

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS REVIEW FINAL REPORT

Briefing for Forum

The report was prepared on behalf of Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils by Burton Reid Associates. It was released on 11 December 2020.

It is based on the latest academic research and national planning policy. It looks at case studies of defined wildlife corridor networks or local ecological networks around the country.

To make up the proposed wildlife corridor network, the following components are established:

- 1) Core Sites – areas of high nature conservation value most important for biodiversity in terms of sustaining wildlife populations and providing sites from which species can disperse. Eg. SSSIs, Ancient Woodland, Local Wildlife Sites , Local Nature Reserves , Local geological Sites, Priority Habitats, Ponds and Streams.
- 2) Secondary Features and Stepping Stones – habitats and features within the wider landscape that provide connectivity and permeability between core sites. Connected in 3 ways – a) physically, b) through mobile species by “stepping stones” – patches of suitable habitats that are transiently used between two large wildlife sites, c) matrix – the land between sites – less permeable for movement but not classed as habitat. E.g. Semi-natural green space / accessible natural green space, allotments/ community gardens, cemeteries and church yards, parks and formal gardens and golf courses.
- 3) Buffer Zones – 250 m buffer has been applied to all core sites(500m for international sites)

Designations within the Neighbourhood Plan Area are as follows:

Core Sites:

Boldon Pastures SSSI

Boldon Flats LWS

Black Plantation LWS

Low House Copse LWS

Tilsheds Burn LWS

Turners Hill LWS

MOD Depot

Boldon Cemetery

Woodland at Boldon Golf Course

All watercourses .

Secondary Features:

Boldon Golf Course

North Farm Eastern Field

Burnside Open Space

Railway Line Embankment

Railway Line Footpath

Stepping Stones:

Grange Park

Mundles Lane Play Area

Victoria Allotments

Woodland at South Lodge

Woodland close to East Boldon Riding Centre

Key Species Records - ERIC

Boldon Flats

Beckenham Avenue Garden

Recommendations

The report recommends that the proposed wildlife corridors network continues to be safeguarded in Local Plan policy mapping as well as strategic policies. (Consistent with Para 174 of the 2019 NPPF)

They state that the Wildlife Corridors Network provides a sound evidence base for master planning, including neighbourhood planning, as well as for designing and determining individual planning proposals.

Merv Butler

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