally unmanaged and a management plan is required. The pond is becoming overgrown by successional vegetation and would benefit from clearance and removal of some of the vegetation. The area to the north of the woodland requires scraping out to retain small areas of permanent water. Connectivity needs to be enhanced between the site and its surrounding habitats.

It is hoped that management will be achieved through the residential development planned for Cell A of the Newcastle Great Park.

A triangle of low lying unmanaged wet land generally supporting marshy grassland communities with tufted hair grass locally dominated and bulrush, reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Juncus rush establishing areas of local dominance. Areas of bare ground suggest standing water through much of the year and generally marshy grassland would be the dominant community.

Immediately south lies oak dominated woodland with canopy to 12m most probably of plantation origin, but with a good semi-natural character. Trees vary from 100-500 DBH. Canopy cover is approximately 95% with a shrub layer primarily of hawthorn with around 10% cover. The ground flora is dominated by bramble, tufted hair grass, herb bennet and Yorkshire fog together with some locally abundant honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), hawthorn saplings and broad buckler fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*). There is a triangular inclusion of water logged land dominated by Typha and willow.

Survey Sheet for West Brunton Wetlands

Site Name: West Brunton Wetlands, Newcastle	Date & Time: 26/02/13	Weather Conditions: Overcast 2.5 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature Native Broadleaved/ mixed Woodland (High) Standing water – good quality water and margins	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>Y/N</td></tr> <tr><td>Farmland Birds</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>Coastal Birds</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bats</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>Amphibians</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>Dingy skipper</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Otter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Urban Birds</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>Water vole</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Red squirrel</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Hedgehog</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>Slow worm</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Bumblebees</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brown hare</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Badger</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>6</td></tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	X	Coastal Birds		Bats	X	Amphibians	X	Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	X	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	X	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	X	Total	6	Good connectivity within agricultural setting. Close proximity to <u>Havannah</u> & Three Hills LWS and other large areas of green space.	Habitat locally uncommon and only replicated in the medium term	Site not used.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	X																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	X																																			
Amphibians	X																																			
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	X																																			
Water vole																																				
Red squirrel																																				
Hedgehog	X																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	X																																			
Total	6																																			
Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 3	Score: 4	Score: 1																																
Total Score: 17																																				
Note:																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Woolsington Woods	35.6	NZ 205 704	26/04/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Woolsington Woods is a large area of mixed mature woodland covered by a group TPO. Much of the woodland supports a range of mature and heritage trees. The site is within a wildlife corridor and provides important connectivity with a variety of other wildlife sites in the area. The woodland ranges from parish to district value for it wildlife value and is rare in the local area and only replaceable in the long term.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

A large area of mixed woodland supporting a range of mature and over mature trees, which are considered to have been planted as part of the parkland landscape associated with Woolsington Hall. Such areas of woodland are rare in the surrounding area and some of the species recorded are indicative of undisturbed woodland including hedge woundwort and wood crane's bill. Therefore this habitat is considered to range from parish to district value for wildlife. The entire Woolsington Woodlands SLCI are covered by a group Tree Preservation Order.

The major tree species are oak, ash, beech, scots pine and sycamore. In addition, dead elms are scattered throughout the woodland and rhododendron understorey is dense in places.

Management considerations:-

Overall the trees and woodlands surrounding Woolsington Hall have been totally unmanaged and a programme of selective felling and replanting is desirable.

Survey Sheet for Woosington Woods

Site Name: <u>Woosington Woods</u>	Date & Time: 26/4/13	Weather Conditions: 8.5 degrees sunny spells, windy	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: Yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Mature broadleaved woodland with heritage trees– high Native scrub/shrub – High	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Y/N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds		Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel	x	Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees		Brown hare		Badger	x	Total	5	In a wildlife corridor. Good connectivity with greenbelt	Habitat uncommon, unique and only replicated in long term	Site not well used and not valued for biodiversity with limited management.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds																																				
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
Amphibians																																				
Dingy skipper																																				
Otter																																				
Urban Birds	x																																			
Water vole																																				
Red squirrel	x																																			
Hedgehog	x																																			
Slow worm																																				
Bumblebees																																				
Brown hare																																				
Badger	x																																			
Total	5																																			
Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 2																																
Total Score: 19																																				
Note: Large area of woodland (South Plantation) will be lost to housing if <u>Woosington Hall</u> planning application is approved.																																				

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Gosforth Park Meadows	2.2	NZ 244 707	20/07/17 Desktop survey only.	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

The site consisted of an area of grassland and scrub dominated by heather and gorse. A burn runs through the centre of the site, which is a tributary of the Ouseburn. It was originally designated due to species rich grassland supporting typical acid flora. No access was available to survey this site as part of this SLCI review. It is recommended that this site is surveyed as part of the next LWS review to ensure that it still does not meet LWS guidelines, meanwhile the site should be retained as a SLCI.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

Gosforth Park Grasslands was previously designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (now known as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)). However it was recommended to be downgraded to an SLCI as it no longer meet the LWS criteria. The Northumberland Golf Course grasslands were retained as a LWS.

The site consisted of an area of grassland and scrub dominated by heather and gorse. A burn runs through the centre of the site, which is a tributary of the Ouseburn. It was originally designated due to species rich grassland supporting typical acid flora. No access was available to survey this site as part of this SLCI review. It is recommended that this site is surveyed as part of the next LWS review to ensure that it still does not meet LWS guidelines. Meanwhile the site should be retained as a SLCI.

There is no access to the general public as the site lies within the Newcastle Racecourse grounds.

Management considerations:-

Invasion of scrub was an issue which needs controlling to increase species diversity.

Survey Sheet for Gosforth Park Grassland

No access available for site survey. Desktop survey carried out.

Site Name	Area (Ha)	Grid Ref.	Date of Survey	Assessors
Parkside Meadow SLCI	5.03	NZ 165 660	04/06/13	Derek Hilton-Brown & Jackie Hunter

SLCI Criteria

Parkside Meadow has limited ecological interest due overgrazing of the fields. However it does form an important area of greenspace on the urban fringe and provides Excellent connectivity, linking Walbottle Dene with Rye Hill SLCI and Walbottle Brickworks LWS and other designated sites. A Public footpath adjacent to the site, but no open access. Site managed by grazing but not especially for biodiversity.

Recommendations

Retain as SLCI

Site Plan:-



Site Description:-

The site now consists of five fields consisting of grazed unimproved grasslands contained within hawthorn boundary hedges. The fields slope down towards the Newburn Road. Overgrazing of the grasslands by horses has to a low species diversity. Parkside Meadow has limited ecological interest due to the loss of species diversity. However it does form an important area of greenspace on the urban fringe and provides Excellent connectivity, linking Walbottle Dene with Rye Hill SLCI and Walbottle Brickworks LWS and other designated sites. The grasslands directly to the north west originally formed part of Parkside Meadows SLCI but were upgraded to LWS status in 2017 due to the diversity of the grasslands.

Management considerations:-

Species diversity of the grasslands would be increased by decreasing the grazing pressure

Survey Sheet for Parkside Meadows

Site Name: Parkside Meadows SLCI	Date & Time: 04/06/13	Weather Conditions: Sunny 19 degrees	Surveyors: DHB & JH	Qualify as SLCI Y/N: yes																																
Diversity/Quality Of Habitat	Diversity of Species	Position in Ecological Unit	Habitat/Species Rarity	Value to Community																																
Semi-improved grassland – High Native Mature Hawthorn Hedgerows – High	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Y/N</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Farmland Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coastal Birds</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bats</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphibians</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingy skipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Otter</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Urban Birds</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water vole</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red squirrel</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hedgehog</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slow worm</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bumblebees</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown hare</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Badger</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Y/N	Farmland Birds	x	Coastal Birds		Bats	x	Amphibians		Dingy skipper		Otter		Urban Birds	x	Water vole		Red squirrel		Hedgehog	x	Slow worm		Bumblebees	x	Brown hare	x	Badger		Total	6	Excellent connectivity linking <u>Walbottle Dene</u> with Rye Hill SLCI and <u>Walbottle Brickworks</u> LWS and other designated sites.	Locally uncommon but easily replicated.	Public footpath adjacent to the site, but no open access. Site managed by grazing but not especially for biodiversity.
	Y/N																																			
Farmland Birds	x																																			
Coastal Birds																																				
Bats	x																																			
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Bumblebees	x																																			
Brown hare	x																																			
Badger																																				
Total	6																																			
Score: 4	Score: 5	Score: 3	Score: 2	Score: 2																																
Total Score: 16																																				
Note: Grasslands directly to the north west has now been designated as a LWS. These previously formed part of the SLCI but have been upgraded due to the presence of species rich grassland.																																				