

Thanks for keeping me updated Kerry.

I have no specific comment following your email dated 25th April.

What I do say is that conserving wildlife in Allerdale is a serious ongoing problem. In the various documents proposed there are good words about 'Key Ecological Assets' and rare species such as the 'Small Blue butterfly' along with 'the creation of a continuous wildlife corridor of linked sites' and 'habitat restoration and enhancement,- and 'sites designated for wildlife protection and the landscape features that act as dispersal corridors for wildlife between those sites.' Nice words but seldom put into practice. Having said that I accept there is a huge swathe of land in Allerdale which is designated as Green Infrastructure or AONB (and which already exists) around the upper Solway area BUT those bits are not the only ones which are important. For example the locally endangered Small Blue butterfly requires a completely different type of habitat than that around the upper Solway area. More emphasis should be given to wildlife conservation in or close to the coastal strip and **urban areas** and particularly urban wildlife connectivity corridors. Such places are being lost at a rate of Knots and often without satisfactory mitigation measures if at all.

There is some extremely valuable habitat especially close to the coastal strip and on 'brownfield' sites both with legally protected and/or locally endangered breeding species. Over the years many 'core' breeding sites have been lost to re-development and during the Sites Allocation Process I identified a dozen sites for wildlife in and around Workington and Maryport but only one was earmarked for that purpose and even then that was on appeal it having been firstly identified for alternative development. We have another good example ongoing right now where an extremely valuable and unique urban wildlife connectivity corridor has a planning application on it. I'm hopeful the application will be rejected or seriously revised as it would interrupt the movement of species which is essential for breeding diversity. That is only one example but there are several others.

I realise the main priorities are Housing and Employment but wildlife conservation and particularly wildlife connectivity corridors are said to be important in both the Local Plan and the National Policy Planning Framework. I and others must look at these issues realistically and I try to but I have to say wildlife conservation appears to come third in a two horse race.

Probably this is not part of your function right now but I feel you should be aware of what actually happens on the ground although frankly it is not only in Allerdale so I am not picking them out deliberately as I fully realise they have a job to do.

Regards,

Steve Doyle  
Butterfly Conservation Cumbria  
**Representor ID 14**