



Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership

Annual Gathering

Wednesday 9 September 2009

At Teesmouth Field Centre

9.30 am Registration and coffee

10.00 am Welcome - Jeremy Garside

10.15 am The Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership -
What we have achieved and our future direction
Jeremy Garside & Sue Antrobus

10.30 am Securing a future for the lost meadows of eastern Cleveland
Helen Herring - Wildflower Ark

The Wildflower Ark project "Hunt for Lost Meadows" has revealed fragments of species of rich meadows scattered across eastern Cleveland. This data is now being used to work towards securing their favourable management as a priority national BAP habitat.

10.50 am From EYE to ERIC -
Working towards a regional biological records centre.
Naomi Hewitt - EYE Project

Natural England are currently working with partners in the region, including the Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership, on the establishment of an Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC), which will hold information on important species, habitats and sites in the region. This data is currently held by a wide range of organisations, in differing formats and is often difficult to access. Naomi, project manager will explain how ERIC will progress on working to collate, verify and validate data improving access to information on our region's biodiversity.

11.05 - 11.30 am **Coffee break**

11.30 am **Bringing biodiversity to life**

Lynne Burn - Teesmouth Field Centre

The Teesmouth Field Centre has provided environmental education to over 3,500 Tees Valley children per year for almost 40 years. Centre manager Lynne Burn reflects on her experiences as an environmental educator on how today's young people view wildlife and their natural world and how we can continue to engage them.

11.45 am **Biodiversity – from regional policy to local delivery**

Malcolm Steele - Joint Strategy Unit

The Regional Spatial Strategy provides a key policy starting point for biodiversity protection and enhancement. Malcolm will consider how regional policy can be interpreted and delivered at sub regional and local levels, and explore whether the Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy can have an important role to play and how it could benefit biodiversity.

12 noon **Biodiversity case studies**

Newts and recycling - *Jo Fearey (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)*

An example of a risk management project in Redcar and Cleveland.

Urban cowslips - *Francine Marshall (Middlesbrough Council)*.

A successful example of urban meadow creation in Albert Park, Middlesbrough.

Tees Valley Pondscape - *Rachel Jackson (Tees Valley Wildlife Trust)*.

Following a summer of pond survey, pond creation and management sites are planned for this winter.

12.45 pm **Questions and open discussion**

1.15-2 pm **Lunch**

2:00 pm **Depart for Saltholme**

2:30 pm **Saltholme-behind the scenes tour by RSPB staff**

3.30 pm **Close**