

# EAST BOLDON FORUM

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**NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT**  
October 2020

# EAST BOLDON FORUM

## Natural Environment Statement: Executive Summary

### INTRODUCTION

A community consultation event (March 2019) identified that people who live and work in East Boldon highly value the greenbelt surrounding their village and green spaces within it. Concern was expressed that the pressure for growth would see the loss of large areas of green belt, inappropriate development, and the loss of the village's special identity. This Natural Environment Statement sets out to identify and assess East Boldon's green assets to fully understand their special significance and provide robust reasons as to why they should be protected.

### MAIN BODY

It is abundantly clear that East Boldon has an incredibly rich green heritage and that people are fiercely protective of it. This Statement's detailed assessment of each location (EBNF SHLAA Sites, Section 7: Page 35 – 70), considered in the supporting documents to South Tyneside Council's (STC) 2019 draft Local Plan, highlights the unique features of the different sites. A commentary on South Tyneside Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Table, Section 6: Page 21 – 34 sets out some of the reasons why the sites are not achievable. Furthermore, assessments challenge the integrity of STC site selection methodology (which causes the terminology to appear arbitrary rather than scientific) and so the viability of places chosen as housing sites. The Natural Environment Conclusions, Section 8: Page 71 - 75 put forward a case for the retention of greenbelt at some sites.

An overview of the other sections contained in this Statement, key findings and supporting appendices, including community action, are located below.

### CONCLUSIONS

The Climate Change Debate and the emerging concern over Loss of Habitat for Wildlife has coincided with this work. It therefore seems impossible and indeed irresponsible to separate or ignore these issues when considering matters which may affect the green belt and future development within the village.

Disrupting the urban and green infra-structure and balance between humans and nature has been seen to have perilous consequences.

*“East Boldon is full of potential for wildlife and is perfectly positioned to become the blueprint for an urban fringe village where both wildlife and people flourish.” Appendix V, Durham Wildlife Trust Endorsement Section 13, Page 119*

## EBNF Natural Environment Statement

- i. **Background, Section 1:** This looks at local and national policies on environment and climate change. We suggest a new policy for South Tyneside Council which is to add a 6<sup>th</sup> function to greenbelt; **Recognise that Greenbelt is a Carbon Sink.** This has always been recognised by environmentalists. The planning conclusions on **page 11** set out the EBNF natural environment position within the framework of the current greenbelt boundary, the special quality of the biodiversity in East Boldon and the separate, unique character of the village which will be lost if we merge with South Shields or Sunderland. It also touches on the number of wildlife sites found in the forum area.
- ii. **Natural Assets, Section 2:** This section explain that we have two **national character areas** defined by Natural England - the Tyne and Wear Lowlands and the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau. (Para 4.11, Draft Local Plan). The two areas support different types of flora and fauna, making the area more biodiverse than areas where land character and therefore habitats are not so distinct. In addition, there is an SSSI wetland at Boldon Flats, the most mature woodland in South Tyneside, Black Plantation and numerous other special sites for wildlife. (See **Section 4 pages14 - 18**)
- iii. **Geological History of the Forum Area, Section 5: Pages 19 - 20.** This section explains some of the reasons why our forum area is so biodiverse. The origins of the formation of the Downhill magnesian limestone escarpment and the origins of Boldon Flats revealed in a 1957 PhD thesis by Westgate( [http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/8519/1/8519\\_5450-vol1.PDF](http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/8519/1/8519_5450-vol1.PDF) ). The bore samples taken revealed that Boldon Flats is actually a buried river valley dating from before the last ice age approximately 10,000 years ago. Prior to that, the River Tyne used to flow through the area we now know as Boldon Flats, tracking towards present day Harton and Port of Tyne. The glaciers cut the mouth of the Wear (10,000+ years ago). Previously, before the last ice age, the old path of the River Tyne eroded the cliffs between Sunderland and South Shields, explaining why we have no cliffs at nearby Seaburn and Whitburn.
- iv. **South Tyneside Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Table, Section 6: Pages21 – 34.** East Boldon Forum tabulated the SHLAA presented by South Tyneside Council in support of the August 2019 draft Local Plan.**60.11 hectares** of land are considered accessible and achievable albeit some are thought of as achievable beyond 15 years. If we factor in the land lost to the IAMP to the west (**149.7 ha**) then the land lost to development around East Boldon could be almost **210 ha -the size of between 250 and 330 football pitches**. Interesting to note in an era of Global Pandemics, recent research shows that change in land use is often the facilitator for such pandemics to arise. <https://www.virology.ws/2020/08/20/pandemics-and-anthropogenic-environmental-change/>East Boldon Forum provides a commentary to the table, setting out some of the reasons why the sites are not -in our view- achievable. In fact, in many of the Council's own background documents, contradictions are found. Key findings of the assessment are listed below:

### Key Findings:

- (i) It is not always possible to ascertain the methods used to arrive at the assessments associated with the parcels of land.
  - (ii) Some sites are found to be 'suitable and available' for development when more than 1% of the site is in Flood Zone 3 on the Council's own flood map.
  - (iii) The Greenbelt Review uses terms such as 'performs moderately', 'performs strongly' against the functions of greenbelt. There is no indication of the scale used to determine these expressions which causes the terminology to appear arbitrary rather than scientific. EBNF has indicated concerns on the table and in the fuller discussion of forum land parcels which follows the table.
- v. **EBNF SHLAA Sites, Section 7: Pages 35 – 70** East Boldon Forum assesses each of the sites brought forward in the 2019 draft Local Plan. We go into detail to explain why the plans put forward by the Council in 2019 risk causing enormous disruption to the wildlife corridors around East Boldon, placing strain on our existing infrastructure and causing increased problems with health and wellbeing. It is important to note that the current position adopted by the Local Authority for an unbridled building programme goes against the approach taken previously which was always one of judicious stewardship. Could it be that our Local Authority is now underplaying the significance of the land in question in order to justify its position concerning house building?
- vi. **Natural Environment Conclusions, Section 8: Page 71-75.** We re-emphasise the special nature of our greenbelt, explain the case for a 6<sup>th</sup> function of greenbelt, request that our wildlife corridors are named in the text of the Local Plan (they appear on the maps but were omitted from the text). We put forward a case for retention of greenbelt at some sites which we have reason to believe should be left untouched by housing development.
- vii. **Appendix 1 Tree Preservation Orders, Section 9 Pages 76-79.** This section outlines liaison between East Boldon Forum and the Local Authority. A forum member has made requests for assistance in giving protection to important trees and woodland in the forum area.
- viii. **Appendix II South Tyneside's Application to the Secretary of State for SSSI Status, Section 10 Page 80.** This is an historic document dating from 1987 when South Tyneside Council recognised the special biodiversity in the forum area.
- ix. **Appendix IIIa NBN Species List for Forum Area, Section 11a Pages 81 – 103.** A list of species found in the East Boldon Forum Area, particularly at the Boldon Flats SSSI. It has been updated to include recent confirmed records by birders and botanical specialists.
- x. **Appendix IIIb Records for Turners Hill Magnesian Limestone Outcrop, Boldon Golf Course. Section 11b Pages 104 – 107.** The site is carpeted with nationally rare species.
- xi. **Appendix IV Data Analysis of Community Feedback on Natural Environment and Greenbelt. Section 12, Pages 108 – 118.** EBNF has consulted extensively since the forum was first formed in January 2017. It has always been our intention to involve the

community and to faithfully represent the views of the community where we live. To this end we wrote a communications policy which can be found alongside our other policies on our website [www.eastboldonforum.org](http://www.eastboldonforum.org). It can be clearly seen from surveys that EBNF has always enjoyed the wholehearted support of the East Boldon Forum community.

- xii. **Appendix V, Durham Wildlife Trust Endorsement Section 13, Page 119.** East Boldon Forum was proud to receive the support of the Durham Wildlife Trust who concluded, “***East Boldon is full of potential for wildlife and is perfectly positioned to become the blueprint for an urban fringe village where both wildlife and people flourish.***”
- xiii. **Appendix VI, RSPB Make the case for a full wildlife assessment of land at North Farm. Section 14, Page 120.** Local residents Jen and Jim Stuart are enthusiastic observers of nature from their back garden which overlooks North Farm, one of the parcels of land brought forward in the draft Local Plan in the SHLAA. They took the trouble to record the species they observe -some are recorded as photographic records. They sent their list to the RSPB and Simon Mott a wildlife support officer replied to Jim and Jen. In his letter he said, “***It certainly sounds like it could be a valuable foraging and nesting habitat for a wide range of species and it would be great if it could be protected. This may be something that the local council can do. Your local wildlife trust may also be able to assist, as I have known them to help get pieces of land listed as nature reserves in the past.***”
- xiv. **Appendix VII A Vision of a Greener Future for East Boldon Forum. Section 15, Page 121.** This endorsement was written by a local experienced former National Trust Warden, Peter Collins. Peter makes clear that he supports the aims of East Boldon Forum.
- xv. **Appendix VIII Community Action. Section 16 Page 122:** In order to have a healthy SSSI, we must ensure that wildlife corridors around East Boldon and the signage and supervision of the Flats is improved so we have put forward a community action: ***To work with South Tyneside Council, the Church Commissioners and the tenant farmer to improve the management, supervision and interpretation of the Boldon Flats Local Wildlife Site.***

*East Boldon Forum Executive*  
*September 2020*

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**Background** –East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum (EBNF) statement concerning the Natural Environment of the East Boldon Forum Area is one of a series of background research papers, prepared to inform the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

East Boldon village is completely surrounded by the Tyne and Wear Green Belt (last modified in 1985, when land to the north of the village was released for housing) which fulfils many key functions including preventing the merger of South Tyneside and Sunderland while maintaining the separate character of East Boldon. The quality of the natural environment within the Green Belt has caused it to have additional protection and is highly significant to the local community. (See EBNF Natural Assets section 2, page 9)

EBNF therefore fully endorses South Tyneside’s 2011 statement of policies particularly the emphasis on protection of biodiversity and geodiversity sites, all the following, (i) – (vi) are of special importance to the Forum area, as is A and B and the notion that all proposals for development:

- A) must ensure that any individual or cumulative detrimental impacts on sites are avoided; and
- B) will only be permitted where they would not adversely affect the integrity, natural character or biodiversity and geodiversity value of:
  - i) designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest e.g. Boldon Flats and Low House copse, both protected within the South Tyneside Local Development Framework)
  - ii) designated Local Wildlife Sites;
  - iii) designated Local Geodiversity Sites;
  - iv) designated Local Nature Reserves;
  - v) Areas of High Landscape Value and significance e.g. Cleadon Hills, Boldon Downhill and South Boldon;
  - vi) Wildlife Corridors and other land that forms part of the borough’s strategic green infrastructure, as shown on the (2011) Proposals Map.

### **The purpose of the document**

The purpose of the document is to exemplify our environmental heritage in order to develop policies that will safeguard and protect key green assets important to the community and to place these in the context of EBNF’s key objective on Natural Environment e.g. ***Plan positively for the creation, protection and enhancement of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure in the Neighbourhood Plan area including ensuring that there are linkages to wider green infrastructure networks.*** To reflect the actions needed to ward off the impending climate emergency and to present the case for each site identified in the local plan.

## Role of the document:

- To emphasise the special characteristics of the land occurring inside the Forum boundary –especially around our SSSI -a lowland wetland- and the corridors around the site. Wetland habitats have been under threat nationally for some time and the absence of a co-ordinated national strategy has meant that their protection has been left in the hands of local volunteers and enthusiasts. For this reason, the Forum will put forward the case for development with caution.
- To describe and research the land parcels found in the 2019 South Tyneside Draft Local Plan and comment upon advisability of development on sites identified by the August 2019 Draft Local Plan
- To identify areas for Local Green Space and Protected Open Space designation (See LGS and POS Background Paper), highlighting the special ecology and rich biodiversity of the EBNF area, explaining how the greenbelt functions to maintain the delicate balance of nature in the EBNF area and as a wildlife corridor and carbon sink.
- To communicate the value EBNF members place upon our natural environment including to capture and analyse local feedback on the importance of our Natural Environment to the EBNF Plan Area. This has been achieved through;
  - Community Consultations
  - Monthly public meetings
  - Establishing an online and social media presence
  - Dialogue with local wildlife organisations
  - Dialogue with members who are interested and/ or have expertise in pure sciences including nature study.

## Challenges

In 2015-2016 the publication of the South Tyneside Strategic Land Review (SLR) motivated the EB community to activism, particularly in relation to the loss of the East-West Boldon greenbelt to insensitive housing development.

Whilst driven by Government need to create more housing, the SLR was a complete ‘volte-face’ with respect to South Tyneside’s previous 2011 policy and statement about protecting the environment which stated:

***“All proposals for development must ensure that any individual or cumulative detrimental impacts on sites are avoided; and will only be permitted where they would not adversely affect the integrity, natural character or biodiversity and geodiversity.”***

Both the sentiments and identified sites including ‘Wildlife Corridors; And other land that forms part of the borough’s strategic green infrastructure’ are of special importance to EBNF.

## EBNF’s Statement on Natural Environment, Climate Change and Flooding

Since the end of World War II, it has always been recognised that Greenbelt has 5 Functions, which EBNF continue to rigorously uphold. However, in light of the current climate change emergency EBNF propose adding a 6th function:



1. to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
2. to prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;
3. to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
4. to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
5. to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

### **EBNF's 6th function is: 'To preserve the special role of the Greenbelt as a CARBON SINK'**

The adoption of this definition will require courage from South Tyneside Council leaders. Civic leaders who espouse Green concepts often feel uncertain and miss opportunities to take bold steps. However, green issues are gaining popularity and bold actions are increasingly accepted as common sense. Pioneering actions by South Tyneside Council would show it to be a progressive force for change during the Climate Emergency. Greenbelt land is a 'fire break' to rising atmospheric carbon levels, currently causing catastrophic changes to sea levels and threatening the existence of major population centres across the world.

**The "Green Belts: a greener future" report (2010)** identified that the original purpose of Green Belts had been 'highly effective'. Conclusions confirmed that not only can Green Belts continue to fulfil initial functions but that they also take on an even greater significance in the face of climate change and the need for a low carbon economy, findings supported by more recent government reports.

Now in 2020, it is becoming increasingly obvious that Green Belts are the land masses which will help us escape the more devastating effects of climate change.

For this reason, we urge STC to accept the rationale for East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum's proposed 6<sup>th</sup> Green Belt function: **Greenbelt is an important carbon sink.**

**South Tyneside's Draft Local Plan Interim Sustainability Appraisal 2019** appears to disregard the importance of Greenbelt functions as illustrated through the following extracts from page 17, Table 4.1 In particular, the Sustainability Objectives 1 and 2 are of great concern to East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum.

#### **Sustainability Objective: 1. Adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change in South Tyneside**

The comment states that there is no direct relationship between Policy S1 Greenbelt and this Objective. In order to react to the Climate Change emergency declaration, EBNF believes Greenbelt Policy should be determined by the Climate Change emergency.

#### **Sustainability Objective: 2. Conserve and enhance biodiversity**

The comment in the LA document states "There is no direct relationship between Policy S1 Greenbelt and this objective"

EBNF strongly recommends that there should be a relationship between conserving and enhancing biodiversity, greenbelt policy and sustainability.

The Climate Emergency has been declared because of an axis of catastrophic changes across the Earth. These include Climate Change, rising sea levels, an increasing number of extreme weather events and the global extinction of species. In the UK 500 species have become extinct in

the past 200 years, an average of 2.5 species per year. The overwhelming majority of extinctions are caused by removal of habitats and wildlife corridors due to poor planning decisions and bad land management.

Planning decisions relating to East Boldon's surrounding greenbelt and its vital wildlife corridors will, unless considerably scaled back and carefully managed, deplete habitats and our wildlife and put pressure on the internationally recognised migratory routes through the Forum area and the SSSI.

### Strategic Planning Context

The current development plan is the South Tyneside Local Development Framework.

The Core Strategy was approved in June 2007 relevant Policy is EA3 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

South Tyneside published their most recent Draft Local Plan in August 2019.

EBNF responded in detail to this including specific statements on Natural Environment **as many of these contradicted previous comments about the greenbelt.**

**It should be noted that the main EBNF Natural Environment Background Paper authored by Jo-Anne Garrick (EBNF Consultant) covers the following areas:**

- **The national and local policy context for the natural environment**.e.g Local Plan, NPPF guidance, NPPG. Both documents set out the role of the planning system in contributing to positive societal outcomes by contributing to the dimensions of sustainable development by contributing to economic, social and environmental enhancement.
- **An overview of other relevant documents and evidence**.e.g Natural Environment White Paper 'The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature' (2011) and Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services
- **Environmental designations that cover the plan area**; North East England Nature Partnership, South Tyneside Landscape Character Study.
- **Consideration of feedback received as part of the early engagement on the plan**; and
- **Explanation of the preferred policy approach**

**This EBNF Statement paper is therefore mainly oriented towards focussing on the sustainability of individual sites.**

## **Planning Conclusions**

The importance of the Natural Environment within the East Boldon Neighbourhood Plan Area has long been recognised and protected by successive planning policies for the area and is even more important at this critical stage in time. The traditional role of the Green Belt continues to be very relevant today to East Boldon, not least that it protects the separate and unique character of East Boldon.

The village is completely surrounded by the Tyne and Wear Green Belt which was last modified in 1985, when land to the north of the village was released for housing.

The Green Belt prevents the merging of Sunderland and South Tyneside and maintains the separate character of East Boldon.

It is the quality of the natural environment within the Green Belt that has seen it have additional protection.

The Boldon Pastures SSSI and the Boldon Flats and Low House Copse Local Wildlife Sites are all protected within the South Tyneside Local Development Framework.

The South Boldon area of high landscape value and significance remains intact.

In 2016 South Tyneside Council undertook a Strategic Land Review to assess the suitability of all available land for development.

The results of that review present a challenge for the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, as they suggest a number of sites around the edge of the village in the Green Belt may be potentially suitable for development.

This evidence along with the Council's Green Belt Boundary Review will inform the Draft Local Plan and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

In the centre of the village and within the Conservation Area are a significant number of mature trees, which enjoy additional protection.

The Neighbourhood Plan will review all Local Green Spaces for potential designation in line with the National Planning Policy Framework.

### **Planning Principles**

Environmental growth

Biodiversity net gain

Natural capital

Connectivity

Biodiversity in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

Wider benefits of biodiverse spaces

section 106.

## National Strategy to Protect the Environment 25-year Government plan updated May 2019

The Forum regards the above strategy and many of the subsequent actions to be of high importance in safeguarding the special green character surrounding the whole area which would be destroyed by insensitive over development. We endorse the goals in the strategy for improving the environment and are working with the community and businesses to address these.

We will seek to conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment with special regard to sites of high landscape value and make sure they can be enjoyed, protected, used by and cared for by everyone.

EBNF is also committed to working alongside all local and national nature conservation groups in order to achieve good outcomes for East Boldon e.g. The **North East England Nature Partnership, Durham Wildlife Trust, West Boldon Lodge, CPRE, RSPB, Washington Wetlands and Waterfowl Trust.**

The above groups are mindful of statutory planning documents and in particular the potential of planning advances to have a beneficial effect on nature, so long as major corridors are given protection. Groups with an environmental focus seek to work alongside the authorities to achieve good environmental outcomes for people as well as nature -since both are intricately connected.

Despite EBNF lacking statutory powers to write policies relating to Natural Environment it is in a position to strongly recommend relevant and climate friendly solutions which have been informed by specialised training, local insight and community consultation. We hope this approach will lead to highly beneficial outcomes for people and nature.

## East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum Natural Assets

The area contains two **national character areas** defined by Natural England - the Tyne and Wear Lowlands and the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau. (Para 4.11, Draft Local Plan)

The **Tyne and Wear Green Belt** - boundary defined on the Local Development Framework Proposals Map adopted 2012. It is an undeveloped rural area in the south of the Borough, one of the important landscape areas identified within the South Tyneside Landscape Character Study 2012.

**Within the 6km assessment zone for the Internationally Important Sites** of the Durham Coast Special Area of Conservation and the Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area as defined in Interim Supplementary Planning Document 23: Mitigation Strategy for European Sites (Recreational Pressure from Residential Development) - Draft Local Plan Policy NE2

### **Nationally Important site -**

Boldon Pastures Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Draft Local Plan Policy NE2 and as defined on the Policies Map 3.55ha comprises unimproved neutral grassland subject to ridge and furrow cultivation, with associated hedgebanks and drainage channels.

**Local Designations** - Draft Local Plan Policy NE2 and as defined on the Policies Map

Tilesheds Local Nature Reserve - adjoins plan area at the northern boundary.

### **Local Wildlife Sites:**

- Boldon Pastures Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- Tilesheds Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site;
- Black Plantation Local Wildlife Site;
- Boldon Flats Local Wildlife Site;
- Low House Copse Local Wildlife Site;
- Tilesheds Burn Local Wildlife Site;
- Turners Hill Local Wildlife Site.

**Boldon Flats** - 34.2 ha. - lowland meadows and pasture, large pond and seasonal flooding.

**Low House Copse** - 0.8 ha - broadleaf woodland and pond

**Tilesheds Burn** -4.7 ha - lowland meadows and pasture, lowland fen habitats

**Tilesheds** -1.3ha - adjoins the plan area to the northern boundary - ponds, lowland meadows, broadleaf woodland.

**Turners Hill** -0.3ha - Magnesian Limestone grassland

**Black Plantation** approximately 1.0 hectare to the south of East Boldon falls within a wildlife corridor as defined by SouthTyneside's LDF. The woodland at Downhill Quarry is 1.3 km to the west and the Belle Vue Villas plantation is 140m to the east. It is the best example of mature woodland in South Tyneside dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was already an established plantation in 1896 and is recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of that year,

**Wildlife Corridors** to south and north of the village as shown on the Local Development Framework Proposals Map (Adopted 2012)

**Green Infrastructure Corridors** - comprising the river corridor of the River Don and its tributaries, Tilesheds Burn and the Green Belt corridor - Draft Local Plan Policy NE3 and as defined in Supplementary Planning Document 3- Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)

**Open Space and Green Infrastructure Provision** - Draft Local Plan Policy NE4 and defined on the Policies Map

Designated areas of open space, outdoor sports, playing fields and children's play facilities and the wider green infrastructure network.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan designates these under its Local Green Space and Protected Open Space Policies and defined on the Plan's Policies map.

These are - Grange Park, Glencourse/ Burnside, Victoria Allotments, Boldon Cemetery, War Memorial and Garden, Land adjacent to St Georges Church, Cricket, Squash and Archery grounds, Boldon Lawn Tennis Club, Land south of New Road and Tileshed lane, Mundles Lane Play area, Boldon Golf Course, Land off Lyndon Grove, Land at Beckenham Avenue and Ravensbourne Avenue and Junior School and Nursery School Playing Fields.

### **Area of High Landscape Value and Area of Landscape Significance**

The whole area south of the village from Hylton Lane in the west to the A184 in the east as defined in the Local Development framework Proposals Map, Adopted 2012.

It is noted that the Draft Local Plan proposes a much-reduced area as the Boldon Downhill- summit and scarp defined by Hylton Lane and the eastern boundary of the Golf Course. (Policy NE5)

The Landscape Character Study of 2012 proposed this major amendment which the Forum does not support.

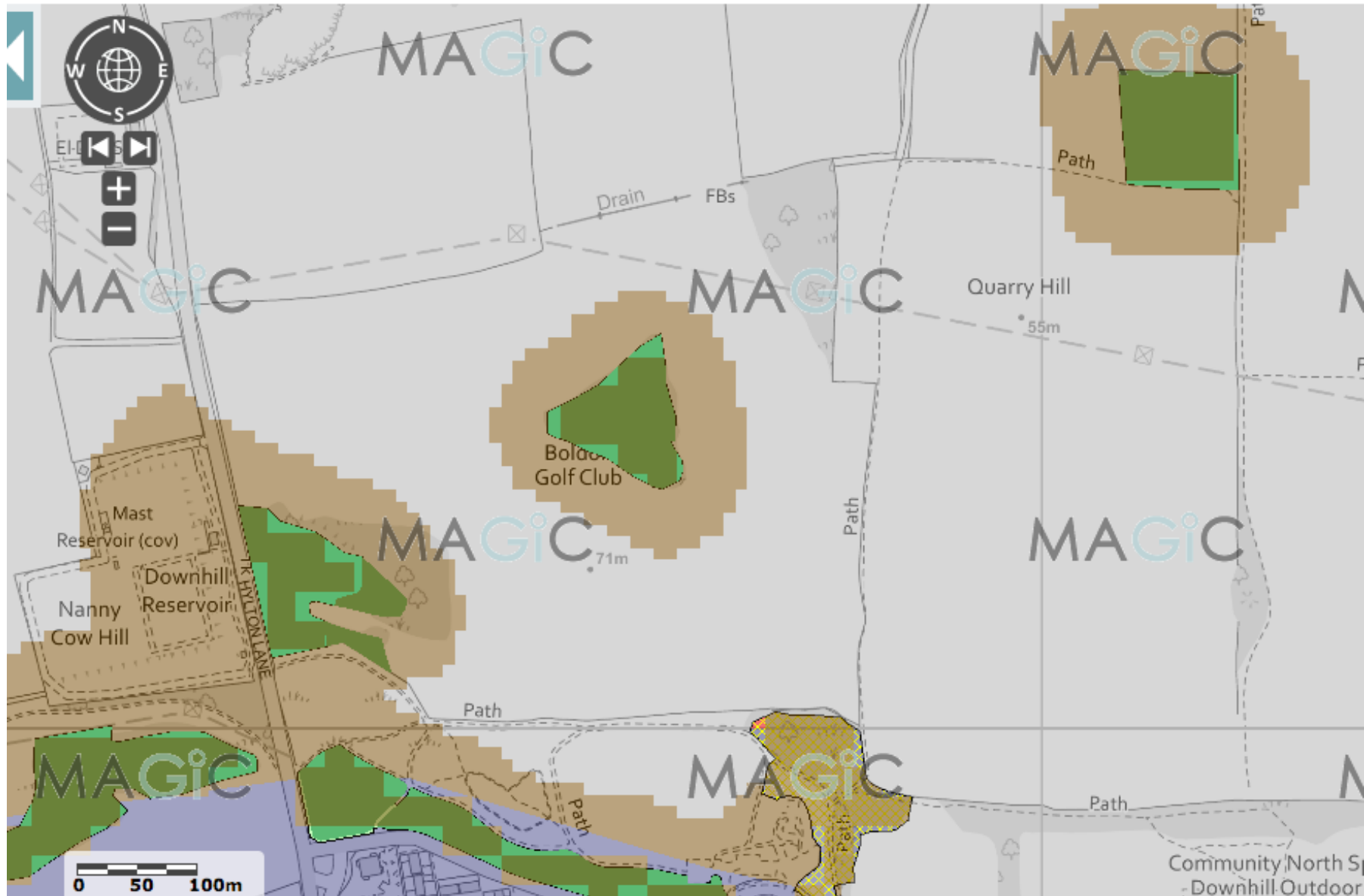
### **Areas of Woodland and Trees**

There are significant areas of woodland and trees within the Plan area as follows;

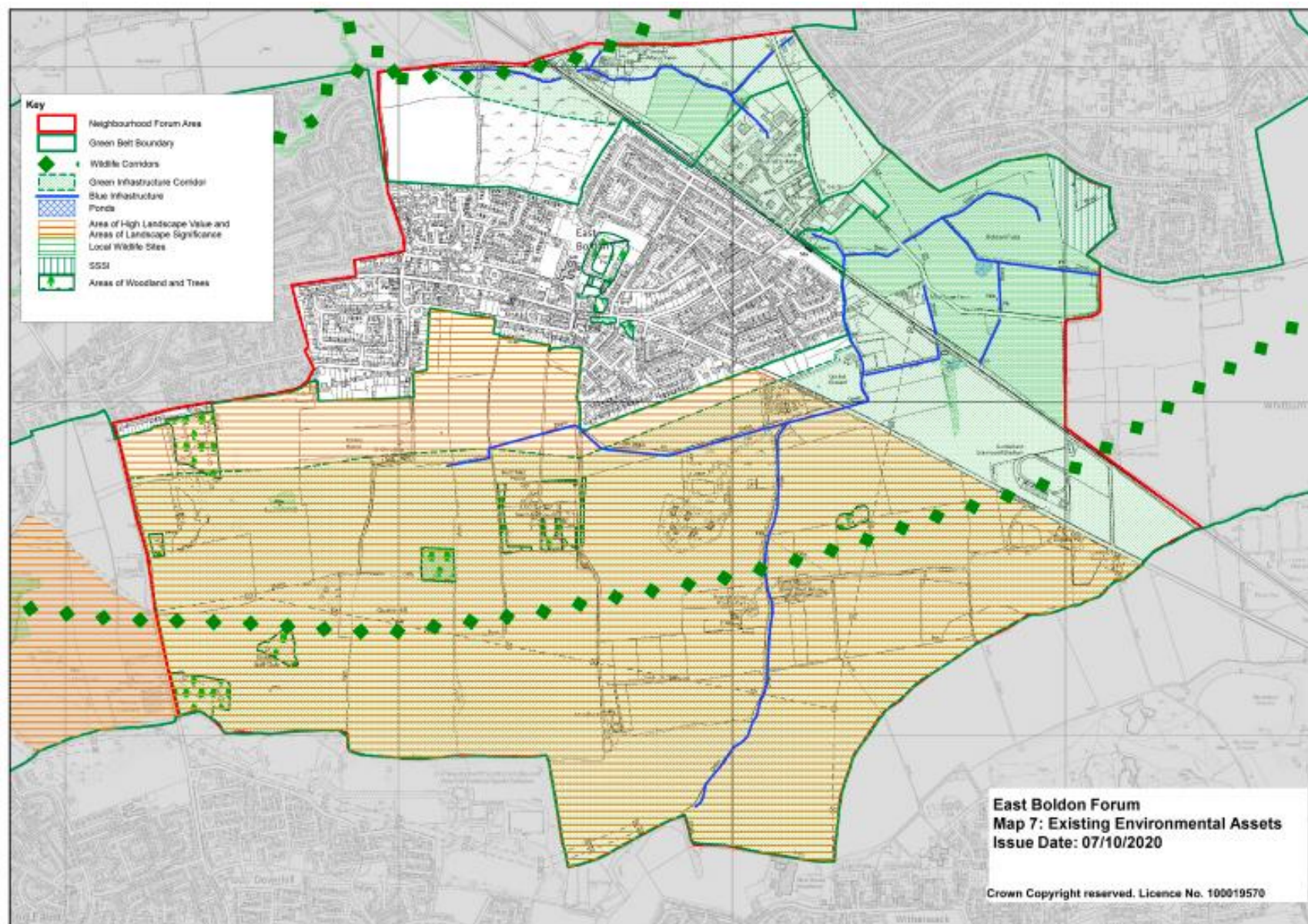
Boldon Cemetery, Black Plantation, Low House Copse, Belle Vue and Northfield House, north east of Field House and within the East Boldon Conservation Area at Grange Park, Land adjoining the War Memorial and Land adjoining St Georges Church.

Additional priority broadleaved woodland areas are identified on the East Boldon Golf Course MAGIC map, shown below.

## MAGiC Map of Priority Broadleaved Woodland on Boldon Golf Course

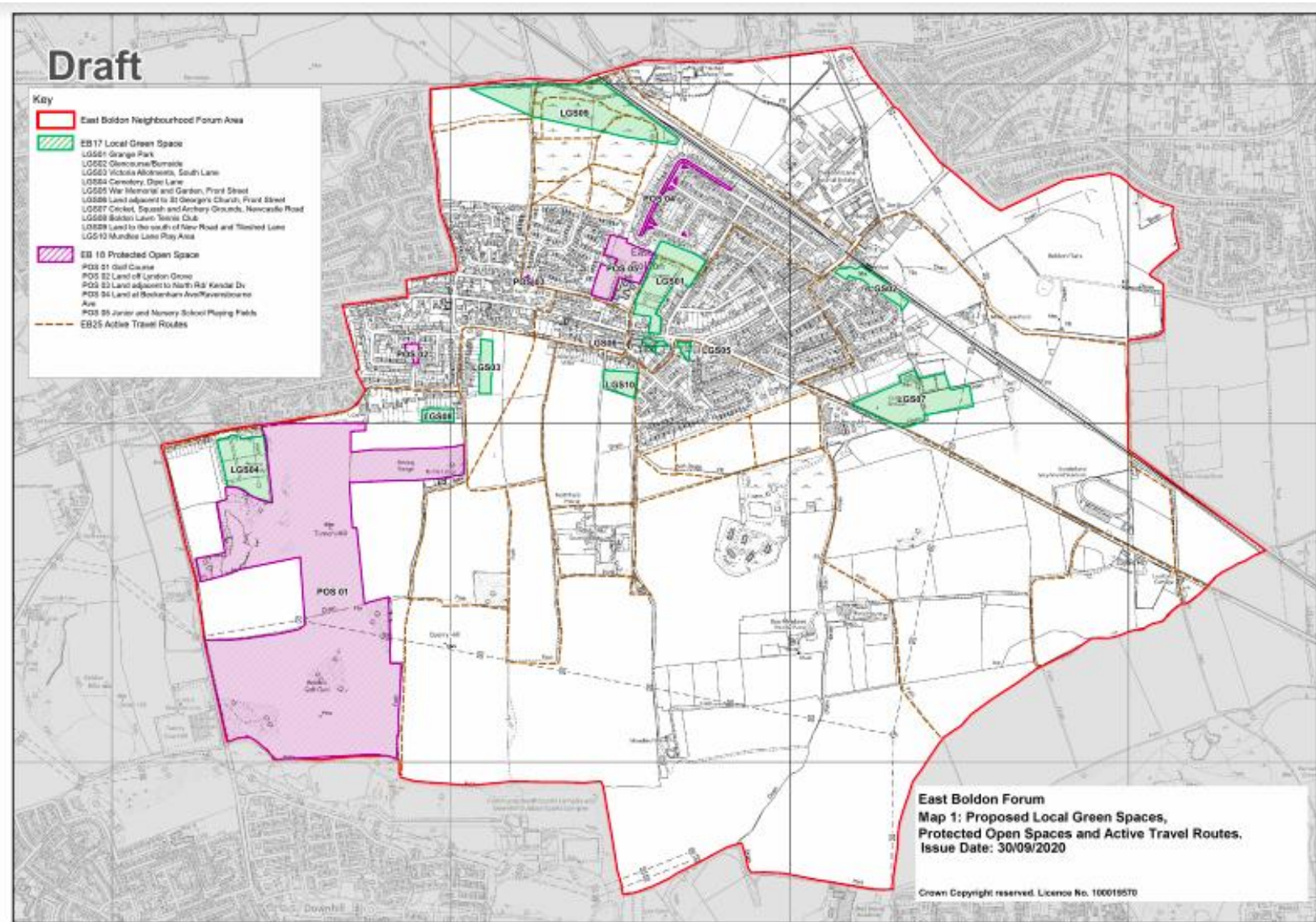


## Map of Environmental Assessments in Forum Area





# Map of Sites Nominated as Local Green Space and Protected Open Space



# Geological History of the East Boldon Forum Area

## Topology and Geology

At the end of the last ice age large ice-marginal lakes occupied the Durham lowlands, particularly in the valleys of the rivers Tyne and Wear, west of the escarpment formed by Permian (Zechstein Group) carbonate rocks. The Boldon Forum Area falls within the 'Glacial Lake Wear' area shown on the speculative map below<sup>[3]</sup> This helps us to understand why we have wetland areas within the Forum boundary. Essentially the Boldon Flats site is the site of a buried river valley full of 10,000-year-old glacial alluvium. It is all that is left (within the Forum boundary) of the ancient glacial Lake Wear.

Weather and climate play an important role in the ecology of the area, as does the type of soil and the parent rock determines the type of soil.

The basal rocks of the east coast of Durham were formed under a warm, shallow inland sea –the Zechstein Sea that extended from the UK to Germany and Poland<sup>[1]</sup>

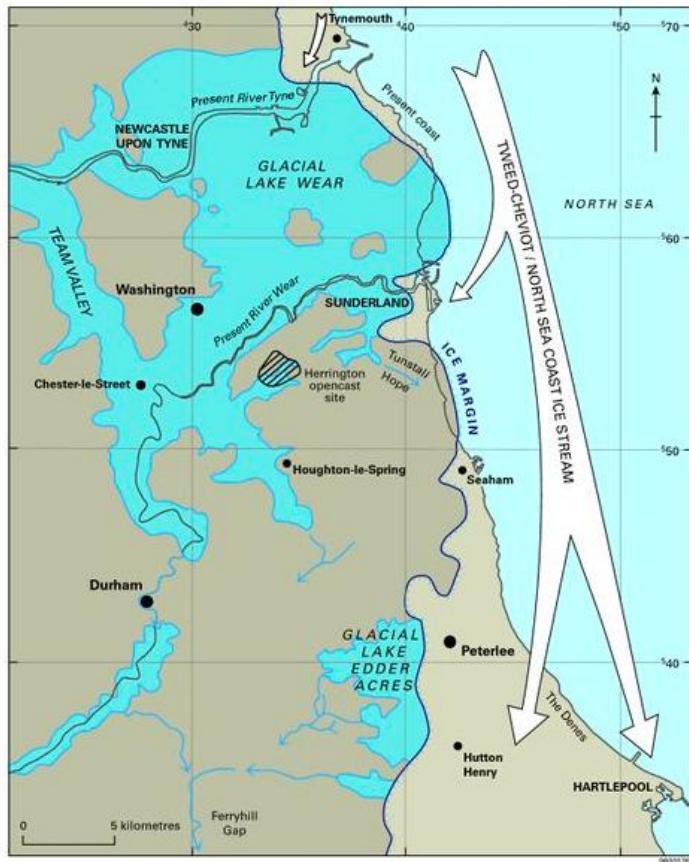
There are 3 broad topographic regions in East Durham:

- a. The Western Coal Measures region including the whole River Team Valley, the River Wear Valley from Witton le Wear to Claxheugh and the area around South Shields.
- b. The Magnesian Limestone Plateau region between the main part of region (a) and the sea and bounded in the south by an ill-defined line between Piercebridge and Hartlepool.
- c. The Triassic region of red soils between the Magnesian Limestone and the Lower Tees.

The East Durham Limestone Plateau forms a triangle with its apex at South Shields and its base along a line between Piercebridge and Hartlepool. The Permian rocks of the limestone plateau reach a height of 307 feet at the Boldon hills and the limestone forms the top of the escarpment. This elevated ridge is formed of middle (resistant, fossiliferous) limestone and lower limestone, marl slate and yellow sands at Boldon Hills. Coral 'Reef' Limestone forms a ridge of high ground down the centre of the Durham Permian rocks from Boldon Hills, by Claxheugh, Humbledon Hills and Tunstall Hills to the coast at Hawthorn and then by Horden Colliery and Blackhall Colliery to Blackhall Rocks

The limestone escarpment is eroded to varying degrees and is completely breached within the county in three places. One of these places is a preglacial drift filled valley between Fulwell and Cleadon Hills where the overflow from the glacial lake in the Wear Valley cut the gap at Sunderland. Boldon Flats is a flat-topped covering of superficial glacial deposits and if these deposits were removed, a developed valley extending below the present sea level would be revealed. This pre-glacial valley is proved by geological borings taken within the valley itself. The now buried valley continues between Fulwell, Harton and towards Tyne Dock and the available evidence suggests that this old valley flowed from East to West and was a tributary of the Tyne.

[2. Westgate 1957]



Speculative reconstruction of Glacial Lake Wear and associated ice-marginal lakes. Note: North Sea ice probably extended farther inland during an earlier phase when extensive subglacial glaciofluvial and glaciolacustrine sedimentation occurred within tunnel valleys

Geological History of East Boldon Forum Area, References:

[1.] <http://www.tyneandwearltp.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Appendix-G-SEA-c.pdf>

[2] W.A Westgate BSc for PhD thesis1957  
Page 1 and 2  
[http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/8519/1/8519\\_5450-vol1.PDF](http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/8519/1/8519_5450-vol1.PDF)

[3] Main Late Devensian Glaciation of North East England (Stone, Milward, Young, Merritt, Clarke, McCormack, Lawrence. British Regional Geology, Northern England  
[http://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Main\\_Late\\_Devensian\\_glaciation\\_of\\_north-east\\_England](http://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Main_Late_Devensian_glaciation_of_north-east_England)

## South Tyneside Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment 2019 EBNF

This table was constructed using information gleaned from the many documents published by South Tyneside Council when they released the Draft Local Plan (August 2019). The headings to the table are those used by South Tyneside Council in its Site Allocations Topic Paper Appendix 1 (Potential Sites Selected for Housing Allocation) and Appendix 2 (Potential Sites Discounted for Housing Allocation)

### **Key Findings:**

- (iv) It is not always possible to ascertain the methods used to arrive at the assessments associated with the parcels of land.
- (v) Some sites are found to be 'suitable and available' for development when more than 1% of the site is in Flood Zone 3 on the Council's own flood map.
- (vi) The Greenbelt Review uses terms such as 'performs moderately', 'performs strongly' against the functions of greenbelt. There is no indication of the scale used to determine these expressions which causes the terminology to appear arbitrary rather than scientific. EBNF has indicated concerns on the table and in the fuller discussion of forum land parcels which follows the table.

<b>SITE</b>	<b>More than 1% of site in flood zone 2 or 3</b>	<b>Does the space have special designation?</b>	<b>Reasons the site has or has not been allocated</b>	<b>Would development have direct or indirect ecological constraints?</b>	<b>Would development cause harm to a heritage asset?</b>	<b>Achievable / not Achievable</b>
<b>SHLAARef SBC003 BC 25a and b or H3.59 Land at North Farm 22.38 ha</b>  <b>588 houses</b>	<b>Yes, More than 1% of site in flood zone 2 and/or 3</b>  It is considered	<b>No</b>	The site is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location.  Development would have a moderate impact on the Green Belt, which could be mitigated. Flood Risk issues and impacts	The site was assessed and it was found that Development will have Direct Or	<b>No</b>	<b>Achievable in 6 – 10 years</b>

<p><b>BC25a 210 houses</b> <b>BC25b 294 houses</b></p>	<p>suitable and available</p>		<p>upon biodiversity can be mitigated through design and environmental enhancements. It is in close proximity to numerous public transport links and is less than 1km from East Boldon Metro station and Station Road Local Centre with shops and services.</p> <p>The site 'performs moderately' according to the greenbelt review.</p> <p><b><u>An area nominated as LGS in EBNF NP: LGS09 Land to the south of New Road and Tileshead Lane</u></b></p>	<p>Indirect Ecological Constraints</p>		
<p><b>SHLAA Ref:SBC005</b> <b>Grange Park</b> <b>2.7 ha</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>		<p><b>Yes</b> <b>High Value Open Space</b> <b>Loss would have high impact on local community</b> <b><u>EBNF: Nominated as Local Green Space, LGS01 in EBNF NP</u></b></p>		<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Not achievable</b></p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref:SBC006</b>  <b>BC27/28b</b>  <b>Land at South Lane and west of Belle Vue Lane</b> <b>16.04 ha</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>		<p>Suitable: No</p> <p>Achievable</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Although the site has some merits in the context of proximity to services, development would lead to the loss of Green Belt and also impact on an Area of</p>	<p><b>Review Says No but EBNF believes this site to be an important wildlife</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>Achievable beyond 15 years e.g if ever a bypass were to be built this land could be opened up.</b></p>

			<p>High Landscape Value.</p> <p>Included BC28b as well BC27. In the SFRA BC28b is a significant surface water risk and consider for withdrawal.</p> <p>Greenbelt performs 'relatively Strongly'</p>	<b>corridor and carbon sink.</b>		
<p><b>SB007 Land South of South of South Lane., BC27A 3.1ha</b></p>	<p><b>No BUT</b> significant surface water flood risk'.</p>	<p>Area of High Landscape value</p>	<p>Suitable for development. And available also achievable.</p> <p>Although the site has some merits in the context of proximity to services, it is situated within an Area of High Landscape Value. The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal based on significant surface water flood risk'.</p> <p>Greenbelt</p>		<p>Yes, development Could cause harm To heritage asset.</p>	<p>Only achievable beyond 15 years</p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC008</b></p> <p><b>BC31</b> <b>Land between Hylton Lane and East Boldon Sunderland Metro Line 241.86ha</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>Area of High Landscape Value</p>	<p>Development would lead to the loss of Green Belt and an Area of High Landscape Value</p>			<p>Not achievable</p>

<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC009 BC34a Land East of Glencourse 0.69ha BC34a 31 houses</b></p>	<p>No But Surface Flood Water Risk.</p>	<p>Recreational open space</p>	<p>Development would lead to the loss of recreational open space. The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal based on significant surface water flood risk.'</p> <p><b><u>EBNF Response: Nominated as Local Green Space, LGS02 in EBNF NP</u></b></p>	<p>Yes development would have direct or indirect ecological constraints</p>		<p>Achievable in 6 – 10 years</p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC010 BC37 Cleadow Lane Industrial Estate. 7.8ha BC37 138 houses, 423 jobs</b></p>	<p><b>Tiled Burn Culverted On Site</b></p> <p><b>No</b></p> <p>EBNF: inconsistency between Site Allocations Paper and SFRA - more than 1% of this site is shown in Flood Zone 3b.</p>		<p><b>RG5</b></p> <p>This is a key regeneration site which is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location. Flood Risk issues and impacts upon biodiversity can be mitigated through design and environmental enhancements. It is within 400m of a public transport network and a local centre and within close proximity to existing health care facilities.</p>			<p>Regeneration on site in draft Local Plan. Achievable in 6 – 10 years</p>

<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC011 BC62 East Boldon Junior School and Nursery 2.3 ha BC62 69 houses</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>Playing field designat ion</p>	<p>The site is a school which is operational. Development would lead to the loss of playing fields.</p> <p><b><u>Nominated as Protected Open Space POS05 in EBNF NP</u></b></p>	<p><b>Not assessed</b></p>	<p><b>Not assessed</b></p>	<p>Considered suitable but not achievable</p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC077 BC41 Land to East of Cleadon Lane industrial estate 5.45 ha</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p>		<p>The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant.</p>	<p>Assessment Found development would have a direct negative impact on ecosystems</p>		<p>Not achievable</p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC080 BC28c Land at Green Lane east of Mundles Lane, East Boldon 8.61ha</b></p>	<p><b>No flood risk Land Suitable and available</b></p> <p>BC 28c does have significant surface water risk in the SFRA and should be considered for</p>		<p>The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant</p> <p>'Relatively Strong' performance of greenbelt</p>	<p>Assessment Found development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems</p> <p>EBNF disagrees Mundles Farm has a BASE UK farmer who is causing a big increase in BIODIVERSI</p>		<p><b>Only achievable beyond 15 years</b></p>



	withdrawal.			TY on and around the site.		
<b>SHLAA Ref: SBC081 BC28d Land at Green Lane East of Mundles Lane 3.43ha</b>	<b>No flood risk Land Suitable and available</b>		The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant.  'Moderate' performance of green belt	Assessment Found development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems  EBNF disagrees Mundles Farm has a BASE UK farmer who is causing a big increase in BIODIVERSITY on and around the site.		Only achievable beyond 15 years
<b>SHLAA Ref: SBC082 BC28e Land West of Bridle Path West Boldon 3.09ha</b>	<b>No flood risk  Not suitable Not available</b>		The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant  'Relatively Strong' performance of greenbelt	Assessment Found development would have a direct negative impact on ecosystems		Not achievable

<p><b>SHLAA Ref:SBC083</b></p> <p><b>BC29 Land adjacent to Belle Vue Villas, Belle Vue Lane, East Boldon 0.05ha</b></p> <p><b>BC29 2 houses</b></p>						<p>Not achievable</p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref:SBC084</b></p> <p><b>SLR Site Ref: BC30 Former MoD bunkers and medical stores, Green Lane, East Boldon 7.62ha</b></p> <p><b>BC30 63 houses 260 jobs</b></p>	<p>Suitable Available</p>		<p>Although the site is in the Green Belt, it is a disused brownfield site that attracts anti-social behaviour. However, the recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal based on significant surface water flood risk'.</p> <p>'Moderate' performance of green belt</p>	<p>Assessment Found development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems</p> <p>EBNF disagrees Mundles Farm has a BASE UK farmer who is causing a big increase in BIODIVERSITY on and around the site.</p> <p>EBNF favours re-greening the site. Upwelling of</p>		<p>Achievable in 6 – 10 years</p>

				<p>Cutthroat Dene on site. Nationally rare wildlife. Disturbance to wildlife corridor. It also has one of two outcroppings of rare magnesian limestone so would revert to rare magnesian limestone grassland if re-greened.</p>		
<p><b>SHLAA Ref:SBC085</b></p> <p><b>BC31b</b>  <b>Low House Farm,</b>  <b>Green Lane/Sunderland</b>  <b>Road, East Boldon</b>  <b>1.5ha</b></p> <p><b>38 houses</b></p>	<p><b>No flood risk</b></p> <p><b>Not suitable not available</b></p> <p>15% of the site is in Flood Zone 3b , hence recommend</p>	<p><b>Working Farm</b></p>	<p>The site is in the Green Belt. It is not available as it is currently a working farm. The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal'</p> <p><b>'moderate' greenbelt performance</b></p>	<p>Assessment Found development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems</p> <p>EBNF disagrees Mundles Farm has a BASE UK farmer who is causing a big</p>		<p>Not achievable</p>

	ation is 'consider withdrawal'			increase in BIODIVERSITY on and around the site.		
<b>SHLAA Ref: SBC086</b>  <b>BC31c</b> <b>Land north west of Sunderland Greyhound stadium</b> <b>13 ha</b>	<b>No flood risk</b>  <b>Not suitable not available</b> BC31c does have significant surface water risk in the SFRA		<b>'Strong' performance of greenbelt</b>	<b>Yes Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment</b>		Not achievable
<b>SHLAA</b>  <b>Ref: SBC087</b>  <b>H3.61</b> <b>Land south of St John's Terrace and Natley Avenue. 1.56ha</b> <b>BC 33a 63 houses</b>	More than 1% of the site IS NOT within Flood Zone 2 and/or 3  Suitable and available		The site is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location. Development would have a moderate impact on the Green Belt which could be mitigated. It is in close proximity to numerous public transport links including East Boldon Metro station. Its development would support the continued vitality and viability of the Station Road Local Centre.	EBNF disagrees that development will not have direct or indirect ecological constraints		Achievable 6-10 years

			The land 'performs moderately' against the functions of greenbelt according to the Greenbelt Review.			
<b>SHLAA Ref: SBC088</b> <b>Land south east of Natley Avenue. 1.88 ha</b> <b>BC 33b</b> <b>44 houses</b>	BC33b SFRA says consider withdrawal, 29% in Flood Zone 3b		<p>The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is within 50m of Low House Copse local wildlife site. The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal'.</p> <p><b><u>EBNF Response:</u></b></p> <p>Land is very close to the Cricket Club nominated Local Green Space and Archery Club nominated Protected Open Space, <b><u>LGS07 Cricket, squash and archery grounds, Newcastle Road</u></b></p> <p>This cluster of sites is within 50 m of the SSSI also</p>	<b>Yes. Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment</b>		Not achievable
<b>SHLAA Ref: SBC089</b> <b>Land north east of Moor Lane/ station Approach, East Boldon</b> <b>0.52 HA</b> <b>BC36a Sandpiper View (under construction)</b> <b>23 houses</b>		<b>Land very close to SSSI</b>	Planning permission has been granted for 18 dwellings.			Under construction

<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC090</b>  <b>Land South of Moor Lane and station Approach (Mayflower Glass)</b>  <b>BC 36b</b>  <b>26 houses</b></p>	<p><b>No flood risk</b></p> <p><b>Suitable and available</b></p>	<p><b>Land very close to SSSI</b></p>	<p>The site is currently in use and is adjacent to the Boldon Flats local wildlife site.</p>	<p>Yes Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment</p>		<p><b>Achievable in 11 – 15 years</b></p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC092</b>  <b>BC38b</b>  <b>Land to the north and west of Cleadon Lane Industrial Estate, Cleadon Lane</b>  <b>6.37ha</b></p>	<p><b>No flood risk.</b></p> <p><b>Not suitable and not available</b>  SFRA says consider withdrawal as stated , 32% in Flood Zone 3b</p>	<p><b>Local Wildlife Site</b></p>	<p>The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. The recommendation in the SFRA is ‘consider withdrawal’. It is a local wildlife site.</p> <p>Performs ‘relatively strongly’ against functions of greenbelt</p>	<p>Yes, Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment</p>		<p><b>Not achievable</b></p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC093</b>  <b>BC39</b>  <b>Land to south of Tiledsheds Lane, East Boldon</b>  <b>4.61ha</b></p>	<p><b>No risk of flooding</b>  SFRA says consider withdrawal as stated, 42% in Flood Zone 3b</p>	<p><b>Close to two local wildlife sites</b></p>	<p>The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is in close proximity to two Local Wildlife Sites The recommendation in the SFRA is ‘consider withdrawal’.</p>	<p>Yes Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment</p>		<p><b>Not achievable</b></p>

	<b>Not suitable not available</b>		Performs 'relatively strongly' against functions of greenbelt			
SHLAA Ref: SBC111 H3.65 / BC20 2.0 ha Land west of Boldon Cemetery 54 houses	<b>No flood risk relative to criteria</b>  BC20 is not listed in the SFRA  <b>Available</b>  <b>Suitable</b>		The site is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location. The site performs relatively strongly with regard to Green Belt. Development would have an adverse impact/some mitigation is feasible. Impacts on biodiversity and heritage assets can be mitigated through design and environmental enhancements. It is within 400m of a public transport network and within 800m of Boldon Colliery District Centre and is within a reasonable distance of healthcare facilities.  <b>EBNF Disagrees:</b> Site is on the magnesian limestone escarpment of Downhill and close to Turners Hill magnesian limestone grassland LWS. EBNF would like to see the area managed and returned to magnesian limestone grassland as described in the Durham BAP.	Development will not have direct or indirect ecological constraints  EBNF does not agree	<b>Could development cause harm to heritage assets?</b> <b>Yes</b>	Achievable in 6 -10 years

<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC115</b>  <b>Land south of the Boldons BC28a 5.7ha</b></p>	<p><b>No flood risk</b></p> <p><b>The land is not assessed as being suitable for development but that the site is available and development is achievable.</b></p>		<p>The site appears in the council’s list of discounted sites in Appendix 2 of the Site Allocations Topic Papers. It is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is situated within the Boldon Downhill Area of High Landscape Value.</p> <p>Council’s Greenbelt Review document states that the green belt performs ‘relatively strongly’ against the 5 functions of green belt</p>	<p>Development will have direct or indirect ecological constraints</p>	<p><b>The council’s paper asks and answers its own question “Could development cause harm to a heritage asset”. The land is part of a wildlife corridor on a natural heritage asset –the High Landscape Value area of Downhill. The council states development will not harm the heritage asset and EBNF disagrees.</b></p> <p><b>The land sits in a wildlife corridor and important carbon sink.</b></p>	<p>Only achievable beyond 15 years</p>
<p><b>SHLAA Ref: SBC117</b>  <b>Land at Boldon Golf Course.</b>  <b>BC31a 5.84ha</b></p>	<p>More than 1% of the site is not within Flood Zone 2</p>		<p>The site appears in the council’s list of discounted sites in Appendix 2 of the Site Allocations Topic Papers. The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is</p>	<p>Would development have direct or indirect ecological</p>	<p><b>The council’s paper asks and answers its own question: “Could development cause harm to</b></p>	<p>Achievable in 6 – 10 years</p>

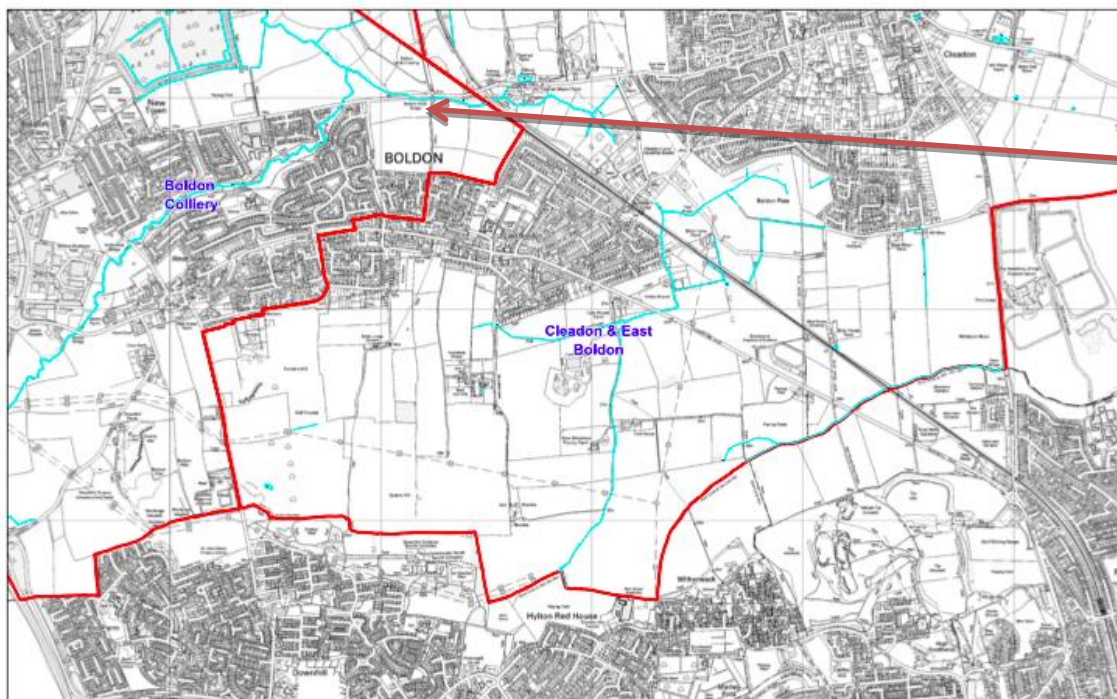


	<p>and/or 3</p> <p>It is assessed as being suitable and development achievable It is not available.</p>		<p>currently used as a golf course.</p> <p>Council’s Greenbelt Review document states that the green belt performs ‘relatively strongly’ against the 5 functions of green belt.</p> <p>EBNF Response:</p> <p><b><u>Nominated as Protected Open Space, POS01 in EBNF NP.</u></b></p> <p>The land sits in a wildlife corridor and important carbon sink. The site takes in Turners Hill an important magnesian limestone grassland habitat and LWS. The Golf Club is listed amongst South Tyneside’s Heritage Assets. It is next door to Boldon Cemetery –literally beside the grave yard boundary which contains Commonwealth War Graves and former members of our community. The cemetery is a South Tyneside Heritage asset.</p> <p>It is also very close to the Saxon site of St Nicholas Church and located on the magnesian limestone Downhill area of High Landscape Value.</p>	<p>constraints?</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p><b>a heritage asset”. The land is part of a wildlife corridor on a natural heritage asset –the High Landscape Value area of Downhill. The council states development will not harm the heritage asset and EBNF disagrees.</b></p>	
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## EBNF Sites

Land at North Farm SHLAAREF: SBC003, SLR Ref 25a and b. Area =22.38 ha, 588

houses

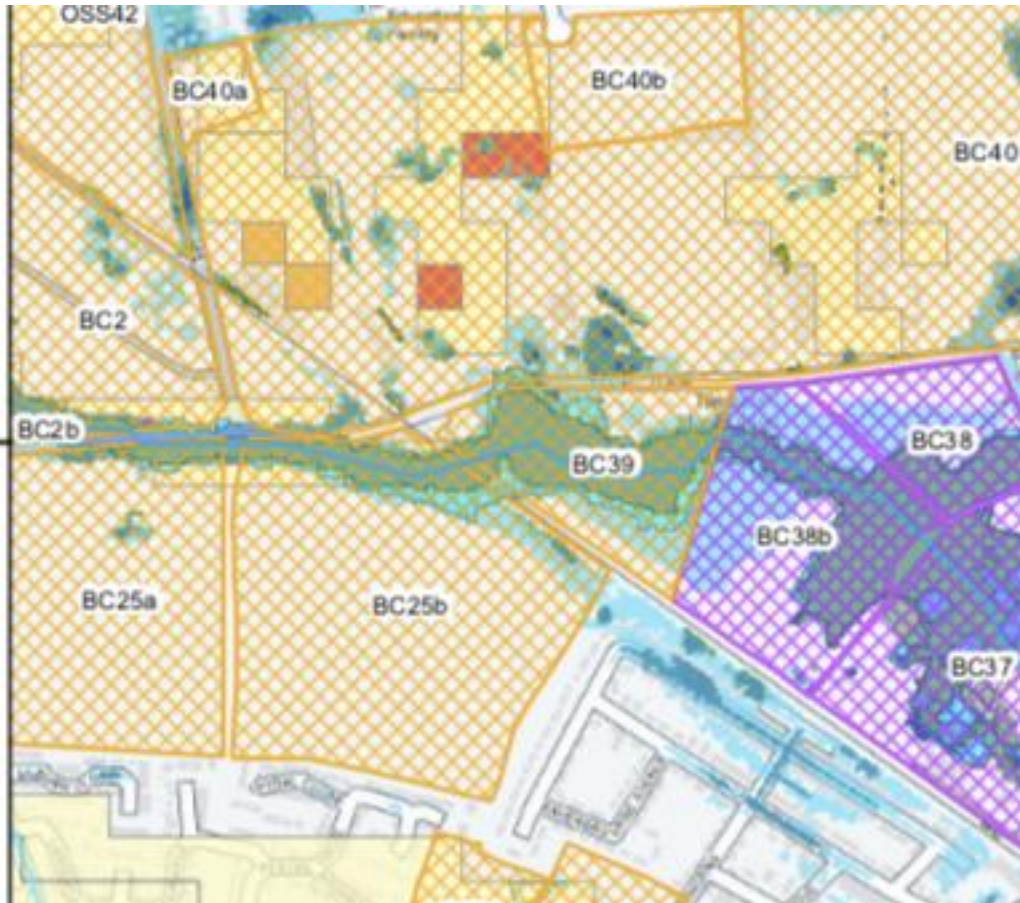


The two fields are separated by a bridleway  
A tributary of the River Don flows through the northern boundary of each field.  
More than 1% of the site is in flood zone 2 or 3

A local wildlife corridor covers the northern part of the eastern field.

EBNF has assessed the site as Local Green Space

The site has been well used by dog walkers for more than 20 years and there are well established dog walking routes which have been mapped



Flood Assessments 2017s7129\_-  
 \_STC\_Development\_Site\_Assessment\_  
 v7.0

Coded red and Flood risk 3b –the  
 highest risk on the excel spreadsheet

It is worth noting that, of the two fields  
 that comprise the site now described as  
 H3.59, BC 25a –the western field is the  
 drier of the two. Tiled Burn actually  
 surfaces in the northeast corner of field  
 BS25b. It is marshy. Rushes grow  
 here and amphibians are found in this  
 field, which has completely re-wilded.

**EBNF Response:**

This site is currently within the Green Belt. The development of the site will reduce the gap, in terms of distance, between Boldon and South Shields still further and would increase pressure on the remainder of the Green Belt in this area. The open space and separation along Boker Lane will be lost, effectively merging East and West Boldon.

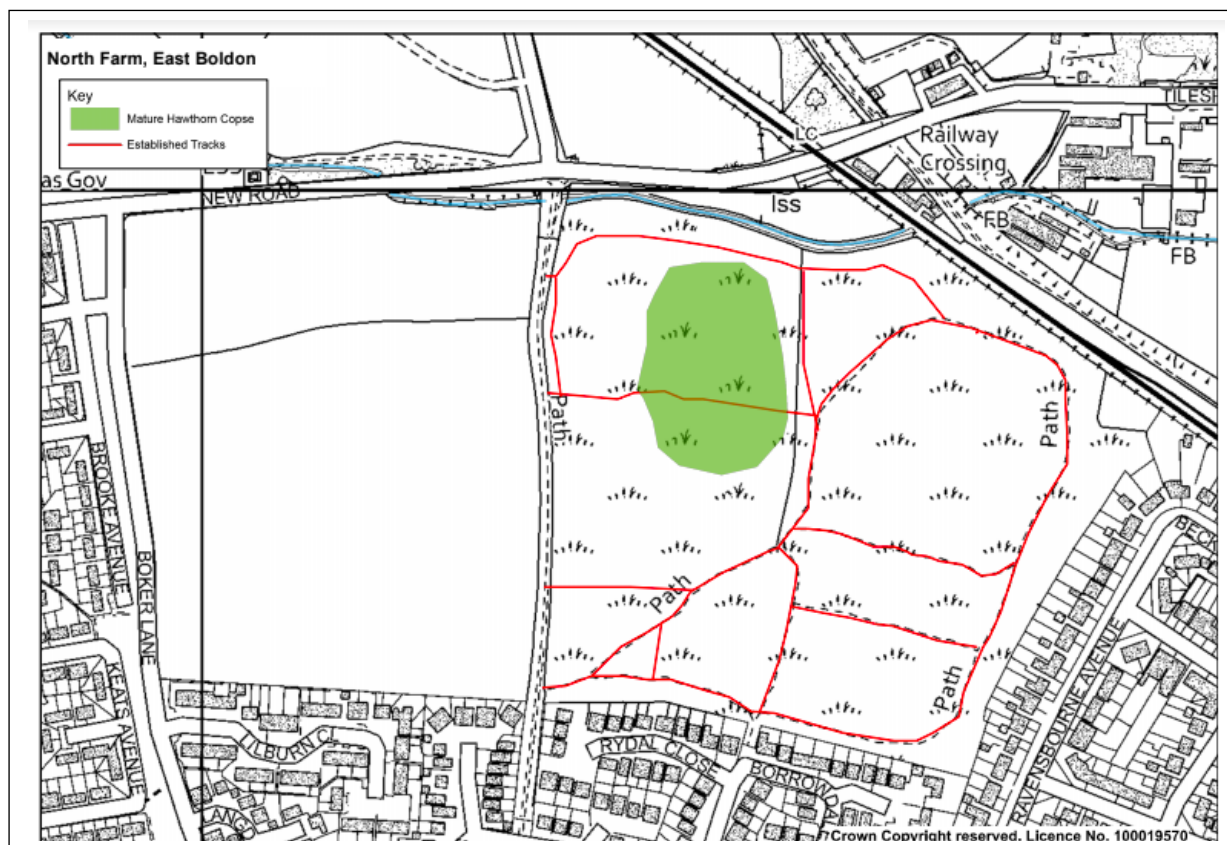
## SHLAA August 2019 states:

The site 'performs moderately' according to the greenbelt review. The site is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location. Development would have a moderate impact on the Green Belt, which could be mitigated. Flood Risk issues and impacts upon biodiversity can be mitigated through design and environmental enhancements. It is in close proximity to numerous public transport links and is less than 1km from East Boldon Metro station and Station Road Local Centre with shops and services.

## EBNF Response:

Securing sustainability by protecting greenbelt could help to protect wildlife habitats and corridors within the Green Belt. EBNF believes that this is the best approach to adopt in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve our carbon footprint and sustainability. The North Farm site is actually two fields separated by a bridgeway and footpath. In the final Strategic Land Review 2016, the two fields were identified as separate sites. We consider that they have very different characteristics, one being arable, and one re-wilded. Species found on site include:

1. Short eared owl (P)
2. Male Sparrow Hawk
3. Female Sparrow Hawk (P)  
often in our garden with its prey.
4. Kestrels
5. Jay Birds
6. Greater spotted Woodpeckers (P)
7. Magpies
8. Pheasants (P)
9. Blackbirds
10. Song Thrushes
11. Tree and house sparrows
12. Blue, grey and long tailed tits
13. Starlings
14. Wood and ordinary pigeons
15. Swifts, swallows and bats –  
(These thrive on the food in the  
"dense undergrowth" mentioned above)
16. Dunnock's (hedge sparrow –  
very old hedges line the site)
17. Robins
18. Bull and Goldfinches



19. Crows and Jackdaws
20. Goldcrest
21. Fieldfare
22. Mistlethrush
23. Smooth and palmate newts
24. Foxes
25. Hedgehogs
26. Rabbits
27. Grey squirrels

We therefore feel that the two fields should be considered in the draft LP as two separate entities with each site requiring individual assessment.

Tileded Burn runs through the north of the eastern field and along the boundary of the western field.

STC has identified Tileded Burn as a wildlife corridor (Policies Map). This should be retained.

H3.59 states that a buffer between the water course and residential development should be at least 8 metres. EBNF considers this is wholly inadequate and should be at least 50 metres, as was applied at the IAMP site.

Flooding issues have been identified on this site.

#### **The Policy should include the creation of a wetland area adjacent to Tileded Burn.**

**Green Belt Review Stage 2, Annex 2** supports this by stating “A significant landscape buffer should be introduced between any new development and the SSSI to the north in order to continue to support biodiversity”

The landscape buffer around the perimeter of the sites should be significantly wider, particularly alongside the existing bridleway and abutting Boker Lane.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan assess the site as “red”- a site that can only come forward once identified transport infrastructure is implemented. In contrast the Green Belt Stage 3 Assessment states that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan has not identified any constraints that would prevent its development.

Inset Map 3 shows three preferred access points.

EBNF consider all three points unacceptable in their current form and two of them may change if the Boldon and Tilededs Crossings are closed and replaced by a bridge.

The increased traffic generation from 588 new homes would have a major impact on the community and highway infrastructure.

**In the Site-Specific Sustainability Appraisal, the site scores negatively against climate change, biodiversity and green belt objectives. Overall it is considered to have a NEGATIVE impact. EBNF does not understand why it is being proposed for development. The forum**

has nominated an area of land to the south of Tiledshed Lane and New Road as Local Green Space LGS09. See Policies Map and LGS/ POS background paper

### Land to the south of Tiledshed Lane, East Boldon

SHLAA ref: SBC093, BC39, 4.61 ha



#### ***Screenshot of FLOOD MAP 2 2017s7129\_STC\_SFRA\_Detailed\_Map\_11***

SHLAA: The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is in close proximity to two Local Wildlife Sites. The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal'. Performs 'relatively strongly' against functions of greenbelt and close to two local wildlife sites. Not suitable not available. Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment. **No risk of flooding.** SFRA says consider withdrawal as stated, 42% in Flood Zone 3b

**EBNF Response: BC 39 is across the railway track to the north eastern corner of land at North Farm. It is given a completely different ecological assessment to BC 3.59 (BC25b) even though conditions in both parcels of land are similar. BC25 has been rewilded for over 20 years and is species rich. EBNF cannot understand why the differing ecological assessments have happened. EBNF believes that the original designation of the North Farm site as 2 sites was a better, fairer description of this large area of greenbelt land.**

**Re-wilding strips** are evident on combined Local Authority plans for the IAMP to a width of 50 metres. Inside site H3.59, a tributary of the River Don; Tiledshed Burn flows through this site. Associated with the site are frogs, toads, smooth and palmate newts and various water birds including grey heron.

At this site, the draft Plan specifies an 8-metre wildlife strip associated with Tiledshed Burn.

### Conclusion

EBNF believes that an 8-metre wildlife strip seems a low allocation bearing in mind the commitment in the Local Plan to **safeguard, protect and enhance existing green infrastructure networks. The strip should be extended to 50 meters.**

Local people are very well aware of the natural treasures they have on their doorstep in EBNF area (see section 2 Natural Assets). We have gathered evidence from community consultations, which have been happening for several years; evidence gathering for our Neighbourhood Plan.

- We are required to consult with our Forum members and local residents. As a result, we have discovered a great deal of new information about our Neighbourhood Forum Area.
- More dialogue would be welcome between Forum representatives and the authors of the Local Plan.

Once our natural treasures are destroyed, they will not return. The sense of urgency engendered by catastrophic loss is the engine that drives the Climate Emergency movement.

EBNF's views and our community's responses are clearly in line with the government's 'Green Future' 25 Year Environment Plan to protect and enhance the environment. We are the 'stake holders' they talk about and wish to be part of their 'Nature Recovery Network'. Therefore, EBNF urges STC to take heed of the clear and present danger of eroding our green belt and spaces and take note of the following... '**People in greener surroundings have longer and healthier lives. Green infrastructure brings wider benefits, including sequestering carbon, absorbing noise, cleansing pollutants, absorbing surface water and reducing high temperatures.**' (p79 DEFRA 2018, revised 2019 Green Future White Paper <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>)

**We believe that H3.59 (BC25b) should be subject to a detailed site assessment to identify the wildlife and biodiversity value in advance of any proposed allocation within the Local Plan.**

**In the meantime, EBNF has designated an area of Land South of New Road and Tiledshed Lane as Local Green Space LGS09 in the NP.**

### Grange Park; SHLAA Ref SBC 005

SHLAA: Not achievable **EBNF Response:** We agree with the LA assessment of this site. The space is vital to our community and EBNF has nominated Grange Park as Local Green Space which, if approved will give it protection equivalent to greenbelt status.

Nominated as Local Green Space **LGS01** in East Boldon Forum Neighbourhood Plan

**Land at South Lane and West of Belle Vue Lane: SHLAA Ref; SBC006. SLR Ref BC27/28b. 16.04 ha SHLAA: Achievable beyond 15 years e.g if ever a bypass were to be built this land could be opened up.**

Image is Black Plantation taken from the north, facing south.



**EBNF Response:**

BC28b as well BC27. In the SFRA BC28b is a significant surface water risk and consider for withdrawal. (see map below)  
Although not named in the text of South Tyneside draft Local Plan August 2019, EBNF believes this area to be part of an important wildlife corridor and carbon sink.





**[Land South of South Lane: SHLAA Ref: SB007, BC27 3.1 ha](#)**

**EBNF: See map above.**

The site poses a significant flood risk and is an area of High Landscape Value and an important wildlife corridor and carbon sink. For these reasons, EBNF believes this site should be withdrawn.

**[Land between Hylton Lane and East Boldon – Sunderland Metro Line](#)**

**[SHLAA Ref SBC008 241.86ha](#)**

**EBNF Response:** We agree that development would lead to the loss of Green Belt and an Area of High Landscape Value and valuable carbon sink. Agree that development is not achievable.

### Land East of Glencourse

SHLAA Ref SBC009 BC34a, 0.69ha, BC34a (31 Houses)



**EBNF Response:**Currently allocated as open space. Nominated as Local Green Space **LGS02** in EBNF Neighbourhood Plan.

Development would lead to the loss of recreational open space. The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal based on significant surface water flood risk.'

### Cleadon Lane Industrial Estate

SHLAA Ref SBC010, BC37, 7.8 ha. 138 houses, 423 Jobs



**EBNF Response:** Inconsistency between Site Allocations Paper and SFRA - more than 1% of this site is shown in Flood Zone 3b. Tileded Burn is culverted on the site.

**One suggestion coming from the Draft Local Plan August 2019 was that the burn could be opened up and areas of the development returned to nature. EBNF is in favour of green solutions such as this proposal for RG5**

LA Site allocations paper states that this is a key regeneration site, which is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location. Flood Risk issues and impacts upon biodiversity can be mitigated through design and environmental enhancements. It is within 400m of a public transport network and a local centre and within close proximity to existing health care facilities.

EBNF supports development of some housing on Cleadon Lane Industrial Estate, should the need arise, in order to prevent development on Green Belt land.

Para 4.32 of the Council's draft LP states "The use of suitable brownfield sites within the built-up areas should always be given priority over less sustainable greenfield sites."

With reference to para 4.33 of the draft Local Plan, which acknowledges that new brownfield sites will come forward over the Plan period, these sites should be developed in preference to green belt sites.

In relation to para 4.33, if it is anticipated that brownfield sites will come forward over the lifetime of the Local Plan, how can this information be used to mitigate the use and change of designation of the current green belt sites identified for potential development in the draft Local Plan?

What methods are the Council using to facilitate the delivery of Brownfield sites?

The Local Plan should prioritise development on Brownfield sites in preference to Green Belt.

However, the Brownfield land register on the Councils website does not form part of the local plan evidence library.

It is also out of date, last being updated in 2016. If the Council is to effectively encourage the use of Brownfield sites, it is essential that these documents are current, accurate and positive.

## East Boldon Junior School and Nursery

SHLAA Ref: SBC011, BC62, 2.3ha, 69 houses.

**EBNF Response:** Nominated by EBNF as Protected Open Space in Neighbourhood Plan, **POS05**. Our local schools are in the heart of our community, close to the East Boldon conservation area (The Infants School is in the conservation area) and are the beating heart of our community. EBNF works closely with the school, delivering lessons with year 6, whole school assemblies and community competitions including RSPB Garden Birdwatch. The school has helped us stage our community consultations as shown in the photograph below.

The SHLAA considers this site to be suitable for development but not achievable. In our community consultations the feedback we receive is uniformly against development of this site.



## Land to East of Cleadon Lane Industrial Estate

### SHLAA Ref SBC077, BC41 5.45ha

LA Assessment found that development would have a direct negative impact on ecosystems and that development is not achievable.



[Land at Green Lane, east of Mundles Lane, East Boldon](#)

[SHLAA Ref SBC080, BC28c, 8.61ha](#)



**EBNF Response:** This land is currently greenbelt and as such serves an important function in separation of East Boldon from surrounding development to the east and south. Like much of the surrounding greenbelt it is an important wildlife corridor and carbon sink. The SHLAA states that less than 1% is in flood zone 2 or 3 but the SFRA shows significant surface water risk and therefore the site should be considered for withdrawal.

## Land at Green Lane East of Mundles Lane

SHLAA Ref: SBC081, BC28d, 3.43 ha



**EBNF Response:** Assessment found development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems.

EBNF disagrees

Mundles Farm has a BASE UK farmer who is causing a big increase in BIODIVERSITY on and around the site.



## Mundles Farm and Good Practice Shown by Farmer Peter Alderslade

Peter Alderslade is a world champion ploughman. He lectures and demonstrates his innovative methods all over the world. His most recent visit abroad was to Russia in 2018. He attended our third public consultation at East Boldon Junior School on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 and explained how his 'Direct Drilling' technique – rather than traditional ploughing and furrowing- was causing 'an explosion in biodiversity' on his farmland. He mentioned flocks of lapwings, redshanks, skylarks amongst other birds. He also had a video clip of a little owl, which has made its home in one of the dry-stone walls on his farm. He agrees that East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum area is:

- a) Unusually rich in biodiversity which could be in the balance should there be insensitive changes to the greenbelt.
- b) The farming community operating in the Forum area is developing globally ground-breaking farming techniques and is active in its endeavours to promote nature and biodiversity in all its forms. Peter is a leader in this field and is personally developing new techniques as a board member of BASE UK <https://base-uk.co.uk>
- c) Given that the above is happening, EBNF hope that our council leaders and those involved in developing the Local Plan in South Tyneside take account the work of ecologically eye-catchingly successful practitioners working in the Forum area and support this work.
- d) The East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum area is "*full of potential for wildlife and is perfectly positioned to become the blueprint for an urban fringe village where both wildlife and people flourish.*" [The italicised text comes from the Durham Wildlife Trust's endorsement of East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum]
- e) A large area of greenbelt to the south and west of East Boldon Forum is now being developed for use as part of the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP), which will hopefully bring economic stimulus and employment opportunities to the area. However, any incursion into the greenbelt puts pressure on other parts of the greenbelt. As part of the mitigation measures, we would like the extraordinarily diverse greenbelt in the East Boldon Forum area to be left undisturbed and continue to be managed with sensitivity to the delicate balance of our ecological systems.

**Land West of Bridle Path West Boldon**  
**SHLAA Ref: SBC082, BC28e, 3.09ha**

**EBNF Response:** The Forum agrees that development of this land is not achievable

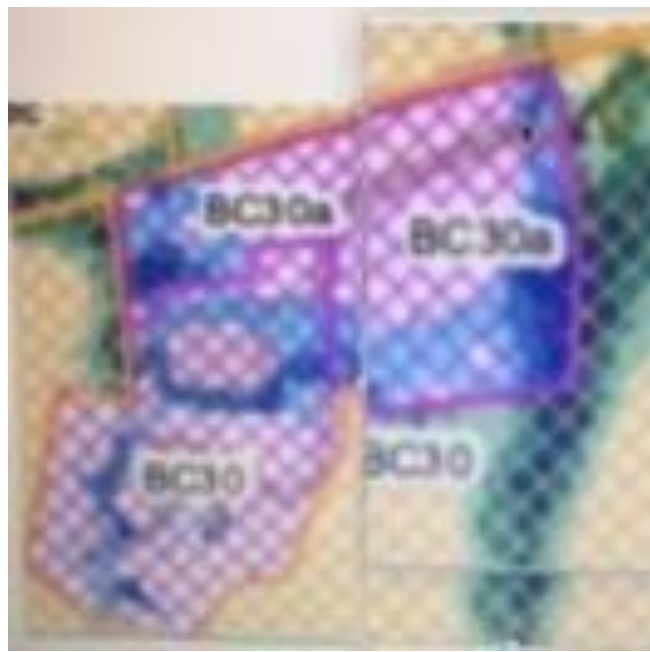


**Land adjacent to Belle Vue Villas, Belle Vue Lane, East Boldon**  
**SHLAA Ref: SBC083, BC29, 0.05ha, 2 house**

**EBNF Response:** The Forum agrees that development of this land is not achievable

**Former MoD Bunkers and Medical Stores, Green Lane, East Boldon**  
**SHLAA Ref: SBCO84, BC30, 7.62ha, 63 houses, 260 jobs**





Flood map showing watercourses under the MoD site. The water course to the east is the same body of water that runs under the SSSI, Boldon Flats. Cutthroat Dene, another watercourse is close by. This land is rich in wildlife and is part of the Southern and Eastern South Tyneside Wildlife Corridor.



Boldon Flats a SSSI -Nationally known as a site to view rare visitors and diverse avian wildlife is metres away from the MoD site in an area marked as South Tyneside eastern wildlife corridor. Flocks of 50 or more geese land on the wet pasture land in this corridor to recuperate on their journey south in winter



This is a screenshot of South Tyneside's Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD3

Figure 10.2 Primary Habitat Networks and Wildlife Corridors

It can be clearly seen that land to the north, south, east and west of the forum area has important wildlife corridors.

## EBNF Response

The site has the ruins of Boldon Anti-Aircraft Supply Depot. As the name suggests it was a strategically placed WWII depot and at times operated as a PoW camp. Sources variously report that it was used also as a balloon depot (TW Site Lines), MoD bunkers and medical stores (South Tyneside Council) and a camp (1950 OS map). In its role as an anti-aircraft ordnance depot it would have been vital in protecting Sunderland from aerial bombardment.

Records of deaths from aerial attacks in the region suggest they were comparatively low. A morbid indicator of the success of the Boldon depot are the reports of several local fatalities caused by enemy aircraft which were shot down crashing into houses and streets.

It was one of two similar sites in the region, the other in Killingworth was sadly demolished to make way for housing.

Although the site is in the Green Belt, it is a disused brownfield site that attracts anti-social behaviour. However, the recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal based on significant surface water flood risk'.

It is also worth noting that in the Council's own Green Infrastructure Strategy document SPD3 February 2013, the site was assessed as follows:

***“The former Ministry of Defence (MoD) bunkers and medical stores site within the Green Belt at East Boldon is also allocated for remediation as a means of enhancing the function and appearance of the Green Belt and the wildlife corridor through this area, and in furthering the aims of the Great North Forest and Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, it is proposed that the land and buildings on this site be reclaimed for nature conservation purposes, such as Magnesian Limestone Grassland Habitats”***

The East Boldon Neighbourhood Forum area has one of a very few sites in the northeast with magnesian limestone grassland with associated flora and fauna. These habitats are being lost nationally. East Boldon Forum area has several such outcrops of this rare parent rock which -if allowed to wild will revert to magnesian limestone grassland. South Tyneside Council showed farsighted instincts for rare habitat and species conservation in 2013.

In the Draft Local Plan 2019, the South Tyneside LA assessment found development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems

#### **EBNF agrees with the South Tyneside LA 2013 SPD3 assessment and disagrees with the 2019 Draft Local Plan assessment**

**EBNF favours re-greening the sites as South Tyneside’s SPD3 Green Infrastructure Strategy document February 2013 recommends. A Public Inquiry held in the 1990’s also favoured this outcome.**

**On the site there is an upwelling of Cutthroat Dene. Nationally rare wildlife has been known to flourish here although the cover that the derelict buildings bring has caused antisocial behaviour resulting in a reduction in wildlife (due to illegal hunting and lamping) on the site. The site currently constitutes a disturbance to the eastern South Tyneside wildlife corridor and repair to the carbon footprint of South Tyneside could be achieved by re-greening the site.**

**A final word: the MoD site was searched alongside a known LWS -Turners Hill on MAGIC maps** (The MAGIC website provides authoritative geographic information about the natural environment from across government. The information covers rural, urban, coastal and marine environments across Great Britain. It is presented in an interactive map which can be explored using various mapping tools that are included. Natural England manages the service under the direction of a Steering Group who represent the [MAGIC partnership organisations](#).)

The search results are below (Turners Hill on Left, MoD on right):

## MAGIC Maps Search for Turners Hill LWS

## MAGIC Maps Search for MoD Site

### Site Check Results

Site Check Report Report generated on Sun Aug 16 2020  
**You selected the location:** Centroid Grid Ref: NZ35656069  
The following features have been found in your search area:

---

**Woodland Priority Habitat Network (England)**

---

<b>Category</b>	Lower Spatial Priority
-----------------	------------------------

---

**Farm Wildlife Package Areas (England)**

---

<b>NCA Name</b>	Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau
<b>NCA Code Number</b>	15
<b>Priority for Countryside Stewardship</b>	High

---

**Water Framework Directive Management Catchments (England)**

---

<b>WFD Management Catchment Name</b>	Tyne
<b>River Basin District Name</b>	Northumbria

---

**Community Forests (England)**

---

<b>Community Forest</b>	Groundwork North East
-------------------------	-----------------------

---

**National Character Area Level Landscape Features (England)**

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OK Cancel Print

### Site Check Results

Site Check Report Report generated on Sun Aug 16 2020  
**You selected the location:** Centroid Grid Ref: NZ37006072  
The following features have been found in your search area:

---

**Woodland Priority Habitat Network (England)**

---

<b>Category</b>	Lower Spatial Priority
-----------------	------------------------

---

**Farm Wildlife Package Areas (England)**

---

<b>NCA Name</b>	Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau
<b>NCA Code Number</b>	15
<b>Priority for Countryside Stewardship</b>	High

---

**Woodland - Water Quality (England)**

---

<b>Category</b>	Lower Spatial Priority
-----------------	------------------------

---

<b>Category</b>	Lower Spatial Priority
-----------------	------------------------

---

**Water Framework Directive Management Catchments (England)**

---

<b>WFD Management Catchment Name</b>	Tyne
<b>River Basin District Name</b>	Northumbria

---

OK Cancel Print

Both sites are regarded as a HIGH PRIORITY FOR COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP.

## Locally Important Sites

General Observation:

### Page 137 Local Plan: Wildlife Corridors:

**We note that the Boldon Greenbelt is not named in the text of the draft LP as a wildlife corridor. We have a lot of evidence (including film) to support its status as a wildlife corridor.**

**The following sites are regarded in the Local Plan as Wildlife Corridors:**

South Pier to Trow Point; Trow Point to Whitburn Steel; Cleadon North Farm to Cleadon Hill; Cleadon Lane to Marsden; River Tyne; Bede's World to River Tyne; West Fellgate Farm to River Don; Boldon Fellgate Farm to River Don; Boldon North Bridge to Bede's World.

**EBNF Response:**We challenge the omission of the Boldon greenbelt land from the list and request that it is added to this list.

**While two wildlife corridors in the EBNF area are shown on the map which accompanies the draft LP, they are not explicitly mentioned in Table 3.**

**The Boldon greenbelt is part of the greenbelt swathe separating South Tyneside from Sunderland and Gateshead to the south of the Tyne and merits inclusion in the list.**

### Low House Farm, Green Lane/ Sunderland Road, East Boldon

SHLAA Ref: SBC085, BC31b, 38houses

Not achievable



EBNF Comment: 15% of the site is in Flood Zone 3b, hence recommendation is 'consider withdrawal'



[Land north west of Sunderland Greyhound Stadium](#)

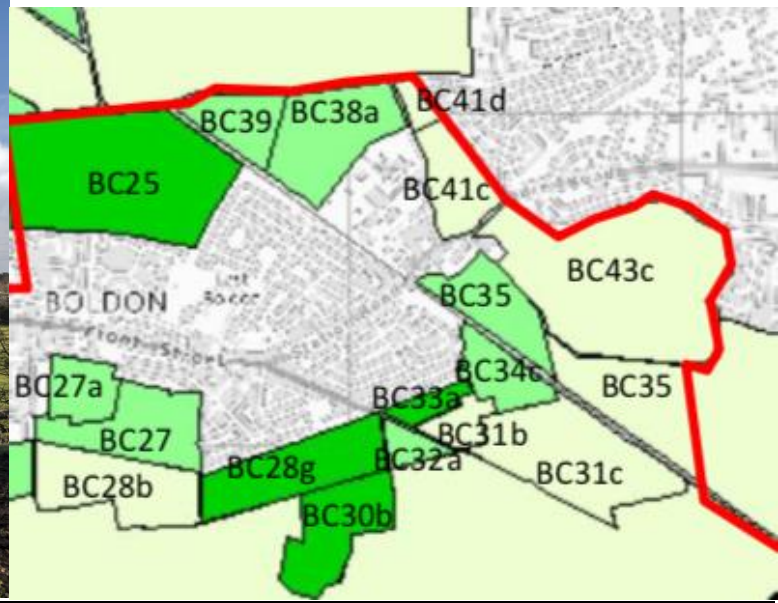
[SBC086, BC31c 13ha](#)

Not achievable

[Land South of St John's Terrace and Natley Avenue](#)

[SHLAA Ref: SBC087, H3.61, BC33a, 63 houses](#)

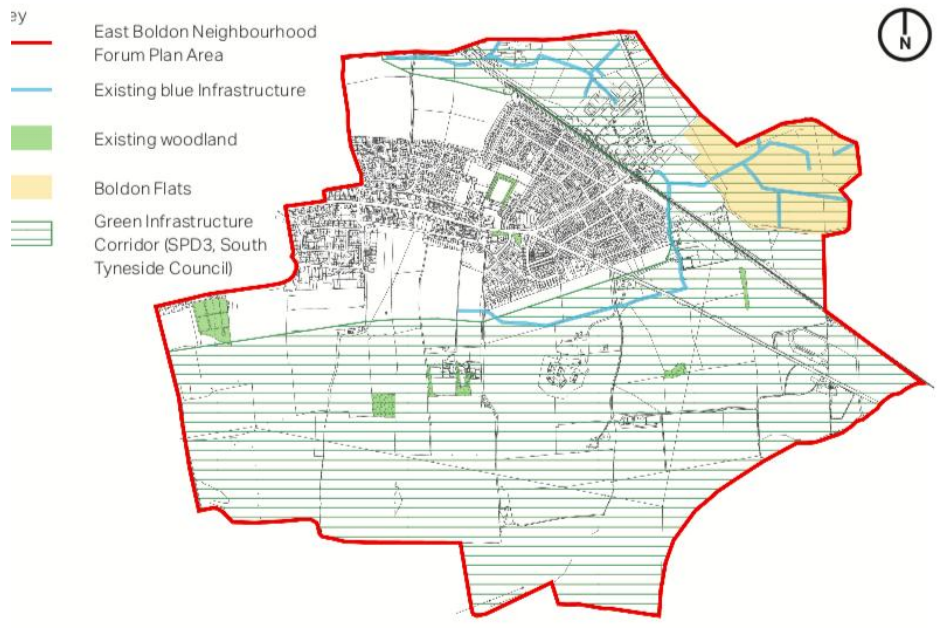




**Site Assessment:** The site is considered to be an achievable site in 6 – 10 years, within an accessible and sustainable location. Development would have a moderate impact on the Green Belt which could be mitigated. It is in close proximity to numerous public transport links including East Boldon Metro station. Its development would support the continued vitality and viability of the Station Road Local Centre.

The land ‘performs moderately’ against the functions of greenbelt according to the Greenbelt Review.

**EBNF Response:**EBNF believes that development to the east of the forum boundary has reached its eastern limit. The map clearly shows that the current settlement boundary is in this position because the body of water that underlies the Boldon Flats wetland runs to the east and south of the settlement, encircling housing development.



The diagram on the left shows, the settlement boundary was originally determined by physical features; the watercourses that encircle the development. Tiledshed Burn, a tributary on the River Don forms the northern boundary and water courses running under the Flats and to the south and east of the development form the southern and eastern boundaries.



H3.61 (BC33a) site lies directly above the same body of water that supplies Boldon Flats and the area is therefore prone to flooding. It is on the South Tyneside Excel Spread sheet in flood zone 3b (highest risk) The area is damp and is a location where animals moving to and from the flats are able to rest and reconnect. The Flats are metres away, across the railway line. It is part of the SSSI wildlife corridor. It has the highest rating for potential flooding on the 2017 South Tyneside Site Assessment (Excel spread sheet; Flood Assessment 2017s7129 v7.0)

In 1998 the inspector turned down a development proposal for this site because ‘the site is beyond the built-up limit of East Boldon and that the cricket club and associated buildings are appropriate structures which coincide with the purpose of the Green Belt.’

Sunderland and Boldon are at risk of becoming a single urban development unless incursions such as these into the greenbelt are re-considered.

### Land south east of Natley Avenue

SHLAA Ref: SBC088, 1.88ha, BC33b, 44 houses (Not achievable)

BC33b SFRA says consider withdrawal, 29% in Flood Zone 3b.

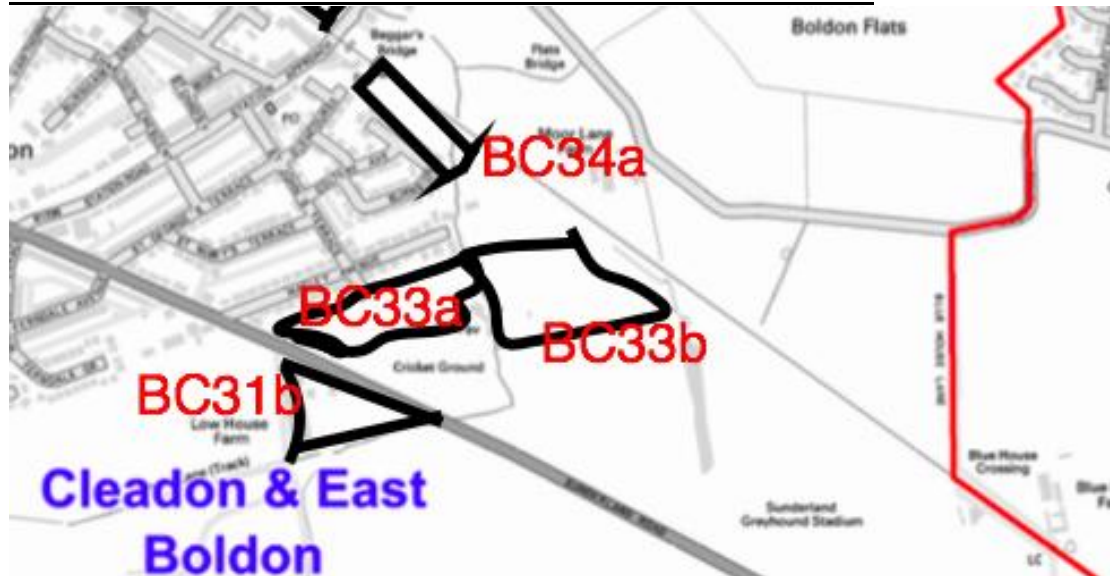
SHLAA states: The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is within 50m of Low House Copse local wildlife site (and 50m of Boldon Flats). **Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment**

The recommendation in the SFRA is ‘considerwithdrawal’.

## EBNF Response:



Flocks of geese and other migratory birds land here in the winter to feed rest and reconnect. It is part of the South Tyneside eastern wildlife corridor.



The site 33b is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is within 50m of Low House Copse local

wildlife site (and 50m of Boldon Flats). **Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment**

The recommendation in the SFRA is 'considerwithdrawal'.

**EBNF considers that all of these eastern sites pose a risk of flooding and of ecological harm because they constitute a cluster of developments all within yards of Low House Copse and Boldon Flats. There is a reason that there has been no building to the east for over 100 years and until now, the Local Authority has never even considered development because of the harm that would arise.**

**Land north east of Moor Lane/ Station Approach, East Boldon**  
**SHLAA Ref; SBC089, BC36a, Sandpiper View, 0.52 ha, 23 houses (18 houses underconstruction)**



**EBNF Response:** This land is very close to the SSSI and was previously the site of a construction company so the building was occupied during work hours and weekdays only. Therefore, the risk of predatory domestic animals and incursions onto the SSSI by people was minimal. Permission to build 18 houses was given with a condition requiring the construction of an information board outlining the importance of Boldon Flats LWS and detailing local green infrastructure. Providing information to educate local residents on the importance of Boldon Flats LWS and local green infrastructure and installing 3 bat boxes and 3 bird boxes. A planning obligation was also agreed with the applicant to provide mitigation measures under the Habitat Regulations assessment as follows: the provision of a house pack for the future occupiers of the

development providing information on Natura 2000 sites in the local area, the provision and maintenance of dog waste bins off-site on locally promoted routes, and the provision and maintenance of an information board to be erected at a seafront parking area to highlight the importance of the designated wildlife sites.

Forum members with planning, housing inspection and architectural background were somewhat dissatisfied by the consultation process which led to the design of this development. There was little meaningful consultation and changes were submitted but rejected prior to the plans being accepted. This was before EBNF became a fully constituted body so that may account for the lack of influence we then had over the planning consultation process. However, it set alarm bells ringing over the Forum's powers to influence future development. Since then, discussions with planning officers have taken place and assurances have been given that there will be greater consultation on future projects between the Planning Department and EBNF.

### [Land south of Moor Lane and Station Approach \(Mayfower Glass\)](#)

[SHLAA Ref: SBC090, BC36b, 26 houses](#)



[SHLAA:](#) The site is currently in use and is adjacent to the Boldon Flats local wildlife site. Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment. Achievable in 10 -15 years.

## EBNF Response



The Boldon Flats site is clearly coming under increased pressure of development. This sort of pressure will take its toll on the species living on and visiting the site. With increased numbers of people, incursions onto the flats, littering, cats, dogs, the flats could be at risk and with it, the eastern green wildlife corridor to South Tyneside. It is important to note that there are 4 local wildlife sites nearby;

Boldon Flats SSSI, Low House Copse (a trampled badger cub was photographed in the field opposite Boldon Flats by local naturalist, Peter Collins in May 2020), Tilesheds Nature Reserve and Turners Hill on Boldon Golf Club.

EBNF requests that Section 106 money for EBNF developments of this sort is used in the forum area and especially on the Flats and other wetland sites in the area. We would appreciate supervisors, conservation staff, viewing hides, identification boards, counter destruction and vandalism measures. It is a nationally significant site and if the forum area and South Tyneside is to seriously make headway with climate change targets, priority habitats such as this should be accorded maximum conservation measures.



[Land to the north and west of Cleadon Lane Industrial Estate, Cleadon Lane](#)  
[SHLAA Ref: SBC092, BC38b, 6.37ha](#)



[Screenshot of 38b on Flood Map 3 2017s7129 STC SFRA Detailed Map 12](#)

**SHLAA:** No flood risk but SFRA says consider withdrawal as stated. 32% is in Flood Zone 3b

The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal'. It is a local wildlife site and as the picture shows has medieval rigg and furrow cultivation patterns in the field.

Not achievable

**EBNF requests withdrawal of site.**

[Land West of Boldon Cemetery](#)  
[SHLAA Ref: SBC111, BC20, H3.65, 54 houses](#)

**SHLAA Assessments:** The site is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location. The site performs relatively strongly with regard to Green Belt. Development would have an adverse impact/some mitigation is feasible. Impacts on biodiversity and

heritage assets can be mitigated through design and environmental enhancements. It is within 400m of a public transport network and within 800m of Boldon Colliery District Centre and is within a reasonable distance of healthcare facilities.

Assessment finds that development of the site will not cause direct or indirect ecological constraints.

Assessment finds that damage to heritage assets could be caused by development.

SFRA: BC20 is not listed but assessment states there is no flood risk.

### **EBNF Response:**

To the west of the cemetery, H3.65 is close to **Turner's Hill Local Wildlife Site on Boldon Golf Club**. The site was designated because of the rare and threatened magnesian limestone grassland habitat and species the habitat supports on the 0.3ha site. Such species are extremely rare in the northeast and nationally. Somewhat alarmingly the site extends in a north-south direction towards Sunderland. Up to this point no such development has been permitted because it narrows the gap between South Tyneside and Sunderland. The parent rock is rare nationally and if managed correctly would revert to magnesian limestone grassland which is a national priority habitat.

Often called Dolomite the parent rock in this location was originally formed in the shallow tropical Zechstein sea during the Permian period some 225 million years ago, and now outcrops in only a few places in the country. The limestone weathers to form thin, lime-rich soils, the specific composition of which allows the growth of unique wildflower meadows native to the North East. Magnesian limestone grassland is included within the Lowland Calcareous Grasslands **national BAP priority habitats**. It is found in a narrow band between Nottingham and the coast of County Durham. There are approximately 180,600 hectares of land underlain by Magnesian limestone in the United Kingdom, divided into two distinct Natural Areas; the Durham Magnesian Limestone Natural Area, with 44,200 ha and the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area with 136,400 ha. However, 90 per cent of this land is covered by drift deposits leaving only 13,640 ha on which vegetation influenced by the parent rock can develop, most of this is on steep slopes and supports woodland.

Typically, such limestone grassland areas support scarce plant species, including blue moor grass, small scabious, rock-rose and dark red helleborine to name but a few. Insects abound with many unusual species present.

**The North East England Nature Partnership is currently engaged in a 'Grassland Action Plan' to enhance the quality of magnesian limestone grassland in order to encourage greater species diversity where these outcrops occur. EBNF favours South Tyneside's participation in the plan at this site.**

This is a strategic site at the entrance to West Boldon from the south.

It is an area of high landscape value, and falls within a green infrastructure corridor.



This Green Belt site is in a prominent position, with rising contours towards Boldon Hill, and overlooks a large Green Belt expanse to the west. The site is very close to Heritage Assets contained in the West Boldon Conservation Area, including the recently sympathetically redeveloped Hall Green Farm site. Development of this site will further erode the Green Belt.

The 7<sup>th</sup> century site of St Nicholas Church (the current building dates back to the year 900AD) on Boldon Bank is a matter of yards away from the site and narrow single carriageway roads are the only conduits for traffic travelling between our major towns and cities at the site.

**Access to the site would create road safety issues – any junction with Hylton Lane would be relatively close to the Dipe Lane junction, and speeding traffic from the blind hill on Hylton Lane would worsen the situation. Increased traffic generation would impact on the community.**

**The Site-Specific Sustainability Appraisal notes that this site could have a negative impact due to loss of green belt and impact upon the landscape. Overall it is considered to have a NEGATIVE effect against the sustainability appraisal.**

### Land south of the Boldons

SHLAA Ref: SBC115, BC28a, 5.7ha

### EBNF Response:

**The land is not assessed as being suitable for development but that the site is available and development is achievable. No flood risk.**

The site appears in the council's list of discounted sites in Appendix 2 of the Site Allocations Topic Papers. It is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is situated within the Boldon Downhill Area of High Landscape Value.

Development will have direct or indirect ecological consequences.

Council's Greenbelt Review document states that the green belt performs 'relatively strongly' against the 5 functions of green belt

**The land sits in a wildlife corridor and important carbon sink. The council's paper asks and answers its own question "Could development cause harm to a heritage asset". The land is part of a wildlife corridor on a natural heritage asset –the High Landscape Value area of Downhill.**

**The council states development will not harm the heritage asset and EBNF disagrees.**

**Since the site is in the Council's own list of discounted sites, EBNF requests withdrawal of the site.**

## SBC117 Land at Boldon Golf Course. SHLAA Ref SBC117, BC31a, 5.84ha

More than 1% of the site is not within Flood Zone 2 and/or 3. It is assessed as being suitable for development and achievable and available. The site appears in the council's list of discounted sites in Appendix 2 of the Site Allocations Topic Papers. The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is currently used as a golf course.

Council's Greenbelt Review document states that the green belt performs 'relatively strongly' against the 5 functions of green belt

### EBNF Response:

The Golf Course is nominated as Protected Open Space. **POS01** in EBNF Neighbourhood Plan.

As well as the land being an important wildlife corridor and carbon sink, this site is very close to **Turners Hill Local Wildlife Site**. The site is rare in the northeast and nationally. The parent rock underlying the area is 225-million-year-old Permian magnesian limestone which gives rise to a unique type of flora and fauna; magnesian limestone grassland. Nationally, this type of grassland is a priority habitat. A list of species of plants associated with the site is found in Appendix IIIb to this document. The plants attract equally rare invertebrate species to the site.

### National Status

Magnesian limestone grassland is included within the Lowland Calcareous Grasslands **national BAP priority habitats**. Magnesian limestone is found in a narrow band between Nottingham and the coast of County Durham. There are approximately 180,600 hectares of land underlain by Magnesian limestone in the United Kingdom, divided into two distinct Natural Areas; the Durham Magnesian Limestone Natural Area, with 44,200 ha and the Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area with 136,400 ha. However, 90 per cent of this land is covered by drift deposits leaving only 13,640 ha on which vegetation influenced by the parent rock can develop, most of this is on steep slopes and supports woodland.

The site is very close to the Saxon site of St Nicholas Church and located on the magnesian limestone **Downhill Area of High Landscape Value**.

The Golf Club is listed amongst South Tyneside's Heritage Assets. It is next door to Boldon Cemetery, nominated as **POS04** in the EBNF Neighbourhood Plan. The site abuts the grave yard boundary which contains 26 Commonwealth War Graves and former members of our community. The cemetery is listed as a South Tyneside Heritage asset.

### **EBNF Requests withdrawal of the site.**

## EBNF Natural Environment Conclusions

1. The special status of the East Boldon natural environment including the abundant and rare biodiversity found in the forum area has long been recognised by South Tyneside Council (application to the Secretary of State for SSSI status, Boldon Flats and pastures, April 1987) and by nature organisations locally and nationally (endorsement from Durham Wildlife Trust). See also section 2, page 9 EBNF Natural Assets.
2. In the S.T Draft Local Plan (August 2019), South Tyneside Council brought forward potential sites for development in its Site Allocations Topic Paper Appendix 1 (Potential Sites Selected for Housing Allocation) and Appendix 2 (Potential Sites Discounted for Housing Allocation)

### **Key Findings:**

- a. It is not always possible to ascertain the methods used to arrive at the assessments associated with the parcels of land.
- b. Some sites are found to be 'suitable and available' for development when more than 1% of the site is in Flood Zone 3 on the Council's own flood map.
- c. The Greenbelt Review uses terms such as 'performs moderately', 'performs strongly' against the functions of greenbelt. There is no indication of the scale used to determine these expressions which causes the terminology to appear arbitrary rather than scientific. EBNF has indicated concerns on the table and in the fuller discussion of forum land parcels which follows the table.

### **3. EBNF requests STC adopts a 6th function of GreenBelt: It acts as a 'CARBON SINK' and mitigates effects of Climate Change.**

The adoption of this definition will require courage from South Tyneside Council leaders. Civic leaders who espouse Green concepts often feel uncertain and miss opportunities to take bold steps. However, the Green agenda is gaining popularity and bold actions are increasingly accepted as common sense. Pioneering actions by South Tyneside Council would show it to be a progressive force for affirmative change during the Climate Emergency. Greenbelt land is a 'fire break' to rising atmospheric carbon levels, currently causing catastrophic changes to sea levels and threatening the existence of major population centres across the world.

4. The housebuilding proposals in the August 2019 South Tyneside Draft Local Plan would put extreme pressure on the biodiversity of the forum area including the southern and eastern wildlife corridor which runs through the forum. Specific concerns include:
  - Uprooting wild, established communities of trees, shrubs including hedges and other plants.
  - Interfering with watercourses and the associated flora and fauna in these wetland ecosystems.  
The settlement boundary of East Boldon Forum was determined by physical factors, namely water courses, two of which encircle housing development to the north, south and east. Development on several of the land parcels identified in the SHLAA will involve interfering with these water courses. Since the water courses are the physical features which cause the ecology of the forum area to be so unusual and diverse, development which attempts to drain or bury the watercourses will add further pressure to the natural environment of the forum area.
  - Development in or very close to important wildlife corridors which are wet and metres from important Local Wildlife Sites will disrupt the corridors and put further pressure on biodiversity in the forum area. Extremely rare species are regularly seen here. Species come from as far afield as Africa and Siberia. Migration patterns for flocks of up to 50 geese seen in winter will be disrupted,
  - Reassurance and an action plan for the SSSI, commensurate with its nationally significant status is needed e.g. how will this special wildlife site flourish and maintain its biodiversity with increasing housing development nearby?
  - Recent research shows that huge changes to land use are linked to viral pandemics. <https://www.virology.ws/2020/08/20/pandemics-and-anthropogenic-environmental-change/>

5. **Wildlife Corridors**. As mentioned in the analysis of land parcels identified in the SHLAA, the map of wildlife corridors shows a clear green route which tracks from the southern greenbelt past the Cutthroat Dene site at the Ministry of Defence buildings, across Sunderland Road, to the east of the settlement and past Boldon Flats SSSI. A second corridor in the forum area follows the path of the River Don and its tributary Tiledsheds Burn at the BC25 North Farm site.



This is a screenshot of South Tyneside's Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD3

Figure 10.2 Primary Habitat Networks and Wildlife Corridors

It can be clearly seen that important wildlife corridors track around and through the Forum area, including the **Boldon Pastures SSSI and Boldon Flats Local Wildlife Site, Low House Copse and Tiledsheds Burn**

#### **EBNF request with reference to August 2019 Draft Local Plan: Wildlife Corridors**

EBNF notes that the Boldon Greenbelt is not named in the text of August 2019 draft Local Plan as a wildlife corridor. While two wildlife corridors in the EBNF area are indicated as dots on the map which accompanies the draft LP, they are not explicitly mentioned in Table 3 accompanying Policy NE2 in the Draft Local Plan.

EBNF challenges the omission of the eastern and southern Boldon greenbelt and wetland surrounding Boldon Flats and requests that the following corridor is named in the Local Authority documents:

**Southern and Eastern South Tyneside greenbelt corridors, which include Boldon Flats SSSI, Low House Copse and Tiledsheds Burn.**

#### **6. Land at North Farm, Site H3.59 Formerly BC25b**

BC 25b is located across the Metro railway track to BC39. Both parcels of land occur in the August 2019 Draft Local Plan and they also appear in the February 2013 Green Infrastructure Strategy (SPD3) Document.

**In the Draft Local Plan, August 2019, BC39 is discounted for development because** "SHLAA: The site is in the Green Belt and the degree of harm arising from its removal would be significant. It is in close proximity to two Local Wildlife Sites The recommendation in the SFRA is 'consider withdrawal'. Performs 'relatively strongly' against functions of greenbelt and close to two local wildlife sites. Not suitable not available. Direct or indirect ecological constraints would be caused by development according to assessment." **The SHLAA says 'No risk of flooding'**. SFRA says consider withdrawal as stated, 42% in Flood Zone 3b

**In the Draft Local Plan, August 2019, BC25b is approved for development as follows:**

“Development would have a moderate impact on the Green Belt, which could be mitigated. Flood Risk issues and impacts upon biodiversity can be mitigated through design and environmental enhancements

“The site is considered to be an achievable site within an accessible and sustainable location.

### Environmental Assessment of BC39 and BC25b in February 2013 Green Infrastructure



**BC25b (\*H3.59 in 2019 local plan) BC39**

BC39 and BC25b are both given the same Biodiversity Value Assessment of 'medium'.

Medium	Sites of substantive wildlife value in the South Tyneside context but below Local Wildlife Site standard. Examples include woodland with native species together with other positive features such as good structure/location, wooded bat foraging areas, wetland, semi-improved permanent grassland (with a wide range of grasses and herbs), early-successional brownfield land	Medium level of representation of Durham Biodiversity Action Plan habitats/species
--------	---	--



## Strategy Document (SPD3):

EBNF believes that H3.59 (BC25b) should be subject to a detailed site assessment to identify the wildlife and biodiversity value in advance of any proposed allocation within the Local Plan. An area of the site has been nominated as LGS09 in the EBNF NP.

### 7. Magnesian Limestone Grassland e.g. Downhill, BC20, H3.65/ SBC 111 + SBC 117, BC31a

<https://neenp.org.uk/natural-environment/durham-priority-habitats/magnesian-limestone-grassland-action-plan/>EBNF does not consider Policy NE5 in the Draft Local Plan provides sufficient protection to this Area of High Landscape Value, particularly given that a rare Local Wildlife Site, **Turners Hill** is within metres of BC20 and BC31a is virtually on top of the LWS. **Turners Hill Local Wildlife Site has 19 recorded rare flowering plants associated with magnesian limestone grassland habitats. Such habitats are disappearing nationally and many nature organisations are working alongside civic authorities to restore such habitats so that the full species range associated with magnesian limestone habitats becomes established.** Magnesian limestone grassland is a Lowland Calcareous Grassland and is regarded as a **national BAP priority habitat**. There is very little of this type of habitat in our country.

South Tyneside Council showed farsighted instincts for rare habitat and species conservation in the February 2013 Green Infrastructure Strategy document (SPD3). We request that South Tyneside Council continues to:

- Protect and maintain the current extent of Magnesian Limestone Grassland and re-create it where opportunities allow.
- Restore degraded sites and ensure appropriate management
- Establish sustainable populations of all priority species supported by Magnesian Limestone Grassland
- Raise public awareness of the importance and special characteristics of Magnesian Limestone Grassland.

### 8. Former MoD Bunkers and Medical Stores, Green Lane, East Boldon SHLAA Ref: SBC084, BC30, 7.62ha, 63 houses, 260 jobs

**Draft Local Plan Assessment August 2019:** '.... development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems'

EBNF favours re-greening the site as South Tyneside's SPD3 Green Infrastructure Strategy document February 2013 recommends. A Public Inquiry held in the 1990's also favoured this outcome.

South Tyneside Council's own Green Infrastructure Strategy document SPD3 February 2013, assessed the site as follows:

***"The former Ministry of Defence (MoD) bunkers and medical stores site within the Green Belt at East Boldon is also allocated for remediation as a means of enhancing the function and appearance of the Green Belt and the wildlife corridor through this area, and in furthering the aims of the Great North Forest and Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, it is proposed that the land and buildings on this site be reclaimed for nature conservation purposes, such as Magnesian Limestone Grassland Habitats"***

In the Draft Local Plan 2019, the South Tyneside LA assessment found development would NOT have a direct negative impact on ecosystems **EBNF agrees with the South Tyneside LA 2013 SPD3 assessment and disagrees with the 2019 Draft Local Plan assessment**

The North East England Nature Partnership is currently engaged in a 'Grassland Action Plan' to enhance the quality of magnesian limestone grassland in order to encourage greater species diversity where these outcrops occur. EBNF favours South Tyneside's participation in the plan at this site.

Finally, on MoD Site

**MAGIC Maps Search for Turners Hill LWS**

**Site Check Results**

Site Check Report Report generated on Sun Aug 16 2020  
**You selected the location:** Centroid Grid Ref: NZ35656069  
 The following features have been found in your search area:

**Woodland Priority Habitat Network (England)**

Category Lower Spatial Priority

**Farm Wildlife Package Areas (England)**

NCA Name Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau  
 NCA Code Number 15  
 Priority for Countryside Stewardship High

**Water Framework Directive Management Catchments (England)**

WFD Management Catchment Name Tyne  
 River Basin District Name Northumbria

**Community Forests (England)**

Community Forest Groundwork North East

**National Character Area Level Landscape Features (England)**

OK Cancel Print

**MAGIC Maps Search for MoD Site**

**Site Check Results**

Site Check Report Report generated on Sun Aug 16 2020  
**You selected the location:** Centroid Grid Ref: NZ37006072  
 The following features have been found in your search area:

**Woodland Priority Habitat Network (England)**

Category Lower Spatial Priority

**Farm Wildlife Package Areas (England)**

NCA Name Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau  
 NCA Code Number 15  
 Priority for Countryside Stewardship High

**Woodland - Water Quality (England)**

Category Lower Spatial Priority

**Water Framework Directive Management Catchments (England)**

WFD Management Catchment Name Tyne  
 River Basin District Name Northumbria

OK Cancel Print

Both sites are regarded as a HIGH PRIORITY FOR COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP.

## APPENDIX I

### Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's)

Two of STC's heritage documents which relate to the East Boldon Conservation Area (Character Appraisal 2006; Management Plan 2009), reference the importance of TPO's, and the management of tree coverage is seen as a key issue. These heritage documents are 14 and 11 years old, and include commitments to review the village's heritage assets in the future. The Forum's emerging Neighbourhood Plan (and supporting documents) provide an ideal opportunity to do so.

EBNF's draft Community Character Statement 2019 includes a section about existing TPO's, and the two supporting Architectural Survey documents (Front Street) identifies existing TPOs.

EBNF acknowledges the heritage value of significant mature trees within the village, which are of "amenity value" and should be protected for future public enjoyment. Although all "trees" situated within the Conservation Area enjoy some degree of "legal" safeguards (TPO's & Trees in Conservation Areas - Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government), TPOs provide a significantly higher level of protection.

As a result, it was initially considered that 22 additional tree locations (both singular examples and in groups) within the Forum area provided such a level of heritage and amenity value, that they should be considered for TPO status, including 13 of which were located in private residential gardens. 9 locations were on land owned or "maintained" by STC, and these included the following locations, which are at the heart of the community: Grange Park, the spinneys / copses in front of St George's Church and around the War Memorial, and the cherry trees along Gordon Drive.

A detailed list of these additional trees of amenity value, including a brief description, can be found in the Built & Historic Environment Background Paper.

### MEETING WITH TREE INSPECTOR

In January 2020, a meeting was held with STC's Tree Inspector, who provided further background information on TPO legislation, procedures & implications, and STC's Tree Policies (Tree and Woodland Policy 2011). The following main issues were discussed :

#### a) Trees of Heritage Value maintained by STC

The Forum considered that STC's existing procedures and the above policy appeared to provide a satisfactory level of protection to the trees, spinneys/copses, and rows of trees which are in their stewardship, and as a result, no further actions from the Forum were necessary in this respect. Most of these 9 locations also benefit from being situated within the Conservation Area.

#### b) Protecting other trees of Heritage Value

With regard to the 13 locations in private ownership (29 individual trees, excluding Black Plantation), the Forum requested that STC be more vigilant & pro-active in protecting trees of heritage value, especially those that are not covered by TPO's, or are not in the Conservation Area or under the Council's stewardship. Future TPO considerations should not have to wait until significant heritage trees come under imminent threat.

#### c) Black Plantation

This is a large copse, near Quarry Hill, which is in private ownership. It has formal recognition as a Local Wildlife Site. This large, square shaped wood is the oldest broadleaved woodland in South Tyneside. It occupies a slightly elevated position on the Downhill magnesian limestone escarpment (approximately 700m south of Victoria Terrace on South Lane and 250m south west of Belle Vue Villa) and is situated in the middle of the Green Belt. Although the location of occasional anti-social behaviour, the wood is bounded by popular walking paths, and contains a dense mix of largely deciduous mature trees, of various species.

**The Forum consider that Black Plantation could benefit from further formal recognition or TPO status, from South Tyneside Council.**

There is medieval rigg and furrow in many of the fields adjacent to Bridle Path and in fact aerial photography from the 1980's confirms that rigg and furrow underlines the Black Plantation copse, confirming its historical and archaeological importance.

Black Plantation is a small rectangular area of mature even aged broadleaved woodland lying to the south of East Boldon. It is classed as a Local Wildlife Site in South Tyneside Council's list of such sites.

It is regarded as the best example of mature woodland in South Tyneside dating from the 19th Century. It is recorded as already being an established plantation on the Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map of 1896.



Black Plantation

d) Suggestions for new tree planting

**It was indicated at the meeting that there could be future opportunities for new/additional tree planting on Council owned land, in accordance with their declared Climate Change Emergency and national policies.**

The Forum have subsequently identified the following sites for this purpose, and this matter is also documented (and mapped) in more detail in the Built & Historic Environment Background Paper:

1. Grange Park - around the perimeter of the north part of the park
2. Junior School - along the west, north and east boundaries of the site
3. Boker Lane - west verge, in front of Keats Avenue
4. Mundles Lane Park - around the perimeter of the park
5. Glencourse/Burnside - grassed area between Glencourse/Burnside and the Metro station
6. Western Terrace - grassed area to the west of 1 Western Terrace, to the rear of Hardie Drive.

**Western Terrance is a major gateway into the village, and is in urgent need of improvement / enhancement, including appropriate hard & soft landscaping features.**

7. Lyndon Drive/Lyndon Grove - grassed area in the middle of the Lyndon's estate.

e) Follow up:

As a result of subsequent meetings & discussions held by the Forum, an email was sent to the council's Tree Officer in April 2020, confirming the above feedback & actions.

## APPENDIX II: South Tyneside's Application to Secretary of State for SSSI Status

### SSSI Application April 1<sup>st</sup> 1987

It is very clear from the original application made to the Secretary of state in 1987 that South Tyneside Council recognised then the enormous ecological significance of 'The Boldon Pastures'. Latterly however, the inclination from many of us has been to give a disproportionate weight of importance to Boldon Flats as though this site was all the 1987 Councillors had in mind when seeking to protect the undoubtedly valuable wetland ecosystem.

The land described in the original April 1<sup>st</sup> 1987 application for SSSI status is written up in the document from South Tyneside Council as: 3.5 Hectares or 35 000 m<sup>2</sup> (8.6 Acres or 34 803 m<sup>2</sup>)

A map of the area is shown in the Technical Appendices section of the Local Development Framework document provided by South Tyneside Council (September 2018). The area is described in the document on pages 11-13 as a SNCI (Site of Nature Conservation Importance). Two types of habitats are represented; Lowland pasture and Ponds.

When the application for SSSI status was made to the Secretary of State, it was clear that the Council wanted to protect the rare, endangered species that thrive on the habitats we are fortunate to have within our Forum boundary. These habitats are threatened nationally because of changes in farming practices, development pressure and urban sprawl. The Forum is of the opinion that any changes to the current greenbelt will add to the pressures on this and other sites within the East Boldon Forum and elsewhere, not just the Flats. Our Council has managed the Flats very well in accordance with environmental guidelines for many years.

The area for which the Council sought protection in 1987 is a refuge for rare species. We use terms such as 'Wildlife Corridors' in ecology; places where living things can roam in safety, connect with members of their species, rest when exhausted, breed and recover in safe green spaces. These places are wildlife corridors. Our civic officials recognised in 1987 that Boldon Pastures need to be given protection and careful management that SSSI status confers if the biodiversity of the sites is to be maintained. Ecology has moved on and now there is ever greater recognition that greenbelt is vital to the survival of the species that manage to travel to rare sites such as Boldon Flats and Pastures. Changes to greenbelt impact greatly on species diversity at wetland sites. In order to maintain biodiversity, it is very important that greenbelt is retained.

## National Biodiversity Network Species Lists for Boldon Flats and Pastures

NBN records species on the SSSI and adjoining sites. These species have been listed in the last 4 years up to 2020. East Boldon forum area is rich in wet and damp pasture –renowned for species diversity. The message from nature is that wildlife of such diversity needs shelterbelts –wildlife corridors in order to maintain diversity and thrive. **If text is in red and underlined**= (On Co Durham Biodiversity Action Plan)

### **Coleoptera (Insects and Beetles)**

*Adalia bipunctata* (2 spot ladybird)



01301149 © Chris Shields / naturepl.com

*Adalia decempunctata* (10 spot ladybird)  
*Anthonomus (Furcippus) rectirostris* (Bird Cherry Weevil)  
*Athous (Athous) haemorrhoidalis*  
*Badister (Badister) bullatus*  
*Barypeithes (Exomias) pellucidus* (Hairy spider weevil)  
*Bembidion (Mettalina) lampros*  
*Bolitobiuscastaneus*



Brachypteorluspulicarius (Antirrhinum beetle)  
Bradycellusharpalinus  
Bradycellusverbasci  
Byturstomentosus



Calathus (Calathus) fuscipes  
Calopteryx splendens (Banded demoiselle - a large metallic damselfly photographed by Peter Collins, Boldon Flats. A record -August 7<sup>th</sup> 2020)  
Ceutorhynchusobstrictus (Cabbage Steel Weevil)  
Chrysolina americana (Rosemary beetle)



Picture courtesy P. Collins

Coccinellaseptempunctata (7 spot ladybird)  
Cteniceracuprea  
Harpalus (Harpalus) affinis  
Harpalus (Harpalus) rubripes  
Kibuneaminuta  
Lagriahirta  
Lillicerislillii (Lily beetle)  
Mecinispascuorum



Chocolate Mining Bee Eastern Wildlife Corridor, East Boldon 2020 courtesy Peter Collins

Ocybus (Ocybus) olens (Devil's Coach Horse)  
Oedemera (Oedemera) lurida  
Phyllobius (Phyllobius) pyri (Common Leaf Weevil)  
Platyderusdepressus  
Platydracusstercorarius  
Polydrusus (Chrysophis) formosus  
Propyleaquattuordecimpunctata (14 spot ladybird)  
Protapyonapricans (Clover seed Weevil)  
Psylloboravigintiduapunctata (22-spot ladybird)  
Pterostichus (Steropus) madidus (Black Clock)

Quedius (Quedius) levicolis  
Rhagonycha fulva (Common Red Soldier Beetle)  
Simplocariaseustrata  
Stenus (Stenus) clavicornis  
Tachyporus hypnorum  
Tasgius (Rayacheila) mellanarius  
Xantholinus (Xantholinus) linearis

### Amphibian Species

#### NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites

Bufo bufo (Common Toad)  
Lissotriton helveticus (Palmate newt)  
Lissotriton vulgaris (Smooth newt)  
Rana temporalis (Common frog)  
**Triturus cristatus (Great Crested Newt)**



## Bird Species Records

### NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites

Acanthus cabaret (Lesser Redpoll)  
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus (Sedge warbler 17.5.17)

**Accipiter nisus (Sparrowhawk)**

Actitis hypoleucos (Common Sandpiper)  
Aegithalus caudatus (Long Tailed Tit)

**Alauda arvensis (Skylark)**



Female Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding young. Mundles Lane, East Boldon 2020  
P. Collins

Alcedo atthis (Kingfisher)  
Anas crecca (Teal)  
Anas penelope (Widgeon)  
Anas platyrhynchos (Mallard)  
Anas strepera (Gadwall)  
Anas querquedula. (scarce breeding duck, summer visitor, spends winter in Africa.  
P. Collins May 21 2020)

Anser albifrons (White Fronted Goose 27.1.17)

Anser anser (Greylag Goose)

Anser brachyrhynchus (Pink Footed Goose) 19/4/2020

Anser (fabalis) fabalis 20.2.17 Tundra Bean Goose are extremely rare away from the regular wintering sites (the Yare Valley in Norfolk, and in Clyde).



Ruff and Redshank, 2020 Boldon Flats. P. Collins.

Apus apus (Swift)

Ardea alba (Great Egret 11.08. 2020)

Ardea cinerea (Grey Heron)

Arenaria interpres (Turnstone)

Asio flammeus (Short Eared Owl. On fence post Boldon Flats 11.7.2020)

Asio otus (Long eared owl. Nesting East Boldon June 8 2020. 5 owlets)

Aythya ferina (Pochard)

Aythya fuligula (Tufted duck)

Bombus agrorum (Waxwing 29.4.17)

Branta bernicla (Brent goose 15.11.16)

Branta canadensis (Canada Goose)

Bucephala clangula (Golden eye)  
Buteo lagopus (Rough legged buzzard 8.5.16)



Lapwing Boldon Flats, courtesy Peter Collins 2020

**Calidris alpina (Dunlin)**

Calidris canutis (Knot)

Calidris ferruginea (Curlew Sandpiper. Siberian Tundra visitor Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 2020)

Calidris melanotos (Pectoral Sandpiper 10/7/20 Rare passage migrant)

Calidris minuta (Little Stint 18.8.17)

Calidris pugnax (Ruff 28.8.17)

Calidris temminckii (Temminck's Stint)

Carduelis carduelis (Goldfinch)

Carduelis chloris (Greenfinch)

Carduelis spinus (Siskin) 28.5.202



Little Egret Boldon Flats 2020  
Courtesy Peter Collins

Charadrius dubius (5 Little ringed plover) 30.6.2020  
Charadrius hiaticula (Ringed Plover)  
Charadrius vociferus (Killdeer. Shields Gazette 1990's)  
Chroicocephalus ridibundus (Black headed Gull)  
Circus aeruginosus (Marsh Harrier)  
Columba livia (Rock pigeon)  
Columba palumbus (Wood pigeon)  
Columbidae (Dove)  
Corvus corone (Carrion crow)  
Corvus frugilegus (Rook)  
Corvus monedula (Jackdaw)  
Cuculuscanoris (Cuckoo)  
Cyanistes caeruleus (Blue tit)  
Cygnus olor (Mute Swan)  
Delichonurbicum (House Martin)



Black Tailed Godwit, Boldon Flats 2020.  
Courtesy Peter Collins

- Dendrocopus major (Great Spotted Woodpecker)
- Egretta garzetta (Little Egret)
- Emberiza citrinella (Yellowhammer)
- Emberiza schoeniclus (Reed Bunting)**
- Erithacus rubecula (Robin)
- Falco cherrug (Saker falcon 15.11.16)
- Falco subbuteo (Hobby)
- Falco tinnunculus (Kestrel)
- Fringilla coelebs (Chaffinch)
- Fulica atra (Coot)
- Gallinago gallinago (Snipe)**
- Gallinula chloropus (Moorhen)





Male Reed Bunting, Feeder, Boldon Flats  
Courtesy Peter Collins

Garrulus glandarius (Jay 17.11.16)

Haematopus ostralegus (Oystercatcher)

Hirundo rustica (Swallow)

Haliaeetus albicilla (Sea Eagle)

Lagopus lagopus

Laridae

Lanius collurio (Red Backed Shrike pictured P. Collins 04/06/2020 Boldon Flats)

Larus argentatus

Larus argentatus subsp. argentatus

Larus fuscus (Lesser Black backed Gull)

Larus glaucoides (Iceland Gull 13.4.17)

Larus hyperboreus (Glaucous Gull 24.7.17)

Larus marinus (Greater Black Backed Gull)

Larus melanocephalus (Mediterranean Gull)  
Limosalapponica (Bar Tailed Godwit. 4.7.2020)  
Limosalimosa (Black Tailed Godwit seen April → October 2020. UK Conservation status Red)



Pink footed goose, Boldon Flats courtesy  
Peter Collins

**Linaria cannabina (Linnet)**

Motacilla alba (Pied/ White Wagtail)

Motacilla alba subsp. yarellii (Pied Wagtail)

Motacilla cinerea (Grey Wagtail)

Motacilla flava (Yellow Wagtail)

**Numenius arquata (Curlew)**

Numenius phaeopus (Whimbrel. Conservation status, Red)

Parvus major (Great Tit)

**Passer domesticus (House Sparrow)**

Perdix perdix (Grey Partridge)

Periparus ater (Coal Tit)

Phalacrocorax carbo (Cormorant)

*Phasianuscolchicus* (Pheasant)



Owl, Low House Farm, East Boldon  
courtesy Peter Collins

*Phylloscopuscollybita* (Chiffchaff)

*Phylloscopus trochilus* (Willow warbler)

*Pica pica* (Magpie)

*Poecilemontanus* (Willow Tit. Conservation status, Red)

*Prunella modularis* (Dunnock)

*Psittaculakrameri* (Ring necked Parakeet)

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula* (Bullfinch)

*Riparia riparia* (Sand Martin)

*Rissa tridactyla* (Kittiwake)

*Saxicola torquata* (Stonechat Boldon Flats March 22 2020)

*Somateria mollissima* (Eider)

*Sterna hirundo* (Common Tern)



Long eared owl, East Boldon 2020.  
Photograph courtesy Peter Collins

Sternidae

Streptopeliadecaocto (Collared dove)

Strixaluco (Tawny Owl -nesting in Mundles Lane June 2020)

Recurvirostridae

Recurvirostraavoceta (Avocet)

Sternidae

**Sternus vulgaris (Starling)**

Sylvia atricapilla (Blackcap)

Sylvia communis (Whitethroat)

Sylvia curruca (Lesser whitethroat)

Tadornacana (Cape shelduck 17.8.17)

Tadornaferruginea (Ruddy Shelduck photographic record of 1<sup>st</sup> recorded appearance at Boldon Flats March 26<sup>th</sup> 2020)

Tadornatadorn (Shelduck)  
Tetrao tetrax  
Tringaglareola (P. Collins 7.5.20 Wood Sandpiper)  
Tringanebularia (Greenshank)  
Tringa ochropus (Green sandpiper 27.6.2020)



430 Golden Plover, Boldon Flats, courtesy Peter Collins

**Tringa tetanus (Redshank)**

Troglodytes troglodytes (Wren)

**Turdus**

Turdus iliacus (Redwing)

Turdus merula (Blackbird)

**Turdus philomelos (Song thrush)**

Turdus torquatus (Ring Ouzel 6.5.17)

**Vanellus vanellus (Lapwing)**

## Threskiornithidae

Platalealeucorodia (Spoonbill. 2 seen June 14 2020 Boldon Flats)

## Crustacean Record

### NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites

Armadillidium vulgare (Common Pill Woodlouse)

Aniscusacellus (Common shiny Woodlouse)

Philosciamuscorum (Common Striped Woodlouse)

Porcellio scaber (Common Rough Woodlouse)

## Fungi

### No NBN Records

Auricularia auricula-judae (Wood Ears/ Tree Ears/ Jelly Ears)

## Flowering Plants

### NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites



Acer campestre (Field Maple)

Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)

Achillea millefolium (Yarrow)

Aeschalus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnut)

Ajuga reptans (Bugle)

**Alchemilla**

Alariapetiolata (Garlic mustard)

Allium ursinum (Ramsons)

Alnus glutinosa (Alder)

Anthyllis vulneraria

Apiaceae (Umbellifer)

Aquelegia vulgaris (Columbine)

Armeria maritime (Thrift)

Artemisia

Artemisia vulgaris

Asteraceae

Ballota nigra (Black Horehound)

Beula pendula (Silver Birch)

Blackstoniaperfoliata (Yellow wort)

Brassica oleracea (Wild Cabbage)

**Boraginaceae**

Myosotis scorpioides( syn. Myosotis palustris ) Water Forget Me Not.

Briza media (Quaking grass)



Buddleja (Buddleja)  
Campanula rotundifolia (Harebell)  
Cardminepraetensis (Cuckooflower)  
Carduus nutans (Musk Thistle)



Carexflacca (Glaucus Sedge)  
Carex riparia (Greater Pond Sedge)  
Carlina vulgaris (Carlina Thistle)  
Centaurea (Knapweed)  
Centaurea nigra (Common Knapweed)  
Centaurea scabiosa (Greater Knapweed)  
Centaurium erythrea (Common Centaury)  
Centranthusruber (Red Valerian)  
Cerastiumfontanum (Common Mouse-Ear)  
Camanaerion angustifolium (Rose-Bay Willowherb)  
Chenopodium album (Fat Hen)  
Cirsium vulgare (Spear Thistle)  
Conopodium majus (Pig nut)  
Convolvulus arvensis (Field Bindweed)





*Corylus avellana* (Hazel)

[Chenopodiaceae](#)

*Atriplex patula* (Common orache)

[Crassulaceae](#)

*Cruciatataevipes* (Crosswort)

*Cymballariamuralis* (Ivy Leaved Toad Flax)

*Dactylorhizafuschii* (Common spotted orchid)



Dactylorhizapurpurella (Northern March Orchid)  
Daucus carota (Wild Carrot)

### Dipsacaceae

Echium vulgare (Viper's Bugloss)  
Epilobium hirsutum (Great Willowherb)  
Epilobium montanum (Broad leaved Willowherb)  
Erigeron glaucus (Seaside Daisy)  
Euphrasia arctica (Eyebright)

### Fabaceae

Fallopia japonica (Japanese Knotweed)  
Filipendulaulmaria (Meadow Sweet)  
Fragaria vesca (Wild Strawberry)  
Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)  
Galium boreale (Northern bedstraw)  
Galium verum (Lady's Bedstraw)

### Geranium

Geranium praetense (Meadow Cranesbill)  
Geranium robertianum (Herb Robert)  
Glechoma hederacea (Ground Ivy)  
Helianthemum nummuralium (Common Rock Rose)  
Heracleum sphondylium  
Hyacinthoides non scripta (Bluebell)

### Hypericum

Hypochaerisradicata (Cat's Ear)  
Iris pseudacorus (Yellow Iris)  
Knautia arvensis (Field scabious)

### Iridaceae

Iris pseudacorus

### Lamiaceae

Lamium album (White dead nettle)

Lathyrus pratensis (Meadow vetchling)  
Leontodon hispidus (Rough Hawkbit)  
Laucanthemum vulgare (Ox-Eye daisy)  
Linumcatharticum (Fairy Flax)

Labiatae

Mentha aquatica Water mint flowering August 5 2020

Lotus

Lotus corniculatus (Bird's Foot Trefoil)

Malva

Matricariadiscoidea (Pineappleweed)  
Medicago lupulina (Black Medick)  
Melilotus altissimus (Tail Melilot)  
Odontitesvernus  
Ononis repens  
Ophrysapifera  
Petasites hybridus (Butterbur)



Phalaris arundinacea (Reed Canary Grass)  
Phragmites  
Pilocella officinarum (Mouse Ear Hawkweed)  
Pimpinella saxifrage (Burnet Saxifrage)  
Plantago lanceolata (Ribwort Plantain)  
Plantago major

Plantago maritima (Sea Plantain)  
Plantago media (Hoary Plantain)  
Polygonatum odoratum (Angular Solomon's Seal)  
Populus tremula (Aspen)  
Potentilla anserina (Silverweed)  
Potentilla reptans (Creeping cinquefoil)  
Poterium sanguisorba (Salad Burnett)  
Primula veris (Cowslip)  
Prunella vulgaris x lacinata =P.intermedi  
Quercus robur (Pedunculate oak)  
Ranunculus acris (Meadow buttercup)



**Reseda**

Reseda lutea (Wild mignonette)  
Reseda luteola (Weld)  
Rhinanthus minor (Yellow rattle)  
Rosa canina (Dog Rose)  
Rosa rugose (Japanese Rose)  
Rosa spinosissima (Burnet Rose)  
Rubisfruticosusagg.  
Scabiosa columbaria (Small Scabious)  
Scrophulariaceae



Autumn gentian as on magnesian limestone  
Grassland in EBNF

Senecio(Ragwort)

Senecio jacobaea

Seslariacaerulea (Blue Moor Grass)

Silene dioica (Red Campion)

Silene flos-cuculi (Ragged Robin)

Silene vulgaris

Sisybrium officinale (Hedge Mustard)

Smyrniolumolusatrum (Alexanders)

Solanum dulcamara (Bittersweet)

Sonchus oleraceus (Smooth Sow Thistle)

Stachys officinalis (Betony)

Symphytum officinale

Tanacetum vulgare (Tansy)

Thymus polytrichus (Wild Thyme)

Tragopogon praetensis (Goats Beard)

Trifolium praetense (Red clover)  
Trifolium repens (White clover)  
Tussilago farfara (Coltsfoot)



Ulex

Ulex europaeus

Ulmus glabra (Wych elm)

Urtica

Valeriana

Verbascum

Veronica chamaedrys (Germandra speedwell)

Veronica persica (Common field speedwell)

Vicia cracca (Tufted vetch)

Vicia sepium (Bush vetch)

Viola hirta

Viola riviniana (Common dog violet)

## Insects and Butterflies

### NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites

Aglais io (Peacock)  
Aglaisurticae (Small tortoiseshell)  
Anthochariscardaminae (Orange tip)  
Aphantopushyperantes (Ringlet)  
Coenonymphapamphalus (Small heath)  
Erynnistages (Dingy skipper)



Lasiommatemegere (Wall)  
Lycaenaphlaeas  
Maniolajurtina  
Ochlodessylvanus  
Parargeaegeria (Speckled Wood)  
Pieris brassicae (Large White)

Pieris napi (Green veined white)  
Pieris rapae (Small white)  
Polyommata c-album (Comma)  
Polyommatus Icarus (Common blue)

#### Thymelicus

Thymelicus sylvestris (Small Skipper)  
Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral)  
Vanessa cardui (Painted Lady)

#### **Insect –dragonfly (Odonata)**

#### **NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Ischnura elegans (Blue Tailed Damsel Fly)

#### **Insect –Earwig (Dermaptera)**

#### **NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

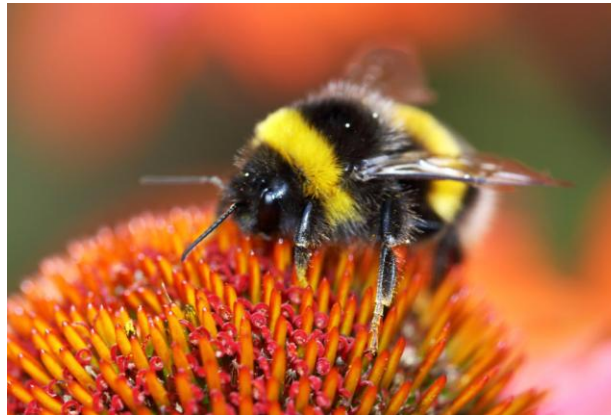
Forficula auricularia (Common Earwig)

#### **Hymenoptera**

#### **NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Agrioides cinctellus  
Andrena (Euandrena) bicolor (Gwynne's Mining Bee)  
Andrena (Melandrena) nigroaenea  
Andrena (Micrandrena) minutula  
Andrena scotia (Chocolate mining bee)  
Andrena (Taeandrena) wilkella





- Apis mellifera (Honey Bee)
- Bombus (Bombus) lucorum (White –tailed Bumblebee)
- Bombus (Bombus) terrestris (Buff tailed bumblebee)
- Bombus (Megabombus) hortum (Small Garden Bumblebee)
- Bombus (Melanobombus ) lapidaries
- Bombus (Psithyrus) bohemicus (Gipsy Cuckoo Bee)
- Bombus (Psithyrus) vestalis (Vestal Cuckoo Bee)
- Bombus (Pyrobombus) hypnorum (Tree Bumble Bee)
- Bombus (Pyrobombus) pratorum (Early Bumble Bee)
- Bombus (Thoracobombus) pascuorum (Common Carder Bee)
- Chrysis angustula
- Colletes (Colletes) daviesanus

Crossocerus (Crossocerus) elongates  
Dipogon (Deuteragenia) variegatus  
Dolichovespula (Pseudovespula) sylvestris (Tree Wasp)  
Ectemnius (Hypocrabro) continuus  
Formica lemani



*Andrena scotia* Chocolate mining bee  
P. Collins 2020

Halictus (Halictus) rubicundus  
Halictus (Seladonia) tumulorum  
Hyaelisprosopisbrevicornis  
Hyaelis (Spatulariella) hyalinatis  
Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) calceatum (Slender Mining Bee)  
Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) fratellum  
Lasioglossum (Evylaeus) villosulum (Shaggy Mining Bee)  
Lassiusniger (Small Black Ant)  
Lassiusnigersensulato  
Megachile (Delomegachile) willughbiella  
Megachile (Megachile) centuncularis

Mellinus arvensis (Field Digger Wasp)  
[Mellinus Arvensis]  
Myrmicaruginodes  
Myrmicasabuleti  
Myrmicascabrinodis  
Nomadarufipes  
Pemphredon (Cemonus) inornata (Shuckards Wasp)  
Sphecodesgeoffrellus  
Trypoxylonattenuatum (Slender Wood Borer Wasp)  
Vespula paravespula germanica (German Wasp)  
Vespula paravespula vulgaris (Common Wasp)

### **Insect –Moth Species**

#### **NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Autographa gamma (Silver Y)  
Camptogrammabilineata  
Scotopteryxchenopodiata (Shaded Broad-Bar)  
Zygaenafilipendulae (Six Spot Burnet)  
Zygaenalonicerae (Narrow-bordered Five Spot Burnet)



**Insect – Orthopteran Species**  
**NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Chorthippus brunneus (Field Grasshopper)

**Insect – True Bug (Hemiptera)**  
**NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale (Hawthorn Shieldbug)

Allygus modestus

Anthracorhynchus nemorum (Common Flower Bug)

Aphrophoraalni

Cercopis vulnerata



Deraeocoris (Deraeocoris) flavilinea

Grypocoris (Lophyromirisstysi

Hoplomachusthernbergoo

Leptopternadolabrata (Meadow Plant Bug)

Leptoterna ferrugata

Lygocoris (Lygocoris) pabulinus (Common Green Capsid)

Neophilaenuslineatus  
Orthops (Orthops) campestris  
Orthotylus (Orthotylus) marginalis (Dark Green Apple Capsid)  
Pentatomarufipes (Forest Bug)  
Philemuspumarius  
Pithanusmaerkelii  
Plagionathus (Plagionathus) arbustorus  
Plagionathus (Plagionathus) chrysanthemi  
Scolopostethisthomsoni  
Stenodema (Brachystira) calcarata  
Stenodema (Stenodema) laevigata  
Stenotusbinotatus (Timothy Grassbug)  
Trigonotyleruficornis



**Insect – True Fly (Diptera)**  
**NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Beryschalybata (Murky legged Black Legionnaire)  
Berisgeniculata (Long horned Black Legionnaire)  
Berisvallata (Common orange legionnaire)  
Calliphoravicina  
Campioglossamisella  
Cheilosiaalbitarsissens.lat  
Cheilosa illustrate



Cheilosalasiopa  
Chloromyia Formosa (Broad Centurion)  
Chorisops tibialis (Dull Four Spined Legionnaire)  
Chrysoxumfestivum  
Chrysotuscilipes  
Chrysotusgramineus  
Chrysotus neglectus  
Dilophusfebrilis (Fever Fly)  
Dilophusfemoratus  
Dolichopusgriseipennis  
Dolichopusplumipes  
Dolichopustrivialis

Dolochopusungulatus  
Empislivida



Empistesselata  
Empistrigrama  
Episyrphusbalteatus (Marmalade Hover Fly)  
Eriothrixrufomaculata  
Eristalisarbustorum  
Eristalisintricarius  
Eristalispertinax  
Eristalistenax  
Euleiaheraclei  
Eupeodes corolla  
Eupeodesluniger  
Gymnochetaviridis  
Haematotpotapluvialis (Notch horned Cleg)  
Helophiluspendulus  
Helophilustrivittatus



Hybosculiciformis  
Leptogaster cylindrica (Striped Slender Robber Fly)  
Leucozonalcorum  
Limniaunguicornmis  
Lonchoptera lutea  
Medeteratruncorum  
Melanostomamellinum  
Melanostomascalare  
Meliscaevaauricollis  
Meredonequestris  
Micromorphusalbipes  
Micropezacorrigolata  
Myothropaflorea  
Nephrotomaappendiculata  
Nephrotomaflavescens  
Nephrotomascurra  
Nephrotomasubmaculosa  
Noetapupillata  
Opomyzagerminationis  
Pherbelliacinerella  
Pherbyncorileti



Phylidorea ferruginea  
Pipizella viduata  
Platycheirus albimanus  
Platycheirus angustatus  
Platycheirus sclypeatus  
Platycheirus manicatus  
Platycheirus rosarum  
Platycheirus scutatus sensu lato  
Poechilobothrus nobilitatus  
Ptychoptera contaminata  
Rhamphomyia variabilis  
Syrphus ribesii  
Syrphus vitripennis  
Tachina fera  
Tephritis formosa  
Tetanocera elata  
Therevanobilitata (Common Stiletto)  
Tipula fascipennis  
Tipula oleracea  
Tipula vernalis  
Trypeta artemisiae  
Verallia aucta  
Volucella bombylans  
Volucella pellucens  
Xylotasegnis  
Xyphosia miliaria

## **Marine Mammal Species**

### **NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

#### **Cetacea**

Phocoenaphocoena (Common Porpoise)

### Reptile Species

**NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites  
(Unconfirmed but in E. Boldon Garden)**

Anguis fragilis (Slow worm)

Trachemys

### Roundworm, Nematoda Species

**NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Aporcelamus obscurus

### Terrestria Mammal Species

**NBN Records for Boldon Flats, Pastures and Adjoining Sites**

Apodemissylvaticus (Wood Mouse)

**Arvicola amphibious (European Water Vole)**



Capreolus capreolus (Roe Deer)

**Chiroptera (Bat)**

**Erinaceus europaeus (West European Hedgehog)**

**Lepus europaeus (Brown Hare)**

**Lutra lutra (European Otter)**

Melesmeles (Eurasian Badger, most recent photographic record May 20 2020)

Microtus agrestis (Field Vole)

Mustela erminea (Stoat)

Mustela nivalis (Weasel)

**Myotis daubentonii (Daubenton's Bat)**

Neomysfodiens (Eurasian Water Shrew)

**Pipistrellius**

**Pipistrellus pipistrellussensulato**

**[Pipistrelle]**

Rattus norvegicus (Brown Rat)

Sciurius carolinensis (Eastern Grey Squirrel)

Sciurius vulgaris (Eurasian Red Squirrel)

Talpa

Talpaeuropea (European Mole)Vulpesvulpes (Red Fox)



## APPENDIX IIIb: Species List for Turners Hill Local Wildlife Site (Baldon Golf Course)



Taken from Turners Hill facing north east

Turners Hill is located on Boldon Golf Course (Nominated in Neighbourhood Plan as Protected Open Space, POS01) south east of Boldon Cemetery (nominated as a Local Green Space, LGS04) in the EBNF Neighbourhood Plan. The site has an exceptionally rich and diverse flora with wild flowers and grasses typical of Magnesian limestone grassland. This is a rare habitat nationally and its conservation is seen as a priority in local and national BAPs. More than 0.25 ha of Magnesian limestone grassland is present with at least 19 indicator species of plants normally characteristic of this rare habitat present. To qualify as a Local Wildlife site (according to the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan) only two of the following need to be frequently present with a further three present occasionally. The following plants are present either frequently or occasionally. All are characteristic of Magnesian limestone grassland:

*Anthyllis vulneraria* (Kidney Vetch) Occasional

*Briza media* (Quaking grass)

*Campanula rotundifolia* (Harebell) Occasional

*Carex flacca* (Glaucous sedge)

*Centaurea scabiosa* (Greater Knapweed) Frequent.

*Euphrasia* spp, or eyebright,

a genus of about **450 species of herbaceous flowering plants in the family Orobanchaceae**

**(formerly the Scrophulariaceae)** Occasional

*Galium verum* (Ladies bedstraw) Frequent

*Gentianella amarella* (Autumn Gentian)

*Genista tinctoria* (Dyers Greenweed/ Dyers Broom)

*Koeleria macrantha* (Crested hairgrass)

*Leontodon hispidus* (Rough hawkbit) Occasional

*Linaria cathartica* (Fairy Flax) Frequent

*Lotus corniculatus* (Birdsfoot trefoil) Occasional

*Neottia ovata* (Twayblade)

Orchid species Occasional (Orchids have 9-year dormancy periods)

*Pimpinella saxifraga* (Burnet Saxifrage)

*Primula veris* (Cowslip) Occasional

*Sanguisorba minor* (Salad burnet)

*Scabiosa columbaria* (Small Scabious) Occasional

*Scabiosa succisa* (Devils Bit Scabious) Occasional

*Thymus vulgaris* (Wild Thyme) Occasional.

Taken from the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway, Turners Hill facing south west.



Although an official wildlife survey of the Boldon Golf Course is unavailable at the present time, the following birds are regularly seen on the course:

Accipiter nisus (sparrowhawk)  
Aegithalus cordatus (Long tailed tit)  
Alauda arvensis (Skylark) (Durham Farmyard Birds Action Plan)  
Carduelis carduelis (goldfinch) (Durham Farmyard Birds Action Plan)  
Columba palumbus (wood pigeon)  
Cyanistes caeruleus (blue tit)  
Delichon urbicum (House martin) (Durham Farmyard Birds Action Plan)  
Dendrocopos minor (Lesser spotted woodpecker)  
Erithacus rubecula (robin)  
Falco sparverius (Kestrel)  
Fringilla coelebs (chaffinch)  
Haematopus ostralegus (oystercatcher)  
Hirundo rustica (swallow) (Durham Farmyard Birds Action Plan)  
Linaria cannabina (Linnet) (Durham Farmyard Birds Action Plan)  
Oenanthe oenanthe (wheatear)  
Perdix perdix (partridge)  
Parus ater (coal tit)  
Phasianus colchicus (pheasant)  
Pica pica (magpie)  
Sternus vulgaris (starling) (Durham Farmyard Birds Action Plan)  
Streptopelia decaocto (Collared dove)  
Turdus iliacus (redwing)  
Turdus merula (blackbird)  
Turdus philomelos (song thrush) (Urban and garden wildlife action plan)  
Vanellus vanellus (lapwing) (Durham Farmyard Birds Action Plan)

**Mammals** present include: stoats, hares, rabbits, foxes.

## APPENDIX IV: Community Feedback

### Public Consultation: What Value Do We Place on Natural Environment?

We audited the views of our Forum and find out what they think of the Natural Environment in the Boldon Forum Area.

- ✚ Our green spaces
- ✚ Footpaths
- ✚ Access to natural environment
- ✚ Use we make of green spaces
- ✚ Our greenbelt
- ✚ The symbiosis of built and natural environment
- ✚ Our green infrastructure; bike parking, metro and bus stops, hybrid car charging facilities, cycle lanes and footpaths, ecological networks, wildlife corridors, historic hedgerows, green frontages, highway verges, parks, small green spaces, landscape corridors, sustainable draining, planning for sustainability beyond neighbourhood plan period, greening of disused sites e.g. MoD, signage and approaches to East Boldon, absence of a village hub/ green.

### EAST BOLDON FORUM – FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE – CONSULTATION EVENT 16.3.19 RESPONSES TO YES/NO QUESTIONS – TO DATE (1.4.19) 87 RESPONSES. (Entry nos 14-112)

Also attached the quick 'tot up' of answers to YES/NO questions (87 respondents) that Mrs Younger spoke about at a former working group meeting.

### EBF; CONSULTATION EVENT QUESTIONNAIRE MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 - SUMMARY OF RESPONSE

	Q Parking standards?	Q Protect Green Belt?	Q Landscaping, Green corridors, wildlife habitats?	Q Designate green space?	Q Housing reflect needs of EB residents?	Q Contribution from develop-ers be spent in EB?	Q Agree with Vision?
<b>YES</b>	65 (75%)	85 (98%)	84 (96%),	84 (96%)	80 (92%)	83 (95%)	79 (91%),
<b>NO</b>	5 (5%)	0	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)



<b>YES &amp; NO</b>	0	1 (1%)	0	0	1 (1%)	0	1 (1%)
<b>NO RESPONSE</b>	17 (20%)	1 (1%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)	5 (6%)	3 (4%)	6 (7%)

## **QUESTION 2: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

	<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES &amp; NO</b>	<b>NIL RESPONSE</b>
<b>Q1</b>	Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should attempt to protect the existing green belt?	<b>111 (97%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>	<b>1 (1%)</b>

**111 (97%) YES** - in favour of protecting the green belt, **0 (0%) NO** - no-one thinks that the green belt should not be protected, **2 (2%)** answered YES & NO to the question - however their comments show that they are in favour of protecting the green belt "Crucial to protect existing green belt. Further provision of greenbelt must go in hand with expansion at an equivalent amount." "It's nice to live in an area where you see green space rather than houses built on top of each other." **1 (1%) NIL** response.

	<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES &amp; NO</b>	<b>NIL RESPONSE</b>
<b>Q2</b>	Should any new development in East Boldon contain an appropriate provision of landscaping, green corridors and wildlife habitats which link to the existing network?	<b>110 (97%)</b>	<b>1 (1%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>

**110 (97%) YES** - in favour of the proposal that any new development should contain appropriate provision of land-scaping, green corridors, wild life habitats. **1 (1%) NO** - not in favour of the proposal but comment "Some of the green corridor, e.g. field at bottom of Boker Lane, could be used for affordable housing. Green corridors were sensible 50 years ago but are not practical now." **2 (2%) NIL** response.

	<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>NO. OF COMMENTS</b>	<b>NIL RESPONSE</b>
<b>Q1 &amp; Q2</b>	Please explain the reasons for your responses to Q1 and Q2:	<b>85 (75%)</b>	<b>28 (25%)</b>

85 (75%) provided comments. The majority want a **‘green’ village rich in wildlife habitats** and stress the retention, protection and enhancement of the green belt/spaces and corridors as they bring many benefits to both humans and wildlife. ‘the green spaces add to the character of the village and provide much needed habitat for wildlife.’ Brown sites for any housing should be a priority over green field.

Suggestions as to how this can be achieved include; provide wildlife corridors through new developments; develop more ponds and wetlands especially as flood alleviation which may attract funding; stop illegal lamping, shooting, hunting, introduce village talks by Wildlife Trust, local police & council countryside officers to raise awareness; identify walking/cycling routes to promote health & educational value.

**Reasons and potential actions**

- **Need to retain, promote and protect green belt/spaces and wildlife** (39)  
This is what makes East Boldon unique;prevents merger with surrounding villages/towns; need to tap into research on biodiversity as we are ignorant as to its long-term loss;  
need to live in harmony not conflict with nature; provides recreation spaces; counteracts traffic pollution; need to protect for future generations.
- **Co-ordinate landscaping the green corridors** (12)  
Perpetuates relationship with nature; counteracts pollution; provides sustenance for food chain; habitat for wildlife; existing footpaths are green wildlife corridors; many ecosystems are interlinked and dependent on one another, cutting these areas off from each other could cause irreparable harm.
- **Brown field sites a priority over green field** (10)  
Incentivise use of brown fields; once green fields are gone, they are gone forever; include Wildlife corridors, links to existing habitats; only use brown field if infra-structure is improved.  
Prevent erosion of greenbelt.
- **Planning needs to be based on research** (4)  
Policies should focus on well research to maximise protection of wildlife, protect views across the landscape and enhance the attractiveness of the village to human and wildlife inhabitants
- **Benefits of natural environment on health &well-being** (4)  
For walks, exercise, clean unpolluted air, mindfulness and getting in touch with nature away from everyday stress.
- **Concerns about infra-structure to support large scale housing** (3)
- **Need to find right balance between keeping green belt/spaces and housing** (2)
- **Find space for a village green** e.g. open up dark and gloomy front St. George’s (2)

	NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	YES	NO	YES & NO	NIL RESPONSE
Q3	Do you think that the Neighbourhood Plan should designate areas within the Plan area as Green Space?	108 (95%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)

**108 (95%) YES** - in favour of designating greenspaces, 2 (2%) NO – not in favour. 3 (3%) nil responses.

	<b>NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>NO. OF COMMENTS</b>	<b>NIL RESPONSE</b>
<b>Q3</b>	If you answered YES to the previous question, are there any green spaces within the Plan area which you think could be enhanced and protected? If so, please explain why you feel the area/site should be identified and also describe its location.	<b>72 (64%)</b>	<b>41 (36%)</b>

The 72 (64%) responses highlighted **23 different green spaces** that are favoured for enhancement and protection (see the list below), the number of respondents is noted at the end of each heading. Some people made multiple suggestions as to which green spaces should be designated, 15 people want all green spaces to be included. The 5 other most highly rated are: The front of St. George’s Church, Grange Park, the Mundles/Recreation Park, Fields around, behind the Cenotaph (open up memorial). Examples of comments are included under some of the headings. The main reasons are summarised at the end of the paper (some respondents did not provide reasons rather they merely listed the sites).

**Suggested Green spaces**

**Front of St. Georges Church/open up**

(19)

Could be a focal point for the village, make it more of a community space whilst retaining trees for birds nesting etc; refuge from traffic; remove fence (to prevent vandalism); ‘The land in front of St George's Church needs to be 'opened up' with seating areas, similar to Rectory Bank in West Boldon. This could be done whilst retaining the existing trees. East Boldon is crying out for such useable green space in the centre of the village.’

**All green spaces**

(15)

Chance to observe the changing seasons; combat increasing levels of pollution. ‘Green spaces should be designated as they provide recreation and walking for all.’ ‘Generally our green spaces must be preserved for future generations. Our children need to be environmentally aware & our green spaces/habitats can help to teach them & allow them to become more aware. Adults need green spaces to exercise/relax so these spaces serve the whole community.’

**Grange Park**

(12)

Provides a shared social space for the whole community to enjoy, prevents isolation, combats loneliness, a large space for children to play in and family recreation. Open up the entrance to make it more welcoming whilst being sensitive to wildlife.

**Mundles/Rec Park/fields around**

(12)

Recreation park - leisure and play. ‘The fields towards Mundles Lane to prevent urban sprawl’

**Behind Cenotaph/open up memorial**

(10)

‘In particular, the area around the cenotaph and in front of St George's church should have the fences removed and paths created to allow people to walk away from the main road.’

**Green space behind Burnside/Glencourse**

(8)

Used for play and by dog walkers. ‘The green strip between metro and housing-a safe space for children&vista for residents, also for flora and fauna.’

**South Lane fields/into fields South of Boldon/Farm** (8)

Essential to the character of the village and wildlife.

**Cricket Club** - Social and recreation space and wildlife habitat. (7)

**Golf Course** - 'Golf Club-greater security to prevent destruction of habitat.' (6)

**Fields:-Cleadon Lane & West Drive; Field near library** (6)

'Fields between Cleadon Lane/West Drive/East Boldon Road creates separation between Cleadon and East Boldon without this the two villages would become one conurbation.'

**2 fields at North Farm -surrounding the village** (5)

Contain vast array of wildlife.RSPB identified the need to protect wildlife at North Farm.

**Army Camp** (4)

'The army camp could become a mini woodland(part of it) picnic area and social space,encouraging the return of creatures currently targeted for gun sport and discouraging vandalism.'

**All wildlife corridors** (4)

**Bridleways** (4)

**Wetlands/Tilesheds Burn/along railway/ Tilesheds Nature reserve** (4)

**School Site/fields** (3)

'The school fields around the Junior School should be designated as protected green spaces to secure the playing fields for future generations; the only playing fields in East Boldon.'

**Mundles lane** (4)

**All footpaths (e.g. Old North Road, Railway line to Tilesheds)(2)**

'The green area alongside the metro line needs to be better managed as it provides a green corridor and also will enhance the look of the area.' 'All of the foot paths in and around the village linking the greenbelt and wildlife areas should be maintained to allow continued access as this is good for our wellbeing.'

**Boldon Flats** (2)

**Fields to woods Mundles Lane** (2)

**Cemetery** (2)

**Bank in front of Toad hall** (1)

**Old Chemical works? (behind Mundles Lane) an eyesore** (1)

**Archery Club** (1)

**The main reasons why green spaces should be protected and enhanced are to:**

- **Protect the character and nature of the village**, prevents urban sprawl and its position in the green belt e.g. Bridle paths, cemetery, golf and cricket clubs, fields next to South Lane and the parks are essential to the character of the village and wildlife.
- **Protect wildlife (flora and fauna)**, this could be achieved by surveying of sites over an extended period to identify seasonal activity e.g. RSPB identified the need to protect wildlife at the North Farm site
- **Enhance health and well-being**, e.g. for sheer pleasure!The green belt/spaces allow observation of the changing seasons;

- **Promote family life**, through enjoyment of areas such as Tiledsheds nature reserve, old railway line, Grange and Recreation parks which allow families to get away from traffic/bustle of life and enjoy the natural environment and spending time together.
- **Combat pollution**, green spaces help to combat rising levels of pollution (caused by increased traffic).
- **Provide social and recreation facilities** – e.g. the cricket and golf clubs, they are also natural grounds for wildlife.
- **Provide a focal point for the village, a community space** – e.g. front of St. George's Church, Cenotaph; Cricket Club both spaces for wildlife too.
- **Encourage environmental awareness** - 'Our children need to be environmentally aware & our green spaces/habitats can help to teach them & allow them to become more aware.'

## EBF; CONSULTATION EVENT QUESTIONNAIRE MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

### CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions have been drawn from the analysis of each questionnaire question; 2. Natural Environment. The analysis has been written up and should be read in conjunction with conclusions. Whilst there were 4 main questions (with sub-questions), main common themes and concerns emerge and re-appear throughout questionnaire, these therefore form the basis of the conclusions. The 4 main common themes appear to be:

- A. Retaining, protecting and enhancing the green belt and wildlife within this (flora and fauna),
- B. The use of brown field sites, first and foremost, for any new housing.

#### **A. Retaining, protecting and enhancing the green belt and wildlife within this (flora and fauna).**

In Question 2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT 99% favour the protecting of the green belt (1% nil response) and 97% favour the proposal that any new development should contain appropriate provision of landscaping, green corridors, wildlife habitats, with only 1% in disagreement. (Also see comments in attached HOUSING paper and B below.)

75% provided further comments, the majority want a 'green' village rich in wildlife habitats and stress the retention, protection and enhancement of the green belt/spaces and corridors as they bring many benefits to both humans and wildlife 'the green spaces add to the character of the village and provide much needed habitat for wildlife.'

96% are in favour of designating greenspaces, 64% provided further comments and highlighted 23 spaces for enhancement and protection. The most highly rated are: The front of St. George's Church, all Green spaces;

Grange Park, the Mundles/Recreation Park/fields around, behind the Cenotaph (open up memorial). Some benefits of green spaces include the enhancement of health and well-being, provision of social and recreation facilities, combating pollution, provision of a village focal point for the community.

**B. The use of brown field sites first and foremost for any new housing.**

In Question 3 HOUSING, 0% in favour of using green field sites. The preference to use brown field sites first and foremost is the predominant response, but with the proviso that even here there is wildlife that must be protected. Secondly is the need to protect the green belt/green spaces/areas ( "It would be a crime to lose the green belt", "Greenfields are an important part of East Boldon", "We need to protect our green fields for the future", "Narrowing the green belt between villages avoided at all costs", "only brownfields").

93% agree that any new housing in the plan area should reflect the specific needs identified by East Boldon residents survey.

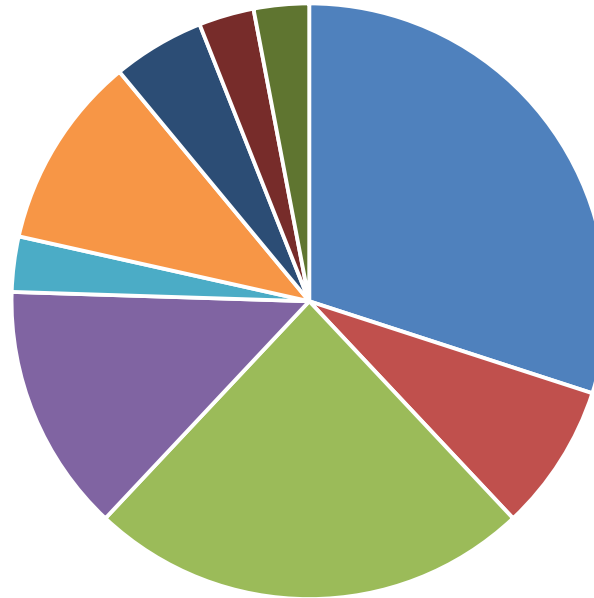
Only 1 (1%) disagreed. 56% added further comments confirming this view, specifying the plan should include different types and sizes, be of a high standard and design must be sympathetic to the area. Many expressed the need to retain and protect the 'green' character of the village and were concerned about the impact of any new housing on infra-structure.

96% would like any financial contribution from developers for new housing to be spent within the village, the main suggestions centre on maintaining, improving and developing village assets, in particular the green spaces and places, parks being top of this list. Developing play areas, recreation spaces for young people particularly and providing a village gathering space are other ideas. Parking and traffic issues are large concerns, suggestions to address these include introducing a village shuttle bus and diverting heavy traffic away from shops and residential areas.

**Summary of Residents' Concerns from Consultation, July 15<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Topic of concern by resident	% Residents who gave this feedback on 15.7.17
Want to conserve greenbelt and acknowledge its beneficial effects on wellbeing.	30
Would like improved village facilities	8
Concern about traffic, congestion, transport and negative health effects	24
Lack of affordable housing	13.5
Flooding	3
Amenities for young people	10.5
Concern over schools and infrastructure	5
Ethos of village	3
Appreciation of work done by forum	3

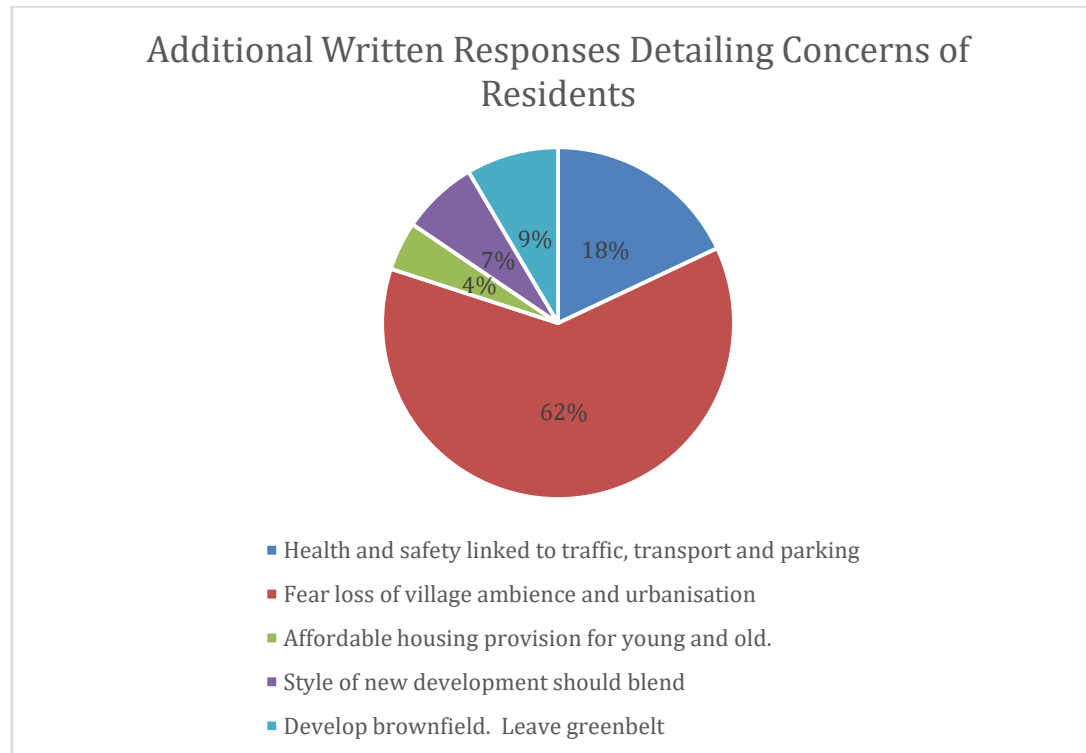
% Residents who gave this feedback on 15.7.17



- Want to conserve greenbelt and acknowledge its beneficial effects on wellbeing.
- Would like improved village facilities
- Concern about traffic, congestion, transport and negative health effects
- Lack of affordable housing
- Flooding
- Amenities for young people
- Concern over schools and infrastructure
- Ethos of village
- Appreciation of work done by forum

Written Concern	Additional Written Responses Detailing Concerns of Residents
Health and safety linked to traffic, transport and parking	18
Fear loss of village ambience and urbanisation	62
Affordable housing provision for young and old.	4.5
Style of new development should blend	7
Develop brownfield. Leave greenbelt	8.5

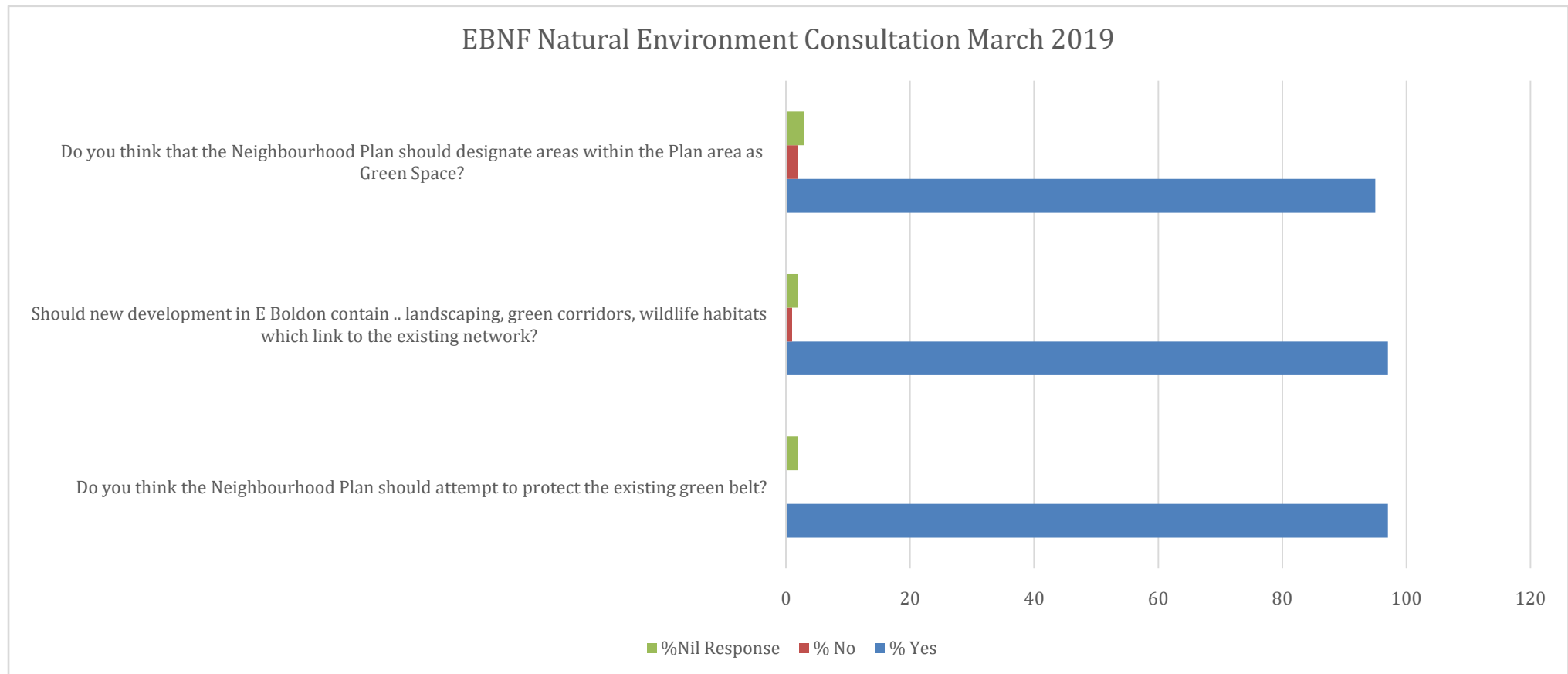
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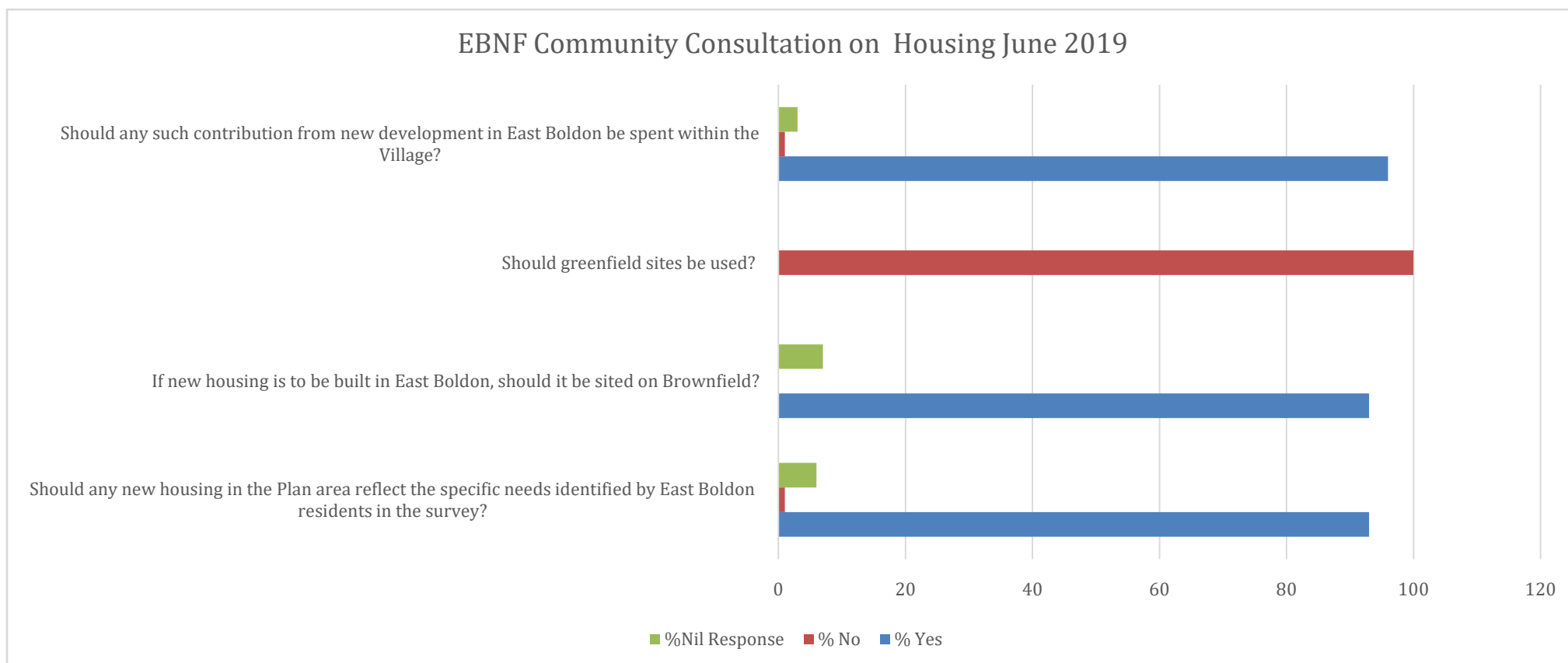
## March 2019 Consultation on Emerging EBNF Policies (see above for full consultation analysis)

EBNF Policy Area: Natural Environment	% Yes	% No	%Nil Response
Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan should attempt to protect the existing green belt?	97	0	2
Should new development in E Boldon contain .. landscaping, green corridors, wildlife habitats which link to the existing network?	97	1	2
Do you think that the Neighbourhood Plan should designate areas within the Plan area as Green Space?	95	2	3



## EBNF June 2019 Consultation on Housing Development

Emerging EBNF Policy Area: Housing	% Yes	% No	%Nil Response
Should any new housing in the Plan area reflect the specific needs identified by East Boldon residents in the survey?	93	1	6
If new housing is to be built in East Boldon, should it be sited on Brownfield?	93	0	7
Should greenfield sites be used?	0	100	0
Should any such contribution from new development in East Boldon be spent within the Village?	96	1	3



## [APPENDIX V: Durham Wildlife Trust Endorsement](#)

### **Durham Wildlife Trust – East Boldon**

Surrounding East Boldon, the Green Belt is of strategic importance as a wildlife corridor. The open green space is vital as connected green/open space habitat from County Durham to the Coast. Any development, for example to the golf club at East Boldon, would sever this corridor isolating the wildlife populations of Cleadon, Whitburn and the South Tyneside Coast. It is therefore essential to prevent the merging of Sunderland and East Boldon in order to maintain this living landscape and where possible enlarge or enhance these areas.

The open green spaces and wildlife areas within the village stand alone as beneficial to certain species but would be far improved for wildlife and for people if they were made bigger, were better managed and were more joined up. EBNF should seek to enhance the natural environment of East Boldon by attempting to connect the green belt to the North and South of the village. A project encouraging hedge laying, planting for wildlife and for residents to even simply cut holes in their fences would see a vast improvement for species in significant decline such as Hedgehogs.

Where wildlife areas require management preference should be given to enhancing already established habitats as opposed to clearance. For example, the woodland areas neighbouring St George's Church support a rookery, a significant wildlife feature for East Boldon. The area beneath the trees may be managed beneficially for wildlife, some areas may require strimming and preference should be given to diversifying the range of plants, opting for native woodland plants which are adapted to survive under tree cover.

The Wildlife Trust's vision is for people close to nature with land and seas rich in wildlife. The nature reserves we've saved are vital refuges for wildlife but they alone are not enough if nature is to thrive everywhere. We need to create Living Landscapes where wildlife habitats are bigger, better managed and more joined-up. Our approach is based on the principles of landscape-scale conservation (Lawton 2010) and one which was recently adopted by the DEFRA 25 Year Plan.

East Boldon is full of potential for wildlife and is perfectly positioned to become the blueprint for an urban fringe village where both wildlife and people flourish.

## [Appendix VI: RSPB Make a Case for a Full Wildlife Assessment of Land at North Farm](#)

Two residents, Jim and Jen Stuart have been mapping the wildlife on site (BC25b) for many years. Their property backs onto the land at North Farm. They wrote to the RSPB and received the following reply:

Dear Jen and Jim Stuart,

Thank you for contacting the RSPB with your enquiry.

All wild birds in the UK are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. You can find out more here: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/wildlife-and-the-law/wildlife-and-countryside-act/>

This protects the birds and their eggs from intentional harm and also their active nests from intentional destruction.

Some species, their dependent young and breeding areas are further protected during the breeding season by being listed on Schedule 1 but none of the species you've listed are protected in this way.

It certainly sounds like it could be a valuable foraging and nesting habitat for a wide range of species and it would be great if it could be protected. This may be something that the local council can do. Your local wildlife trust may also be able to assist, as I have known them to help get pieces of land listed as nature reserves in the past.

Unfortunately, due to limited resources and huge development pressures across the UK we must prioritise the cases that we become involved in, and as such, we must focus our limited resources on large developments that threaten nationally important designated sites supporting significant numbers of threatened birds and wildlife.

That doesn't mean that we don't appreciate the value of the land and habitats such as the one you describe, but it does mean that we have to take a different approach to tackling development proposals of this type. That includes informing and supporting individuals to effectively prevent unsuitable developments, working at the national-level to ensure that policies such as the National Planning Policy Framework require developers to protect and enhance protected areas and advisory work to help ensure that land of all types is better managed to benefit wildlife. While we may be unable to support your campaign directly, we applaud your efforts in speaking up for wildlife.

We always say, that when organised appropriately, local people have the strongest voice when it comes to protecting the sites that you know and love. I would recommend taking a look at the planning information we have on our website so you can effectively counter any unsuitable planning applications involving land. You will find those pages here: <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/protecting-wildlife-sites-near-you/local-planning-pack-england>.

Our Newcastle office may be able to provide further local advice: 0191 233 4300.

I hope that helps but if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get back in touch with us.

Kind regards,

**Simon Mott** (Support Advisor, Wildlife)

## Appendix VII:

## A Vision of a Greener Future for East Boldon Forum by Peter Collins

### Developing for Nature and Wellbeing

*Peter was Head National Trust Warden operating in South Tyneside and working co-operatively with South Tyneside Council for 18 years from the 1980's. During that time, he worked alongside the Council, Newcastle University and Durham Wildlife Trust on species surveys and historic data to produce a paper; **Boldon Flats: Encouraging Wildlife**. He used to give guided nature walks to the Flats and also involved the Bishop of Jarrow in tree planting on the site.*

Peter agrees with the Forum proposal that South Tyneside could become a world leader by endorsing a **6<sup>th</sup> function of greenbelt** as a central planning tenet since permanent grassland is one of the best ways of holding carbon.

Over the years the Boldon Flats site has suffered from resourcing issues which has caused changes in species diversity. The Forum hopes to improve outcomes for the Flats. Hundreds of birds come to the site and the species diversity is such that the site has SSSI rating. The nearest similar site along the coast is the Teesside Estuary. Boldon Flats is a rare and valuable site which deserves the best possible care and management. Peter endorses the Forum statement and believes that EBNF has a sympathetic eye on ecosystems and wildlife corridors in the forum area and that we are conscious of encouraging public access.

**Peter is supportive of our Community Action: To work with South Tyneside Council, the Church Commissioners and the tenant farmer to improve the management, supervision and interpretation of the Boldon Flats Local Wildlife Site.**

# EAST BOLDON FORUM

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## Community Action

To work with South Tyneside Council, the Church Commissioners and the tenant farmer to improve the management, supervision and interpretation of the Boldon Flats Local Wildlife Site.

