



IMPACT REPORT

GROUNDWORK NE & CUMBRIA
2021/2022



Foreword

At Groundwork NE & Cumbria we are passionate about creating a future where every neighbourhood is thriving; community is strong and no-one is held back.

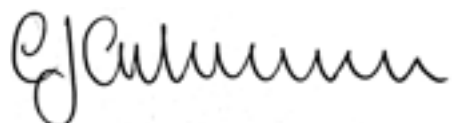
This year the Groundwork Federation celebrates our 40th anniversary. Our purpose feels more relevant now than ever. Restoring pride of place and a sense of community, tackling climate change, working with unemployed people to improve their life chances and addressing inequalities faced across the North.

This impact report highlights Groundwork NE & Cumbria's achievements over the last year; sharing inspirational stories about how we support those most in need whilst facing ongoing impacts of Covid and a cost of living crisis.

In the coming year we'll support Levelling Up and our Lead Authorities in building pride in place. Continuing to invest in human capital and community resilience as we have for nearly 40 years. Building our response to the climate and biodiversity crisis, alongside our journey to be zero carbon 2030.

After 30 years I have decided to move on to new challenges. I'm really proud and privileged to have been the CEO of Groundwork NE & Cumbria; seeing so many positive differences we make to people, places and communities.

The Trustees and myself are endlessly impressed with what our organisation, staff, communities and individuals achieve. We supported over 11,800 people last year. This would not have been possible without the many partners and funders we work with. We'd like to thank them all; enabling us to Change Places and Change Lives.



*Kate Culverhouse.
Chief Executive*



We have a mission to mobilise practical community action on poverty and the environment.

Passionate About:



IMPROVING PEOPLE'S PROSPECTS:

Increasing confidence, health and wellbeing, skills and employability of those most in need, lifting them out of poverty.



CREATING BETTER PLACES:

Helping people work together to make their surroundings greener, safer and healthier; getting involved in local decision making.



PROMOTING GREENER CHOICES:

Helping people, communities and businesses understand and reduce their environmental impact to fight climate change.



The Year in Numbers: 2021-22



255

People helped to reduce their energy. Tackling fuel poverty



310 Ha

Landscape restored = 434 football pitches. Tackling the climate & biodiversity crisis



7.2 km

Footpaths enhanced/created. Improving access to nature



1,481

Adults gained qualifications & supported into work. Boosting productivity



72

Community groups supported. Building pride of place



11,805

People supported throughout the year



2,947

Young people supported to learn, achieve & thrive



3,473

People supported with their mental health & wellbeing



3,800

Children & families supported. Reducing inequality



416

Businesses supported to employ new entrants to the labour market



Creating Better Places

So proud Groundwork involved us in the unveiling our new sculpture; it represents our communities heritage and makes me feel really proud of our local area. A fantastic experience!



Pride in Place

Enriching lives through environment,
culture and heritage

TEES SCULPTURE TRAIL

As part of Groundwork's River Tees Initiative; proudly supported by Tees Valley Combined Authority, the Tees Sculpture Trail **installed 25 inspiring sculptures** along the Teesdale Way created by 5 local artists. The trail includes guidebooks and a 'passport' showcasing sculptures that depict local heritage along the iconic route.

This has developed even stronger pride of place, sense of identify and community.



21 local artists supported



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022



Green Recovery Challenge Fund



The National Lottery Heritage Fund



NORTON 'POCKETS OF NATURE' PARTNERSHIP

Stockton secured Green Recovery Challenge funding with the aim of creating better neighbourhoods for both people and wildlife, while building skills and job prospects for people in the area.

Neglected and underdeveloped habitats were restored using community engagement, volunteers and **employment of 12 local young people**. Storm damage and local beauty spots benefitted from positive community effort and environmental awareness.



12

Young people employed



Responding to the Climate & Nature Emergency with Nature Based Solutions (NBS)

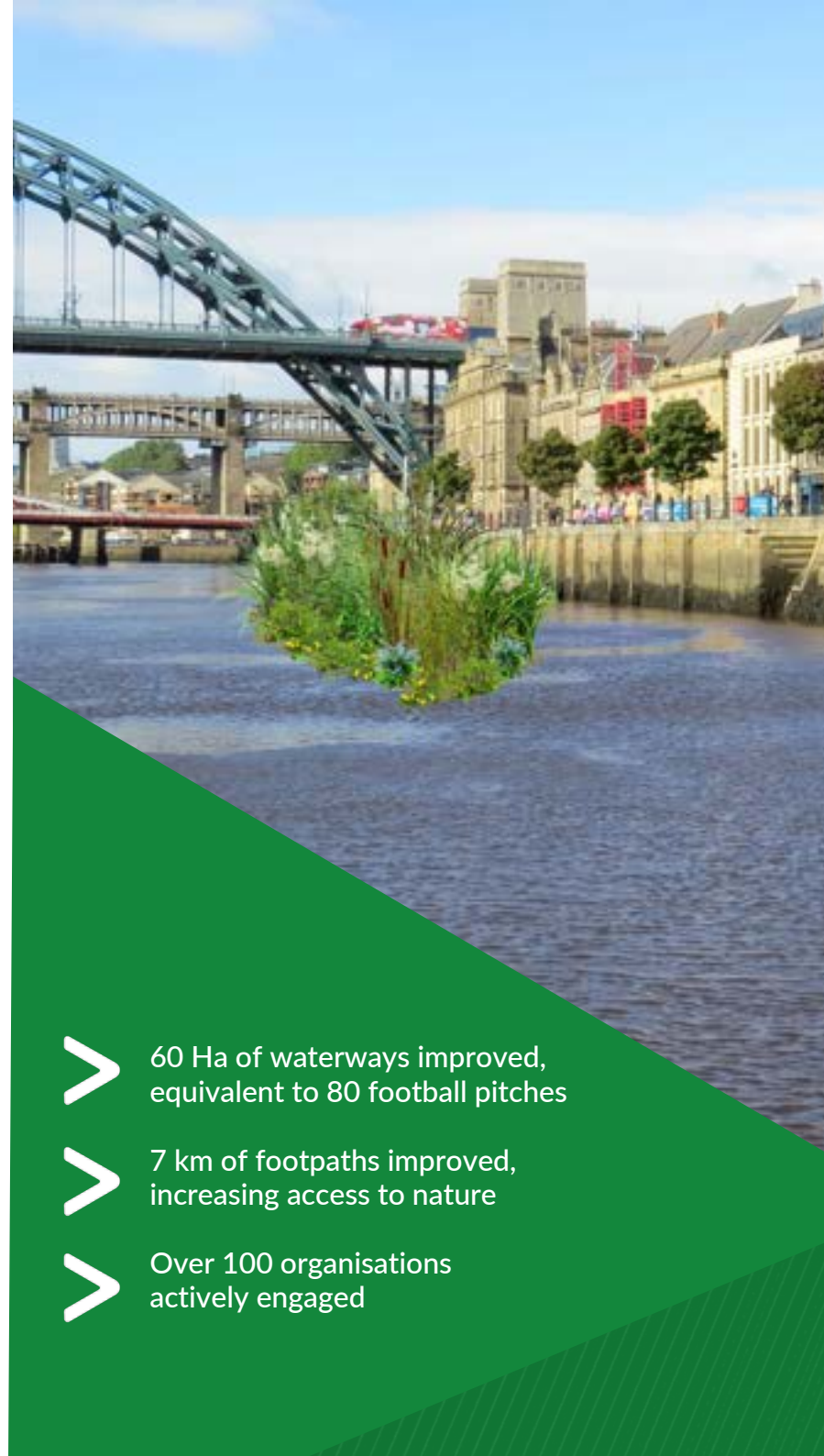


REVITALISING OUR ESTUARIES (RoE)

Innovative river estuary restoration that responds to the climate and biodiversity crisis. Working with **over 100 organisations** to improve river estuaries across the North East for people, businesses and wildlife - helping our rivers to thrive once more.

Our coastal environments and communities have been significantly affected by climate change, litter, pollution, flooding and deindustrialisation. They need environmental and economic support to restore water quality, improve habitats and protect species whilst creating green jobs.

This partnership programme has enabled us to reintroduce the salt marsh at Hebburn; one of the most effective habitats for absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



60 Ha of waterways improved, equivalent to 80 football pitches



7 km of footpaths improved, increasing access to nature



Over 100 organisations actively engaged



Cleaning Our Waters and Tackling the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency

THE WILD OYSTER PROJECT

More than **1,000 oysters** have been reintroduced to **the North East coast** by Groundwork and partners in a bid to rebuild the species and improve the health of coastal waters. The shellfish - which are dubbed 'superheroes of the sea' - filter out pollutants. One adult oyster can filter 200 litres of seawater every day removing nitrates from sewage spills and fertiliser. **1,300 oysters in bespoke nurseries in Sunderland and Blyth marinas have been installed.** These will attract other marine life and create rich habitats.



Over 650 young people engaged through national Science Week



30 oyster nurseries established in Sunderland Marina and 18 in Blyth

ZSL | LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE



BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION

BRITISH MARINE



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Gaby's Story

After graduating with a 2:1 BSC in Marine Biology and studying during Covid lockdowns, Gaby struggled to find a job due to her lack of experience.

The Kickstart Scheme offered an opportunity as a Research Assistant at Groundwork. Here she monitored the impact of Groundwork NE & Cumbria's flagship 'Revitalising our Estuaries' programme and lead the publication of the trust's first report and action plan, with targets to be carbon neutral by 2030.

Gaby's work proved invaluable leading to a new full time role at Groundwork.

Gaby is excited about her role being made permanent, she can't wait to take on more responsibility and progress in her job.



Responding to the climate and nature emergency with nature-based solutions



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Kickstart has given me an opportunity to get a full time, 'green' job that builds on my degree and progresses my career.

Delivering Nature Based Solutions Creating Green Jobs

LOFTUS COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Groundwork's expert Landscape Architects Team and Green Team ranger apprentices have created an innovative natural flood management scheme. This included opening up an underground stream and pond to create a beautiful new wetland habitat. Many wildlife species have returned after years of absence and deer have already been seen. The ranger team have also installed a new pedestrian bridge to give the local community better access to nature.

Thanks to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund; Environmental Rangers have delivered fantastic Nature Based Solutions and woodland restoration. Improving access to nature, green spaces, training and employability for young people.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022



Proud to be working in partnership with....







THANK YOU!

Working in partnership with public, private and community stakeholders, we improve, protect and enhance our local communities, partners and environment. A wholehearted **THANK YOU** is extended to all the organisations and people we have worked with in 2021/22.



IMPACT REPORT 2021/2022 GROUNDWORK NE & CUMBRIA

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