

BIRDS and FARM



LANDSCAPES

FINAL REPORT

May 2016



BIRDS AND FARM LANDSCAPES
Managed by the Mid Teesdale Project Partnership,
Registered charity no 111 8591
FINAL REPORT

CONTENTS

1. PROJECT TITLE AND REFERENCE NUMBER
2. FUNDING OBTAINED FROM THE HEART OF TEESDALE
3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING
4. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT
5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND OUTCOMES AND COSTS
6. ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE HIGHS AND LOWS
7. LESSONS LEARNED
8. LEGACY
9. HOW WERE WE PERCEIVED? THE QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDICES

1. List of Volunteers
2. Output Facts and Figures
3. Legacy

1. BIRDS AND FARM LANDSCAPES (B&FL) – Project A7 – FINAL REPORT

2. FUNDING FROM THE HEART OF TEESDALE

The original grant was for £140,000. It was subsequently reduced to £116,500. As the host group, the Mid Teesdale Project Partnership (MTPP), is a community organisation with no funds of its own, the grant was advanced in stages by the Heart of Teesdale on satisfactory evidence of expenditure being produced before further funds were advanced.

3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING OBTAINED

No additional funding was required in the offer made by Heart of Teesdale. However, £2,653 was obtained from the County Durham Tree Week Grant scheme, and £444 was contributed by farmers towards the cost of wild bird seed mixes with a further £28 from selling spare trees to a fellow conservation project.

Of the total funding, approximately £51,500 was spent on the Conservation officer, and £57,500 on Habitat improvements (mainly for hedgerows, tree planting, bird seed mixes, pond re-excavation, and nest boxes).

The remainder was spent on administration including insurance, surveys, events and volunteer expenses. No funds were directly spent on project management as the project manager, Ian Moorhouse, has been a volunteer.

Following payment of all bills, £325 is expected to be left which it is requested be kept with the project to pay for spraying around trees on Cotherstone Moor, replacing any dead trees and repairs to nest boxes.

In addition,

1. The Conservation Officer worked with several farmers to enable them to obtain Entry Level Stewardship Grants which will total £ 82,000 over 5 years. This will be paid directly to the farmers concerned.
2. The project worked with the Durham Hedgerow Partnership, contributing almost £22,500 over the project period; this funding was matched by the Hedgerow Partnership. The equivalent cash contribution of the farmers' work on planting and protecting the hedgerows is considered by the DHP to be some £45,000
4. The cash value of input from the 115 volunteers involved totalled almost £75,000 with 1052 hours at rate "a", 3026 hours at rate "b and a very small number of hours at rate "c" – see Appendix1, List of Volunteers.

4. INTRODUCTION

Key members of the project were two voluntary groups, Trees for Cotherstone and the Durham Bird Club. Natural England, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and the

North Pennines AONB Partnership provided help and advice, and together with representatives from the MTPP and the Conservation Officer, formed the Project Steering Group.

The three and a half year project was designed as a broad ranging collaborative effort between farmers and volunteers with the aim of making both parties and the general public more aware of the need for conserving farmland wildlife, in particular those farmland birds which have decreased considerably over the past 25 years. The volunteers undertook surveys, assembled and erected nest boxes and planted trees, to name but a few of their contributions. Considerable effort was put into attracting and retaining volunteers. This was recognised as one respondent to the questionnaire, which is described in section 9 of this report, who commented "*(the project) respected volunteers and supported their role*"

Of central importance was the appointment of a Conservation Officer, experienced both in conservation and in dealing with farmers. The brief was based on outputs which, it was expected, could be achieved in nominally two days a week.

Jennie Stafford (of Jennie Stafford Rural Advisory Ltd) was appointed after interview of applicants, starting work at the beginning of December 2012. The farms she visited during the project occupied a total of over 10,000ha; they varied from privately owned small holdings comprising a couple of fields to large estates with a dozen tenanted farms. They were spread as evenly as possible throughout the Heart of Teesdale area.

Farming types covered the full spectrum of farms found in Teesdale, ranging from arable to mixed and grassland, intensive and extensive, organic and conventional. Stock comprised dairy and suckler cows, sheep and pigs.

The farmers engaged during the project have been a mixture of pre-existing and new contacts, the latter resulting from referrals, advertisements in the local press, newspaper articles, word of mouth and cold calling.

Most effort was concentrated on Red List and Amber List bird species (these have generally declined by 50% and 25% respectively over the last 25 years). To help increase farmer awareness of the birds on their land, breeding bird surveys were undertaken on 18 farms. In addition, funding was given to farmers for sowing wild bird seed mixes and for habitat enhancement, important for keeping small birds such as sparrows, buntings and finches alive during the winter and early spring. Nest boxes were provided for small birds and Barn and Little owls.

During the project, 2,500 trees were planted, over 1000 of these by the farmers themselves and almost 6.5km of hedges were laid, most of the latter were funded in conjunction with the Durham Hedgerow Partnership.

The project worked with a wide range of groups, including the Barnard Castle Guides, the U3A, the RSPB and the Environmental Record Centre for the North East.

“ It was great to see the work that is being done as part of the project, not only for the benefit of farmland birds but also the positive impacts on the wider community” Stephanie Bird-Halton, Natural England Team Leader by email after her first Steering Group meeting

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND OUTPUTS

5.1 Aims and Objectives

The key aim with farmers was to get them “on board” and receptive to conservation. This was generally achieved by emphasising that Teesdale, with its diverse landscape, wide range of habitats, and low predation and disturbance rates, is a great place for birds. It makes sense to explain how improvements in land management can be made without prejudicing farming.

Advice was directed at making small but significant management changes, some of which do not cost money, and which benefit all wildlife especially birds. Stress was also placed on the key three needs of birds – nesting sites, cover, and summer and winter food.

Recommended management changes related mainly to hedgerow cutting (every two years to leave berries for wintering thrushes), grass cutting, grassland management, and fertilizer usage. As previously mentioned funds were available for a variety of measures to help farmland birds.

Increasing awareness amongst the general public was through a variety of events and talks which reached over 750 people in total.

Towards the end of the project a questionnaire was circulated to about 100 people who had been involved with various aspects of the work. 45 responses were received. The results are discussed in Section 9

5.2 TARGETS AND OUTCOMES

The targets that outlined below were agreed between the Mid Teesdale Project Partnership and the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership and signed on 27 September 2012.

1. The main thrust of the Development Officer's (known as the Conservation Officer) role will be to achieve a change in mind set amongst the farmers to make them more conservation minded.

The Development (Conservation) Officer created valuable and lasting links with the farmers and others involved with the land. Although it is extremely difficult to quantify the effect the project has had on these people, it is significant that 3 farmers/land managers/keepers attended the launch compared with 17 out of the 38 people involved in the final event. We consider that this is sound evidence that the Conservation Officer (and the volunteers) made quite an impact!

2. Annually 48 farm contacts with 16 farm surveys and reports

Farm contacts -In total 102 separate farms were visited by the Conservation officer, covering an area of over 10,000 hectares. Contacts were made by Trees for Cotherstone on a further 10 sites. Many of the farms were visited more than once, some up to a dozen times, and we consider that this target has been met.

The target for reports was more difficult. Six farms each year were surveyed during the breeding season. A report was prepared on each, combining the bird surveys (undertaken by volunteers) with the habitat report of the Conservation officer. A report was made of each year's winter surveys of wild bird seed mix. In all a total of 21 bird survey reports was prepared plus an additional 13 reports on grassland management, making an overall total of 33 written reports as opposed to the target of 48. Much of this shortfall was made up by verbal reports which were all the farmer required.

3. 6 EVENTS IN YEAR 1, 5 IN YEAR2 AND 6 IN YEAR 3.A total of 17 events, some for volunteers and others for the general public.

In total 31 events were held including talks with a total attendance of over 750 people. They included a project launch and a final thank you to both farmers and volunteers as well as workshops for the public and specialist audiences, guided walks including a farmer-led walk, and talks to a variety of organisations. TARGET EXCEEDED.

"Just to reinforce my thank you for a splendid early morning foray.....and what a lovely breakfast!" participant in early morning walk 11 May 2014, by email

"Thank you for a very enjoyable informative walk It is heartening to see projects like this working so well" walk event participant, by email

"after this event I shall never feel the same about hayfields" hayfields event participant, in conversation

4. 2 VISITS TO SCHOOLS PER YEAR BY THE DEVELOPMENT (CONSERVATION) OFFICER

It was agreed that it was better to work consistently with two or three schools within the area rather than to make only one visit to several. As a result, primary schools at Bowes, Cotherstone and Gainford were selected, receiving 9 visits in total. Activities included dissection of Barn owl pellets, tree planting and bird feeding.

In addition, similar work plus nest box assembly was carried out with local Brownies, Guides and Venture Scouts. TARGET EXCEEDED

“ Jenny the owl pellet lady came ...we split the pellet into quarters. There were skulls and bones in the owl pellet and we had to pick the bones out – it was fun!” a pupil writing in the Cotherstone Primary School newsletter, 1 May2015.

5. 60 TREES WITH APPROPRIATE PROTECTION IN YEAR 1 AND 350 DURING THE WHOLE PROJECT

In total over 2,500 trees were planted, 180 as stock-protected individual trees, with others in field corners and shelter belts. This figure includes more than 1000 trees, stakes and tree guards given to 26 farmers who planted them in appropriate places on their farms, and one school. TARGET EXCEEDED.

“ Very clear guidance about tree planting. Organisation done well by Jennie” farmer commenting in his questionnaire response

6. 50 NESTBOXES IN YEAR 1 WITH 140 IN TOTAL DURING THE 3 YEAR PERIOD (for small birds such as Tree sparrows)

200 boxes were made as flatpaks by volunteers at the RSPB in years 1 and 2, assembled and erected by volunteers with a further 30 made and erected in spring 2016. Boxes cleaned out by volunteers each winter. Chicks ringed by volunteers from the North Eastern Ringing Group with British Trust for Ornithology rings. Main target species was the Tree sparrow, a bird which has declined by 90% over the last 25 years. Nesting occurred at 10 sites by year 3. Other species included Redstart and many Blue and Great tits.

ONGOING RINGING AND MAINTENANCE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE NORTH EASTERN RINGING GROUP. Target exceeded.

“ the man came to ring the chicks –he was lovely and so good with my grandchildren; they were absolutely fascinated” Person with tree sparrow nests on her land, in conversation.

7. 5 NESTBOXES FOR BARN OWLS DURING THE FIRST YEAR AND 14 DURING THE PROJECT

In all 15 boxes were erected for Barn owls. Disturbance was kept to a minimum during the project to enable birds to establish. However there were signs of occupation at approximately 50% of the boxes with definite breeding in at least one box in years 2 and 3. 3 boxes installed for the decreasing Little owl in year 2. No nesting observed but successful breeding by Red listed Starlings. A further 6 boxes erected in winter/spring 2016. Target exceeded.

INSPECTION AND RINGING TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE NORTH EAST RINGING GROUP FROM SPRING/SUMMER 2016.

8. 280m PER YEAR OF HEDGEROWS RESTORED OR PLANTED

The project worked closely with the Durham Hedgerow Partnership (DHP), staffed by officers from the Landscape and Arboriculture section of the County Council. The DHP funds selected hedgerow planting and restoration by paying for the plants and materials required and which are then installed or planted by the farmer as match funding.

The work is carried out under an Agreement between the farmer and the DHP, under which the farmer agrees to maintain the hedgerow for 5 Years.

This was felt to be by far the best way for Birds and Farm Landscapes to proceed as it provided for maintenance and monitoring after the project had finished.

By encouraging farmers to apply for hedgerow grants and then co-funding the materials costs with DHP the B&FL was instrumental in funding almost 6.5km of hedgerows, most in conjunction with DHP.

It should be noted that the hedgeline at Bowes on Chris Moss' farm will be completed this autumn as the hayfield adjacent was too wet to be disturbed. The funding for this work will be held by the DHP until the work is satisfactorily completed.

9. 13 hectares of wild bird seed mix in the ground in years 2 and 3 with supplementary feeding in these areas from January to spring.

Seed was provided for 16.5ha of wild bird mixes sown in the spring of 2013 and 19 hectares in 2014. In 2015 half the cost of the seed was offered for certain sites and all offers made were taken up on an area of 7.5ha, a total of 39 hectares.

Three sites were surveyed at monthly intervals during the winter periods of 2013/4, 2014/5 and 2015/6 with volunteer surveyors from the Barnard Castle U3A and the project manager, and the results presented to the land manager. The sites were adjacent to maize planted for pheasant and red legged partridge and were provided with supplementary feeding at no cost to the project.

In addition winter feeding was provided at 13 stations during the project, including two schools, a farm shop and the Barnard Castle golf course.

Target met.

10. 8 areas of “re-wilding or other appropriate habitat management for target species each spring

For the purpose of the project, a field corner was considered as any area which was or had been deliberately taken out of agriculture to allow habitat improvements. This was not an easy target to meet as fencing off field corners could result in a potential decrease in farm payments to the farmer

However, a total of 30 areas were improved. These included restoration of three ponds, an area of wild flowers, three areas of fruiting and berry bearing trees, tree planting (some in shelter belts) and one site which was simply left to regenerate naturally. Target exceeded. It should be noted that the latter shows the amount of money awarded which is not necessarily the amount actually paid at the completion of the work.

11. Advice on grassland management for wildlife – 48 hectares per year.

Advice was provided to a total of 19 farms with a total grassland area of 777hectares.

6. ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE HIGHS AND LOWS

ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- 6 successful Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) applications were submitted to Natural England on behalf of the farmers concerned. As a result they will, in total receive £16,429 each year for 5 years – very useful funding for hard-pressed Dales farmers.
- Several Countryside Stewardship applications submitted, one of which is proceeding.
- A website was created which proved very useful for advertising events.
- Good relations with the local press.
- As a result of the project inviting an expert on Osprey nesting platforms to the Heart of Teesdale, Durham Bird Club are planning to refurbish an existing unused platform later this year.
- Supporting with help and advice to two new tree planting groups, going under the name Trees for Teesdale and based in Gainford and Mickleton, helping to fund tree planting in Gainford, within the Heart of Teesdale area.
- At the instigation of the Project, one of the Durham Tree Officers undertook a considerable amount of work to locate sites for planting trees in roadside verges.

Because of cost, Birds and Farm Landscapes could not agree to fund the planting. However, DCC undertook the work itself during spring 2016, planting 55 Oak and Sycamore on roadsides within the project area.

- The maker of the project's owl boxes revealed himself to be a juggler and that his group were looking for a venue for the 2016 Durham Juggling and Circus Festival. As a result of our conversation this year's festival will take place in October in Barnard Castle!

HIGHS AND LOWS

THE HIGHS

- The unfailing support of the project members and volunteers and of the Conservation Officer, and meeting so many excellent farmers and volunteers.
- Seeing native trees being planted on West Plantation at Bowes, an area of heather moorland with beautiful mature and senescent native trees which, because of sheep grazing, was not being naturally regenerated.
- The excitement of organising bird surveys on 6 different farms each year.
- Looking with an expert at potential sites for Osprey nesting platforms within the Heart of Teesdale area. Although none were identified in the area, visits to adjacent sites has inspired member group the Durham Bird Club to refurbish an existing platform outside the area.
- Seeing the first barn owl chicks in one of "our" nest boxes.
- Some tremendously successful events for the general public. A hay meadow event carried out with the North Pennines AONB and an early morning birdwatch followed by breakfast particularly come to mind.
- Inspiring a new tree planting organisation, Trees for Teesdale, which started up 2 new planting groups in the Heart of Teesdale.
- Two volunteers from the U3A who were involved in the winter survey work, deciding, completely unasked, to prepare a 5 minute audio-visual presentation on part of the project which has been shown widely to U3A and other groups.
- The obviously excellent relationship which the Conservation officer developed with the farming community. This was graphically illustrated by attendance at two farmer-only events which she organised.
- Steering Group member Stephanie Bird-Halton from Natural England being so impressed with B&FL that she volunteered her office staff to undertake a day's tree planting for the project.
- The three silted ponds cleaned out.
- The Durham Hedgerow Partnership agreeing to monitor the project's grant sites along with their own hedges during the 10 year maintenance agreement period
- The North East Ringing Group taking over monitoring and ringing on all the nest boxes

HIGHS AND LOWS – THE LOWS

- Tree planting – finding out that one farmer had offered our trees to neighbours who had planted them in places where they were destroyed by stock. (this was rectified the next year by Trees for Cotherstone who planted trees within stock proof protection).
- The standard of workmanship and aftercare on some farms was disappointing.
- With the resources available it was not possible to put more project effort in to helping the farmers who sometimes understand less than one might think about tree planting.

7. LESSONS LEARNED

- That it is not always easy to award grant money for worthwhile activities on farms.
- Probably we tried to do too much.
- Some farmers are very committed to conservation; we met none who were actually anti wildlife.
- Farmers really do like planting hedges.
- Never under-estimate the time spent on administration and dealing with people on a personal basis arranging such things as farm surveys, meetings and discussions. If these are not carried out properly they can be counterproductive.

8. THE LEGACY

Planting trees brings its own legacy and hopefully a sizeable percentage of the 2,500 planted will be left to grow to maturity, many maintained by Trees for Cotherstone and Trees for Teesdale, but other less tangible aspects of the project's legacy were not easy to get to grips with. Eventually, it was decided that legacy fell into two categories – physical and cultural/educational (inspire and enthuse). These have been examined in Appendix 2 and 3, Legacy, and indicate that the Project will have left a considerable legacy in the area.

Two surprising outcomes not mentioned in the appendix were:-
the planting of roadside trees in the area by Durham County Council at no cost to the project, following initial work done by the project manager with a DCC Tree officer.

Barnard Castle being chosen as the venue for the 2016 Juggling and Circus Festival – the result of a chance conversation between the project's juggling owl box maker, the project manager and his wife!

9. THE QUESTIONNAIRE

As stated earlier, about 100 short and simple questionnaires were put out to people who had been involved with the project. 45 were returned. Responses were surprisingly, but not uniformly, positive as can be seen below.

Q1. Each respondent was asked to identify themselves as farmer/landowner (12 replies), volunteer (25) or "other" (8) and to identify, Q2, what their activity had been within the project.

Q3. Asked to rate from 1 (very negative) to 10 (unbelievably positive) how the experience of the project had been to them average responses were as follows:-
FARMERS 9/10 VOLUNTEERS 9/10 "OTHER" 9.5/10

Comments included

"Very helpful and rewarding" Farmer (F)

"Very good liaison between the parties" Farmer (F)

Q4. Asked to rate similarly whether the project had made them more aware of the need for conservation, the response was rather less positive, because some people had known previously of the need.

FARMERS 7.5 VOLUNTEERS 7.4 OTHERS 7.6

Comments to this question included

"Participation always makes you more aware" F

"I became involved because I was aware" F

"Prior to the project I had little understanding of the need" V

"Both adults and children have now a better understanding of the environment on birdlife". O

It should be pointed out that some of the best volunteers had already understood the need for conservation and thus scored low in this question.

Q5 What did the project do well, and why, comments included

"Well run and cohesive", "Very clear guidance about tree planting" "Advice good, quick payment" All F.

"Great exposure to nature and the environment, also for young people" V

"Including the community". V

"raised awareness well" V

"Plenty of different activities. A lot of effort put in by certain key members of the team". V

"Engaging with children"

"Respected volunteers and supported their role"

Q6 What could the project have done better?

"Don't provide bare rooted trees at wrong time of year" F – we didn't!

"Get the project off the ground more quickly" V

"Engaging with the public and making them more aware" O

Q7 Will you continue to support the aims of the project?

“Will continue with game crops and bee mixes” F

“Will manage the farm sympathetically” F

“Willing to plant more hedgerow trees” F

Q8 Asked for any other comments

“All events attended were very good” F

“Keep up the good work” F

“It will leave benefits for years to come” F

“We were impressed with the project” V

“Fascinating project – learned a lot about the local area and birds” V

GRATEFUL THANKS

Thanks are due to many people and organisations without whom the project could never have taken place. Not necessarily in order, grateful thanks are due to

The farming community within the Heart of Teesdale area who let our volunteers survey birds, plant trees and put up nest boxes on their land

The tremendous efforts of all the volunteers who gave so unselfishly of their time and energy.

Durham County Council staff who were unstinting in their support, as were all the staff of the Partnership with manager Alex Sijpesteijn deserving special mention for her unflinching support and good nature sometimes under the most trying circumstances.

Jennie Stafford who worked tirelessly with farmers and put up with a manager more familiar with the world of civil engineering than conservation.

Ian Moorhouse

2 June 2016

APPENDIX 1 LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

ON THE BIRDS AND FARM LANDSCAPES PROJECT

MID TEESDALE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

1. Ian Moorhouse Project Manager
2. Sandra Moorhouse Events and various

STEERING GROUP

3. Stephanie Bird-Halton	Natural England
4. Chris McCarty	Natural England
5. Phil Warren	Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
6. John Olley	Durham Bird Club
7. Chris Woodley-Stewart	North Pennines APONB
8. Peter Wood	MTPP
9. Wendy Stafeckis	MTPP

TREES FOR COTHERSTONE

Dave Martin	Tree planting and protection from stock
Allan Rayner	
Peter Ball	
Peter Webb	
Ross Law	
Richard Sippe	
Stewart Singleton	
Stuart Abbott	
Robin Quick	
John Taylor	
Tony Seaman	
<i>Ian Moorhouse</i>	

DURHAM BIRD CLUB

<i>John Olley</i>	Owl box installation and general conservation advice.
Alan Brown	Owl box installation
John Wolstenholme	Owl box making
Mike Newsome	Photographs
Hillary Chambers	Photographs
Ian Forrest	Photographs
Brian Carter	Tree sparrow boxes
John Wood	Tree sparrow boxes
Ken Sanderson	Tree sparrow boxes

BARNARD CASTLE GUIDES

C A Pinkney, District Commissioner plus 17 guides

COUNTY DURHAM COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS

5 volunteers through *John Olley* nest box assembly

NORTH EAST RINGING GROUP

Tom Dewdney
 John Bell
 Dick Temple
 Frank Boynton
 James Grant
 Richard Winslip

Ian Lees
Bernard Price
TREES FOR TEESDALE

Allan Rayner
Geoff King
Adrian Johnson
Michele Hope
Belinda Goyder
Bill Goyder
Debbie Toward
Liz Tyrell

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS (RSPB)

John Corey	Cutting timber for nest boxes
Helper	ditto
Tina Taylor	plotting spring survey results
Janet Fairclough	various

BARNARD CASTLE U3A BIRDING GROUP- winter wild bird mix surveys

Anne Harbron
John Harbron
John Howard
Pauline Fawcett
Linda Elliott
Joan Ward
Peter Ward
Jennie Selley
Janet Fowler
Phil Carol
Harry Dick
Elizabeth Dick
Jennie Gordon

SPRING FARM BIRD SURVEYS

Ken Sanderson
Ian Moorhouse
Peter Chadwick
Vana Chadwick
Christopher Lowe
Sarah Linley
Anne Harbron
John Harbron
Robert Brown

Flora Hoban
Leo Duffy
John Howard

NATURAL ENGLAND

Stephanie Bird-Halton
Chris McCarty
Amy Greenwood
Jill Rogerson
Mike Crowley
Alison Hiles

ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD INFORMATION CENTRE

Katie Frith

INDIVIDUALS

Jamie McBain	Website, publicity information, various
Phil Crichton	Nest box installation and tree planting
Joyce Wood	Help with events
Peter Wood	Help with events
Jeanette Ball	Help with event
Chris Moorhouse	Making nest box plates, putting up boxes
John Knights	Guide at thank you event
Sue Knights	Guide at thank you event
Barry Martin	Nest box installation
Doug Sutherland	tree planting with farmer Chris Moss
Mark Saunders	“
Si Holland	“
Rob Saunders	“
Craig Jones	“
Sam Selby	“
Tash Sedgwick	“
Jarrold Poole	“
Michael Moore	“
Martin Oats	“

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS EXCLUDING FARMERS - 115

FARMERS - examples

Chris and Colleen Moss plus helpers – shelter belt fencing and planting

Peter Moss – sowing bird seed mixes for finches

Mervyn, Joyce and Bryan Close – re-excavating old pond, stock proof tree planting

Paul Coppen –	planting trees and leading a farm event for the public
Geoff and Anne Godschalk -	tree planting
Peter Gilbertson -	sowing bird seed mixes for finches
Howard Cross -	tree planting
Simon Lamb -	help with farm open day
Stuart and Carol Harrison -	tree planting
Simon Hare -	re-excavation of pools in old clay pit area.
John Richardson -	help with owl nest box siting
Peter Coverdale -	tree sparrow feeders
Gilbert Guy -	help with storage of materials when planting
Andrew Watson	general and owl box monitoring
Robin Bellas -	owl box installation
Richard Ward	help with surveys, owl box installation
Geoff Wilson and son	fencing and tree planting

Appendix 2

Physical legacy				
Activity & description	Amount	Expected lifespan	Legacy	Notes

Field boundary and parkland trees with stockproof protection	180 trees	100+ years	Improved landscape and improved habitat and food supply for birds and insects	Maintained by Trees for Cotherstone
Trees planted by farmers in area where no stock present	1062 trees	100+ years	Improved landscape ensuring succession where trees have been planted adjacent to mature and over mature trees. Improved habitat and food supply for birds and insects	Maintained by farmers
Fruiting and berry bearing trees	235 trees	50+ years	Improved landscape, habitat and food supply for birds and insects. Increased understanding of tree growth, pollination, fruiting and birds dietary requirements where trees have been planted at a primary school.	10 year maintenance agreement with the farmer. Responsibility for monitoring accepted by the Landscape Department at Durham County Council after end of the project
Shelter belts and small woodlands	6 woods	100+ years	Improved landscape, habitat and food supply for birds and insects. Connecting different habitats. Increased rough grassland for owls while trees establish.	10 year maintenance agreement with the farmer. Responsibility for monitoring accepted by the Landscape Department at Durham County Council after end of the project
Hedgerows	app 6.5km	50+ years	Hedgerows restored. Improved landscape and improved habitat and food supply for birds and insects. Wildlife corridors created plus nesting for red-list linnets and yellow hammers	Funding partly provided jointly with the Durham Hedgerow Partnership, 5 year maintenance agreement between farmer and Landscape Department of Durham County Council
Ponds	3ponds	20+ years	Restoration of old ponds. Improved feeding for waders, especially chicks	10 year maintenance agreement with the farmer. Responsibility for monitoring accepted by the Landscape Department at Durham County Council

Wild bird seed mixes	35.5ha	Annual	Improved seed supply for small birds during the winter. Influence decision makers to continue in the future	Seed mixes resown every one or two years in exceptional cases. Surveys demonstrate the ability of wild bird seed mix to deliver for small birds as well as game birds. Intention is to open minds and influence decision makers to move from sowing straight maize to a more varied seed crop. Interview interested parties for feedback
Small bird nest boxes	220 boxes	10+ years	Additional nesting sites for small birds especially red listed Tree Sparrows	Landowners to clean out and maintain where practical, otherwise by ringers. Bird ringers to check / repair boxes, undertake ringing.
Owl boxes - Barn owl	15 boxes	20+ years	Additional nesting sites created which are often a limiting factor for Barn owls	Monitoring/ to be carried out by North East Ringing Group Breeding/ringing data to BTO.
Owl boxes - Little owl	10 boxes	20+ years	Nest sites for this species which has decreased locally	As above
Bird feeding stations	14 sites	Annual	Bird seed in small bird-friendly feeders provided through the 'hungry gap' from Feb onwards	Farmers with shooting interests and the schools likely to continue in the future by providing their own seed. Importance of feeding has been emphasised. Interview farmer and use of questionnaire
Entry Level Stewardship	6	5 years to Autumn 2018	547ha of agricultural land entered into an ELS management agreement. Providing a mix of provisions for farmland birds including bird mixes, margins, field corner, grassland and hedgerow management	Over £82,000 secured over the life of the 5 year agreement. Monitored by Natural England and RPA
Audio Visual Presentation	1		U3A offered to produce this AV presentation summarising the project and its outcomes	To be shown at U3A and other meetings, wider publicity for B&FL, HoT and HLF/

Durham Hedgerow Partnership (DHP)	6km	50+ years	Additional funding provided by B&FL to increase delivery within the Heart of Teesdale area resulting in 6km of hedgerows with funding from B&FL and DHP jointly	Monitored by DHP, maintained by farmer
Durham Tree Week	18 sites	100+ years	Grants allow more tree to be planted	Annual grants up to £150/site. Excellent working relationship.

Appendix 3

Cultural and Educational legacy			
Individual or Group	Number	Legacy	Evidence

Farmers	112 farms totalling 10,000ha	Greater understanding and interaction between the farming community and conservation bodies	Very good level of response and interaction with surveyors and other volunteers from farmers. Farmers have attended meetings, events and trips organised as part of the project. Participation in B&FL initiatives such as tree planting, hedge planting, spring surveys etc. Questionnaires to all
Farmers	112	Awareness of other initiatives and taking part in grant opportunities including hedgerow grants, ELS, interest in the new Countryside Stewardship scheme	Increased uptake in the Durham Hedgerow Partnership grant by farmers within the Heart of Teesdale area
General public - events including talks	31 events reaching over 750 people	Improved understanding of local, national and international initiatives. Range of topics covered through the events programme including hedge laying, tree planting, hay meadows, wild bird mixes, bird survey training, reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and more general illustrated talks on the work of B&FL	Attendance at public events. Questionnaires to be sent to hosts of external groups where talks have been given. Questionnaires to event attendees?
General public - internet	1,300	Increased awareness of the work carried out on farm for wildlife by farmers both in the Heart of Teesdale project area and nationally	1983 'hits' on the project website. Facebook page has 215 followers with posts regularly reaching over 450 people, the most popular post reached 1,300 people

General public - printed media	30,000	Articles printed in the press about project initiatives, events and works carried out through the project.	Articles about the project have been printed in the Teesdale Mercury, Darlington and Stockton Times and the Northern Farmer. Print runs - Teesdale Mercury 6,500 copies. Darlington and Stockton Times 20,000 copies. Interviews on Radio Teesdale
Trees For Cotherstone	12	Planting and construction skills maintained and developed. Increased understanding of the requirements of trees and their importance	Group continues to go from strength to strength
Durham Bird Club	6	Increased knowledge of bird species distribution within Teesdale	Project an outlet for members photographs. Making, installing and monitoring of tree sparrow and owl boxes.
Barnard Castle U3A	12	Improved bird watching and recording skills. Providing a purpose to their bird watching trips. A better understanding of the shooting and farming industries	Participation in monthly winter surveys for two winters. Prepared to do further survey in 2015/16. Increasing interest in the wider agricultural issues through questioning and also attendance at the farmer focused Greening event in March 2015
Barnard Castle Guides and Brownies	40+	Greater understanding of the requirement of birds especially the need for a good food supply throughout the winter through making of fat balls and the provision of safe nesting habitats by the assembly of nest boxes	Making up bird boxes. Bird boxes erected on a Guide's family farm where she will monitor them. Fat balls have been on the activity programme for several years and will remain so. Bee and insect friendly garden at the Guide HQ to remain, new seeds have been acquired through a national bee based community programme for sowing this spring
Schools	120+	Greater understanding of the requirement of birds within Teesdale especially relating to winter food supply	Seed feeders provided to schools which will be filled in future. Nest boxes put up at Gainford School. Trees planted at Bowes School

		and nesting habitats	
Bird ringers	8 ringers involved	Increased knowledge of the distribution of different species across the project area particularly tree sparrow	Chicks within the project area ringed to monitor their breeding success in future years with data added to the BTO database.
Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC)	21 surveys uploaded	Bird survey data submitted.	Data submitted to ERIC for uploading and will be used in a variety of ways, eg as population data research purposes, planning.
Mid Teesdale Project Partnership Trustees (the managing body)	8	Increased interest in Natural History	All wanted to go around at least some of the sites worked on
Trees for Teesdale (New group supported by B&FL)	20	Tree planting in field boundaries	2 groups set up with support from the Project
Steering Group Members (Natural England)	7	Tree planting allowed farmer / NE staff new opportunity to reassess each other	Lunch with farmer
Durham County Council Volunteer Rangers	6		
RPSB	2	As a result of RSPB helping with plotting of survey results closer ties between RSPB and B&FL volunteers	Money raised by B&FL volunteer to help local RSPB wader project. B&FL surveyors will continue to work with RSPB on surveys