

Report of Environment/Natural Habitat sub-group for July 30th meeting

The group has met four times since the end of May, discussing, in the first instance, exactly what topics we should concentrate on, based upon our scoping document. All the reports have now been submitted for inclusion on the website.

Our June meeting identified which organisations we should contact in respect of information about wildlife populations, and which locations where we needed extra information.

We built up a list of contacts at these organisations and were able to access directly or be directed towards the sources of data. We were given information about Prestwick Pit, and some concerns about the various footpaths around that area.

The ERIC database was referred to by the Natural History Society of Northumbria and several other organisations that we'd had contact with, plus Natural England pointed us in the direction of their 'Magic Maps' facility which lists much information about land types, locations of old woodland, SSSI sites and the like.

Our final report highlighted those key issues which we felt needed special attention in stage two, but we still await a response to two issues that our group have identified before much more progress can be made.

As yet we have not given consideration to the set of questions for the public consultation – that will take place at our next meeting.

David Butler

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