

## **TEES VALLEY BIODIVERSITY STEERING GROUP**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Role**

The role of the Steering Group is to promote and implement biodiversity measures in the Tees Valley and to steer the work of the Biodiversity Co-ordinator.

#### **Main tasks**

Promote biodiversity in the Tees Valley, including the role that it can play in achieving sustainable development, contribute to healthy lifestyles, and help address climate change.

Help to raise awareness of the importance and role of biodiversity at local, sub-regional, regional and national levels.

Keep up to date the content of the Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan, including reviewing and revising targets when necessary.

Monitor and report on biodiversity achievements, targets and actions, particularly through the Biodiversity Action Recording System (BARS), to create a comprehensive local picture that can inform progress at national level.

Consider, endorse and adopt local wildlife sites as proposed by the Tees Valley local authorities.

Undertake a review, when appropriate, of local wildlife sites and ensure appropriate mechanisms are in place to maintain data/indicators on such sites in a consistent format.

Consider proposals for species re-introductions in accordance with agreed guidelines, and review guidelines when appropriate.

Act as a forum for sharing expertise, good practice and information on biodiversity planning and action in the Tees Valley.

Where appropriate, provide a response on key local, sub-regional and regional policy documents that influence biodiversity planning in the Tees Valley.

Produce an annual report on biodiversity in the Tees Valley identifying progress, actions and future work programme.

#### **Membership**

Membership of the Steering Group currently comprises:

Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit  
Darlington Borough Council

Hartlepool Borough Council  
Middlesbrough Borough Council  
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council  
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council  
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust  
Tees Valley Biodiversity Co-ordinator  
NE Regional Biodiversity Co-ordinator  
INCA  
Environment Agency  
The Tees Forest  
RSPB  
Natural England  
Groundwork  
Wildflower Ark  
Northumbrian Water  
Teesmouth Bird Club  
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

The Steering Group will consider any requests for membership from other organisations involved in biodiversity planning and committed to the promotion of biodiversity in the Tees Valley.

### **Role of Steering Group Members**

To make an active contribution to the business of the Steering Group

Promote biodiversity in the Tees Valley both within their own organisation and to organisations outside the Steering Group

Deliver projects that support the achievement of targets and actions identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan

### **Meetings**

A minimum of 3 meetings will take place each year.

Minutes will be taken of all meetings and circulated to members.

### **Action Groups**

There are three Action Groups reporting to the Steering Group:

- Farmland Action Group
- Industrial/Urban Action Group
- Wetland and Coastal Action Group

The role of the Action Groups is to:

- Assist in the preparation of habitat and species action plans

- Assist in the review of targets and actions
- Co-ordinate the implementation of local BAP actions
- Assist in the delivery of local BAP projects
- Undertake and/or co-ordinate specific surveys to inform habitat and species action plans
- Consider ways of promoting/informing biodiversity among landowners, managers, relevant organisations and members of the public

Action groups will meet on a regular basis..