

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan - Subgroup Report

Topic Group - Environment / Natural Habitat

Meeting date - 23rd July 2013

Attendees:

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

Items discussed

- Chris has made contact with a local member of the Bird Club, discovering that the ERIC database contains most of the information about bird populations within the parish.
- We tackled a priority list of key issues, but decided that, because all the local habitat areas were closely linked, this was not an easy task.
- Our list of key issues, the top three listed in priority order are :
 1. Riverside areas
 2. Farmland hedgerows and associated hedgerow trees, plus Environmental Stewardship Schemes.
 3. Woodlands.
 - Roadside verges.
 - Recreational space.
 - Rights of Way.
 - Previously designated areas, e.g. SSSI, the Greenbelt, etc.

We accepted that privately owned land (farms, roadside verges, the golf club, Ponteland Park, etc.) may prove to be a stumbling block when considering whether or not planning control could be exercised to protect or enhance the environmental status.

- Next meeting date.

Decisions

1. Next meeting – to be agreed after the next full Group meeting.

Action agreed	Date by	Name
1. See above	30 th July	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.