

# Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan - Subgroup Report

---

**Topic Group - Environment / Natural Habitat**

**Meeting date - 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

## **Attendees:**

- David Butler
- Heather Forshaw
- George Clasper
- Chris Wright

## **Items discussed**

- Chris – Natural History Society of Northumbria – all reports for all species go onto the ERIC database, from which we can request details for the parish.
- George – had visited Prestwick Pit and produced photographs and details of the type of reclamation that is carried out there – this is a long term business venture. No new extraction is taking place, lorries bring material onto the site, where it is sorted and then moved on to other localities.
- George also brought in a report with photographs, on the footpaths surrounding the Prestwick Pit area, supplied by a member of the public.
- George reported that the Town Council was still waiting for a definitive list of land owned by them.
- Heather had contacted the Wildlife Trust and ascertained that all their information with regard to locations of various species is contained within a computer database, and is available to members. Ruth Hadden, the records officer for local bat information suggested the Mill House bat survey was a good resource, as was the National Biodiversity Network on the internet.
- She also reported on the 'Magic Maps' facility on the Natural England website which provides geographical information in an interactive way. There is a species list for the Darras Hall SSSI available as well.
- She reported that the Environment Agency had data from the River Pont sampling from May 2008-September 2009, and Natural England had a SSSI species list from 1975/6.
- The National Park Biodiversity Officer, Shaun Hackett, was also quoted as a source of information regarding 'veteran trees'.
- David reported that he was trying to contact a former colleague within Natural England for information on Environmental Stewardship Schemes and the landscape value of the local types of farmland.
- Next meeting date.

## **Decisions**

1. Next meeting @ 7.30 p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

## Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan - Subgroup Report

---

Action agreed	Date by	Name
1. See above	July 23rd	DB

### **Outstanding Issues to Follow up**

- Seek clarification from main N.P. Group as to whether we need to have direct access to the data, or just be aware of what data each organisation possesses.
- Continue, via the main Group, to press for the land ownership details of the Town Council.
- Put together a summary of our findings to present to the main Group.
- Consider what we need to do for Stage Two.