

**Local Biodiversity and NI 197 event 6 Feb 2009  
Transcriptions of flip charts and maps**

**SUMMARY**

**Workshop 1: Local Sites Partnerships (LSP)**  
(post workshop collation of information on LSP)

**1a. Local Strategic Partnerships in North East region:**

- Northumberland, North Tyneside and Newcastle (!?)
- Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland (South T&W)
- Durham
- Darlington (!?)
- Redcar & Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool (Tees Valley)

**1b & c factual & contextual information about Local Sites Partnerships**  
→ please see all comments made below under “detail”

**Workshop 2 & 3 plenary summary**

**2a Questions/ Clarification on Defra guidance**  
→ please see separate document including answers to all questions.

**2b. Barriers and solutions for desktop exercise**

Issues/Problems	Solutions/Opportunities
Lack of information	Use planning grant LDF evidence gathering
Lack of resources	Partnership working External resources Redeployment of staff
Effort on “difficult” sites	?
Confidence in reporting	Checking management plan Overarching management plan (strategy)
Political Support	Make it a target Work with performance management staff
Private landowners	Sensitive handling 3 <sup>rd</sup> party e.g. Wildlife Trusts

**2c. Next steps/Action by Mar 2009**

<p>Create wide partnership</p> <p>Approach Natural England (data provision, LSP engagement)</p> <p>Further guidance (Defra, NE)</p> <p>Build relationship LSP &amp; LA</p>
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**3a. Barriers and solutions for long-term biodiversity delivery**

Issue	Solution
Long term sustainable funding	LAA adopt NI 197 External funding
Baseline / designation feature	Use NI 197 exercise as vehicle
Sustainability of process	Make link to other NI 185/186 Show LS contribution Link to Greenspace Strategy
<b>POLITICAL SUPPORT</b>	
Biodiversity single issue Current attitudes	Embed in broader frame and challenge perception
Private landowners – local	Communication

**3b. Adopting NI 197 in LAA**

<p>Ensure Political Support</p> <p>Resource</p> <p>Higher profile</p> <p>Joined up thinking</p> <p>Accessing other sources of funding</p> <p>Role of GONE – Ally</p>
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**3c. Strategic project**

<p>Training (baseline issue)</p> <p>Engaging local people</p> <p>Small Grant Scheme – land managers</p> <p>Gain political support Communication</p> <p>Co-ordinator – regionally</p>
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**3d. Any resulting future actions**

Role of NE, GONE, ANEC/LA
GONE support/publicise NI 197
Bring Natural England into LSP
Get all organisations together at senior level – officers, political
Natural England - broker on external funding

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**DETAILED RESPONSES**

(from all individual workshop groups -all comments captured on flipcharts and post its)

**Workshop 1 a local sites boundaries** (compiled post workshop)

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>RED</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>YELLOW</b>	<b>BLUE</b>
Northumberland	standalone	Joint LSP ?	standalone	Joint LSP
Newcastle	N/A		Joint LSP	
North Tyneside	N/A			
Gateshead	Joint (GH & SU part of Durham ?)	Joint LSP	Joint LSP	Joint LSP
Sunderland				
South Tyneside				
Durham	Standalone (joint with SU & GH?)	standalone	Standalone (excluding Darlington?)	standalone
Darlington	?	?	either Durham or TV ?	standalone
Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Redcar & Cleveland	Joint LSP	Joint LSP	Joint LS (incl Darlington)	Joint LSP

**Individual post its (2b & c) – by local Authority/ Local Sites partnership (LSP)**

**Contextual/non-geographic specific comments:**

- NI 197 will have low priority at present, because of recession (and also health priorities in North East. Therefore aim to deliver NI 197 on the back of other NI [28])
- LSP will need resources to review existing SINC/SNCI site lists 9(which were drawn up 15-30 years ago) [40]
- Making contact with owners & occupiers [40]
- What happens when an AONB or NP crosses over into more than 1 district/ authority, and so possibly another Local Sites partnership – which may have different criteria ? [12]
- Important to recognise that non-intervention may be best for some sites, e.g. ancient woodland [4]
- Will recently planted woods qualify? [4]
- Will all ancient woods be classed as local sites (and PAWS [Planted ancient woodland sites]) [4]
- Natural England North East seems to be ahead of the game in structuring and developing LSP + NI 197 – haven't come across this with Natural England in other areas – yet [1]
- Soft rock – basics of most sites after all! Contributes to Biodiversity [36]
- partnership - might even have funds [36]
- regional capacity building – talk to us! [36]
- historic environment needs consideration on some sites- it's why they are there; knowledge of HE can contribute to effective management; peats & mires especially [36]
- Geo[diversity?] is not just rock [36]

## Local Biodiversity and NI 197 event 6 Feb 2009

### Transcriptions of flip charts and maps

#### Northumberland

- Does it include NNP? [40]
- Nearly finished reviewing existing SNCI boundaries and citations [2?]
- A lot of landowners not notified [2?]
- Lot of sites with old survey data [2?]
- Number of landowners unknown [2?]
- Cost implication to identify & notify land owners [2?]
- Ongoing resource issue to manage & survey sites [2?]
- NWT have funding from Northumbrian Water to review existing LS boundaries & citations [2?]
- Info on boundaries going on GIS [2?]
- Plans to put citation data onto website (access for NBAP partners only [2?])
- Unknown future for Northumberland [14]
- Biodiversity Action Plan written for Northumberland [14]
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust gathering (their?) data on Local sites to input to regional Records Centre (ERIC) [10]
- Partnership in early stages [11]
- Continuation of partnership during LGR → staff resources → funding [11]

#### North Tyneside

- I am learning a lot very quickly. At present I know very little [49]
- I need to speak to my colleague Jackie Hunter (not here today) to find out resource details. I suspect she knows more (I hope!) [49]

#### South Tyneside

- I believe information is already available and on GIS [28]
- Data published as technical annex to LDF [40]
- Baseline committed (?) to 2009 19/52 [ probably means 19 out of 52 sites are in positive management?!] [30]
- Currently no RIGS in South Tyneside, Geo audit done [30]
- Main resource lack is number of staff to do positive work with private land owners (through VC 66) [30]

#### South T & W

- 250 Sites in South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland [22]
- Baseline for 2 Local Sites partnerships [26]
- Gateshead sites surveyed last year, all South Tyneside sites done as part of Magical Meadows coalfields and Lowlands [26]

## Local Biodiversity and NI 197 event 6 Feb 2009

### Transcriptions of flip charts and maps

- Partners In LSP , Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside Council, Durham Wildlife Trust, Natural England? [30]
- No allocated resources [G/Hd or South T & W not clear] [22]
- LSP initiated [16]
- Data sets vary with LA (ST & G/HD further ahead with baseline data for LS/ LDF [16]
- LS criteria to be agreed by end of March 2009 [16]
- Sunderland needs resources to [16]
  - carry out baseline/ review surveys & present data
  - produce 70+ management plans or equivalent
  - survey, designate and produce management plan for 12+ potential new sites
  - deliver positive management
- Gateshead baseline= c25% [23]
- c230 sites for Gateshead, S/Tyne& Sunderland [23]

### Durham

- Partners in LSP are DCC, DWT, Natural England, bird club, public , butterfly conservation [35]
- Very little baseline data [35]
- Baseline {count?} 30 sites [35]
- RIGS ? [35]
- [expected baseline] 13-17% based on poor quality audit trail [35]
- Staff one dedicated officer [35]
- No money [35]
- Have a set of [site selection] criteria [35]
- old SINC list [4]
- Over 300 LS [Durham representative]
- Original designed (sic - designated?!) sites have no management recommendations [Durham representative]
- Starting with a very low baseline [Durham representative]
- NI 197 officer in post [Durham representative]
- LSP established [Durham representative]
- LS criteria in final draft – to be agreed in March 09 by LSP [Durham representative]
- NI 197 desktop study started [Durham representative]
- AONB partnership currently not engaged in LSP Opportunity? [54]
- Staff resource issue [23]
- Potential for shared Wildlife trust NI 197 post? [23]
- GIS mapping of all Local Sites in forthcoming Durham unitary Authority [38]
- LS feeding into LDF process [38]
- Lack of awareness within all stakeholders [38]
- Links with Durham County & DBAP [23]

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**Darlington:**

- 15 sites LA owned (known & managed) [33]
- 30 sites private owned (known, but condition unknown, not managed) [33]
- Surveys of all 45 SNCI's not resourced [33]
- Awaiting technical ecology role [creation of ?] – resource freeze [33]
- Existing SNCI list [45]
- GIS mapped [45]
- Criteria adapted from Tees Valley [45]
- 15 sites updated/managed/ assessed [45]
- Paper info [45]
- Group/ partnership not active yet [45]
- 40-50 sites, [a] number have no data at DWT [NN]

**Tees Valley**

- Making good progress with site surveys [51]
- Issues with sites in private ownership –access permission [51]
- Financial resources – availability [51]
- Cross-boundary issues [51]
- Sites identified [5]
- Most surveys undertaken [5]
- Combination of GIs and paper data [5]
- Partners ( I think?) 4 LAs, INCA, TVWT, EA, Wildflower Arc, NY Moor NP [38]
- Staffing: nominated LA office, seems to be managed by TVWT [38]
- Sites: LNRs, RIGS, SNCI, SSSI,SPA; all sites included were relevant [38]
- Local Wildlife Sites (candidate) M'bro 15, RCBC 45, Stockton 71 [50]
- [TV] Wt taking a lead role and coordinator [50]
- Existing Bio-partnership acting as LSP and [?] agreed [50]

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**Workshop 2 & 3 sorted by groups**

**RED GROUP**

2b. Barriers and solutions for desktop exercise

Problems	Solutions
<p>Resources for work (staff) – knock on effect – other work dropped</p> <p>External funding threatened – because now seen as something LAs should do</p> <p>Availability of data + need to know reasons for designation</p> <p>Tight deadlines</p>	<p>Re-deployment External funding Partnership support (LBAPs)</p> <p>Shared LAs LSs post with Wildlife Trusts (economies of scale)</p> <p>Develop good systems ERIC Scope for re-negotiating deadlines</p>

**RED GROUP**

2b. Top 3 Problems/Solutions

Problems	Solutions
<p>Resources (lack of)</p> <p>Landownership</p> <p>Tight – timescales</p>	<p>Shared resources / external funding – prioritization</p> <p>Influence private landowners. Third party such as WT Small grants scheme?</p>

**RED GROUP**

2b. Top 3 Actions

<p>Extend partnerships (3)</p> <p>Bring in external resources (1)</p> <p>Sit down at the same table (7)</p> <p>Approaching private landowners - use of e.g. Wildlife Trusts (3)</p> <p>Sponsorship from members of Local Sites Partnerships (3)</p>
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**RED GROUP**

3d. Any resulting future actions

<p>GONE – support adoption of NI 197 by LAs</p> <p>LSPs – bring in Natural England</p>
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**BLUE GROUP**

2a. FAQ sheet and 2b. Barriers and solutions for desktop exercise

<p>(14) Document evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what is required?</li> <li>- confidence in mgt plan</li> <li>- is the mgt plan part of the evidence</li> </ul> <p>Question why site has been designated &amp; what makes the site in positive mgt</p> <p>Mgt plans need to be in place before positive mgt can be measured</p> <p>(9) ELS/HLS - guidance on LSP (consistency around the region)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- audit process (<u>advisory</u> &amp; flexible)</li> </ul>
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3a. Barriers and solutions for long-term biodiversity delivery

Barriers	Solutions
Biodiversity treated in isolation	Embed in broader strategic framework
Perception - challenge	Cultural/Behavioural Change – political context
Economic Climate / Deprivation	Cultural/Behavioural Change – political context
Wildlife Database	Up to date information
Political support	Political support

3b. Adopting NI 197 in LAA

<p>Political clout/support</p> <p>Resource implications</p> <p>Access to 'money pots'</p> <p>Higher profile / joined up thinking</p>
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Getting NI 197 in the LAA

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Recognise value of 197 outside of LAA & reward grant process

Cost effective indicator

**BLUE GROUP**  
3c. Strategic project

Political support – strong messages ‘Natural Beauty’

Engagement of landowners

Central contact / resource – Regional Approach  
- individual funding bids

**YELLOW GROUP**  
2b. Barriers and solutions for desktop exercise

Discussion

Are the sites right ones or enough - tendency to stick with same set?

Built development on sites – ‘contextual’ exclusion from list  
- alternatively could include planning condition / s106 to maintain or improve non-footprint part of site, possibly making it better than when undeveloped?

Will indicator become a target?!

NI 197 measuring performance not necessarily quality

Do we put effort into squeezing data out of ‘hardest’ sites or improving management on majority of sites?

If only setting sites criteria now & having them ratified now then will only be 3 months to assess before deadline!

What proportion of ‘sites’ in the count? See reference criteria in building relationship with LSP and LA on criteria and ratification – see info in Defra’s ‘Local Sites’ publication

How to decide what is ratified?

2b. Barriers and solutions for desktop exercise

Problems	Solutions
Mgt plan – positive management	‘Bitesize chunks’  - Report on where we are <u>now</u> - Overarching programme showing

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<p>Carrying out surveys – resource implications</p>	<p>progress of work - Accessing other sources of info</p>
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**GREEN GROUP**

2a. FAQ sheet and 2b. Barriers and solutions for desktop exercise

Further Questions
<p>(15) is desk based exercise sufficient? - OK but evidence may not be robust? – may have management plans but are they implemented?</p> <p>(10) <u>Potential Sites</u> included? - recently planted sites – would they count?</p> <p>PAWS?</p> <p>What is Management?</p> <p>Where are all the sites?</p> <p>Deadline – is it end of March or June?</p>

2b. Barriers and solutions for desktop exercise

Issues	Solutions
<p>Lack of knowledge e.g. Who owns sites, where are sites</p> <p>accuracy of baseline? - May throw up issues and reduction of figure</p> <p>Gaps in partnership membership</p> <p>Contact with owners - its a partnership</p> <p>Staff time to liaise with landowners – some resources e.g. Durham, less so in Northumberland</p> <p>Political support – especially given re-organisation in counties</p> <p>Woodland Trust – how will they be engaged?</p> <p>Information on Geological sites? Where is the money?</p>	<p>Planning grant money through LDF process</p> <p>Narrative can help explain issues/concerns</p> <p>Landowners major gap – role for FWAG?</p> <p>Need money to influence management</p> <p>Need someone to re-survey/survey sites</p> <p>Gain support – may gain LA funds</p> <p>Should be contacted by LAs Contacts to Wildlife Trusts would help</p>

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**GREEN GROUP**

3a. Barriers and solutions for long-term biodiversity delivery

Challenges/Barriers	Opportunities/Solutions
Long term funding – sustainability	Get into LAA
Connectivity of sites – how?	Connection with other indicators e.g. CC Designations can link existing sites
	Connection with wellbeing elements of CAA ‘how people feel about the area (National Household Survey)
Revisit site selection	Revisit site selection to ratify – reduces the number
Gaps between sites – are they representative of the biodiversity?	Needs baseline data!

3c. Strategic project

Projects
Engaging local people in local sites promoting their value Baseline data – much more money needed
Training people to survey and assess sites through <u>ERIC</u> – appeal to external funders
LDP/GI strategies for growth points – may be an opportunity to pay for data on LS

**GREEN GROUP**

3d. Any resulting future actions

What can Natural England offer? – LA written guidance
Natural England regular attendance at LSP?
Baseline data needed
GONE should put pressure on LAs to include in LAA