



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.

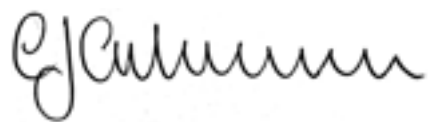
This year the Groundwork Federation celebrates our 40th anniversary. Our purpose feels more relevant now than ever. Restoring pride of place and a sense of community, tackling climate change, working with unemployed people to improve their life chances and addressing inequalities faced across the North.

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



We Are Passionate About A Future Where:



Every neighbourhood is vibrant and green.



Every community is strong and able to shape its own destiny.



No-one is held back by their background or circumstances.

We believe that working with local communities to build their resilience is vital in facing up to the challenges of a global economy and changing climate.

We know that the negative effects of climate change and environmental breakdown impact first and worst on those who have the least power in society, and who contribute least to the cause of the crisis. A 'just transition' to an inclusive, net zero economy must tackle, rather than entrench, this inequality and provide a springboard for better work and healthier, happier lives in the places that need it most.

This means creating green jobs that build wealth in local communities, changing behaviour to reduce wasted food, energy and water, providing biodiverse, accessible green spaces, supporting businesses to be more responsible and empowering communities to lead activities that improve their quality of life and promote health and wellbeing.



Improving People's Prospects

CHOICES [Groundwork's BBO in Cumbria] helped me so much, I'll carry the experience forward in life. I now have the qualifications I need to work, income and security for my family...It's changed my life.



1,500

People supported into employment



Employability

Supporting the most vulnerable into employment

Through our Building Better Opportunities (BBO) and other employability programmes; Groundwork proudly work in partnership to deliver vital employment services across the North; Reaching Out Across Durham (ROAD), CHOICES Cumbria, Moving on Tyne and Wear, Step Forward Tees Valley and Restart. We proudly supported over 1,500 vulnerable and isolated adults facing multiple and complex needs, into employment, education, training or active job searching .

STEP FORWARD TEES VALLEY

Supporting unemployed people across Tees Valley with mental health, isolation, digital exclusion and employment, with fantastic achievements.



435

people progressed into education or training

334

people progressed into job searching

207

people gained employment

Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)

Groundwork is proud to have supported over **350 young people** to learn and achieve. Our specialist youth employability workers and careers advisors have inspired confidence; enabling young people to take control of their destiny for a more prosperous future. Supporting them into education, work or training, boosting regional productivity.

Our YEIs deliver through Tees Valley Pathways, DurhamWorks and Northern Directions.

KICKSTART

Funded work placements for young people aged 16–24 years old on Universal Credit. **Groundwork successfully started 250 placements with 90 local businesses. 63 Kickstarter's gained full time employment.**

When Bradley first started he struggled with confidence, social skills and anxiety. After receiving dedicated support from Groundwork he became motivated to gain the skills and training he needed to find employment; building his confidence, CV and interview skills. Bradley is now undertaking training and accreditation to develop a career in warehousing & distribution.



KICKSTART
SCHEME

DurhamWorks
To improve your future

 **European Union**
European
Social Fund
Supported by the European Union Youth Employment Initiative

Northern Directions


NORTH OF TYNE
and
**COMBINED
AUTHORITY**


European Union
European
Social Fund


European Union
European
Social Fund

The Tees Valley Pathways Programme is part-funded by the European Social Fund and supported under the Youth Employment Initiative



I have only been in my placement for just over a month now but I have loved every minute of it . . . I'm so happy I chose to do a Kickstart with Groundwork.



KICKSTART
SCHEME



CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES

Increasing Confidence, Health and Wellbeing; Empowering Sustainable Communities

WEST CUMBRIA MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

This partnership connects people with a range of vital mental health support services in Allerdale and Copeland. Groundwork leads the adult services partnership, supporting people who may be struggling with anxiety, depression or other issues which are having an impact on their mental health and wellbeing. The partnership is so grateful for its funding through Sellafield Ltd and the 'Transforming West Cumbria' grant, managed by Cumbria Community Foundation.



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022



Holiday Activities, Tackling Food Inequality

Food insecurity is increasing rapidly;
especially during school holidays and in the North

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMES

The provision of free holiday activities and healthy food during the school holidays is one of our ways to help the growing issue of food poverty and inequality felt across the region. We provide over **250 educational and environmental activity sessions**; supporting over **3,800 children and adults** by providing over **3,200 meals**.

- ✓ Groundwork was the lead provider for Stockton coordinating **7,500 activity sessions**
- ✓ **Engaging, inspiring and educating children** that might otherwise go without



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022

I loved trying the new fruit that we had each day. I've never tried watermelon before but it was really tasty!



Health & Wellbeing

How we feel is central to the way we live our lives. Just like our physical health, our mental health has ups and downs.

MEN'S SHEDS

When people are experiencing a 'down', Groundwork is here to help. The link between improving mental health and spending time in nature is well recognised which Groundwork fully endorses and acts on.

We sensitively engage those in need, building confidence to participate in regular activities including Community Gardening, Men's Shed, Women's Wellbeing and Thriving Communities projects.



**1,370 adults supported
with their mental health**



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022



Building Social Cohesion & Mobility

Delivering action to make a positive difference.

NATIONAL CITIZENS SERVICE (NCS)

NCS allows young people to become world and work ready.

- > Learning skills, making an impact, improving employability.
- > Realising potential, smashing future goals and lots of fun!



1,045

Young people engaged in activities sessions over the year



Kai's Story

Despite leaving school at 16 with no GCSEs, hanging around with the wrong crowd and finding himself in trouble with the police, Kai has changed his life around.

“That summer my Mam pushed me to do NCS. We had to run our own community project and I helped raise donations for a local children’s hospital ward. It put a new perspective on life and I continued volunteering.”

A couple of years on Kai didn’t look back and became a seasonal staff member for NCS helping other young people to take on new challenges, build skills and give back to the community.

Now aged 21, Kai’s started a role with housing provider *Home Group*, providing mental health support for young people in care.



I tell youths I work with to search ‘Gateshead boy kicked out of school’ on the internet, I’m the first result and I try to use my story to help keep them on the right path.

Kai McGill



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



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LAND OF OAK & IRON HERITAGE CENTRE

Set in the beautiful Derwent Valley in Gateshead with an abundance of natural woodland, iconic wildlife and hidden heritage of world leading iron and steel industry. We are proud to support local suppliers and artisans in our café and shop as well as hosting a wide range of events and activities from seasonal children's trails and holiday activities, to live music, creative workshops and heritage talks.



Artisan workshops every 2 weeks



391 people attended workshops



5,000 children took part in weekly free activities



Hosted by
**Groundwork
NE & Cumbria**



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022



The cafe is the perfect place to fuel up before, or relax after a day exploring nature, culture and heritage.

Green Recovery Challenge 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)

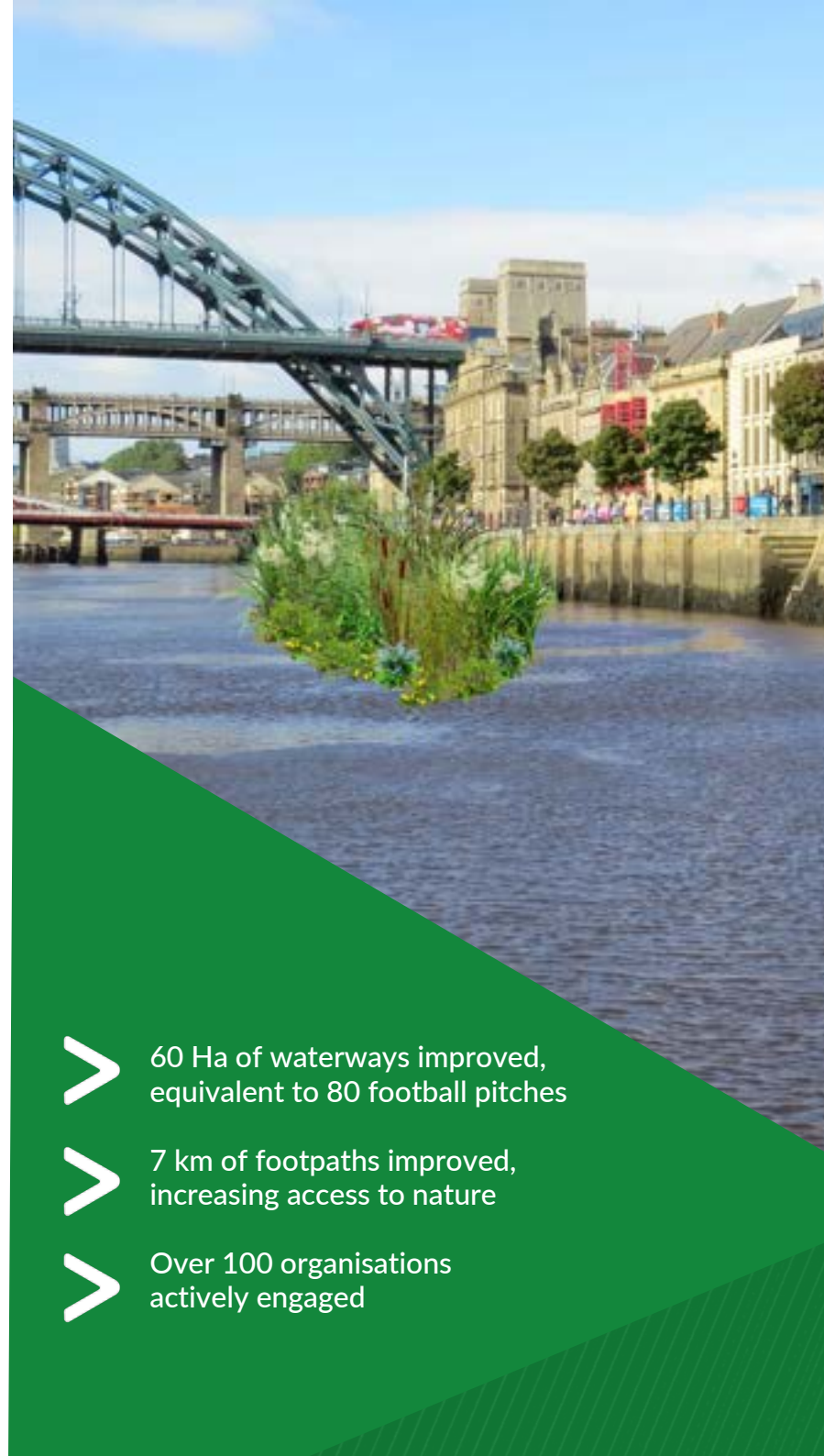


REVITALISING OUR ESTUARIES (RoE)

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.

Greener Living and Working

I went veggie to reduce my carbon footprint due to the carbon literacy training provided on the Kickstart Scheme at Groundwork





GREEN DOCTOR

Over 750 residents supported

Initiated over £7,500
worth of savings

£7,000 worth of energy
saving measures provided

Helped 150 households apply
for Warm Home Discount

Supported 100s of people to
get grants for replacement
boilers/heating systems

Helping to Reduce Environmental Impact and Fight Climate Change

GROUNDWORK GREEN DOCTOR service provides energy efficiency experts who visit people in their homes across the North East & Cumbria, helping vulnerable households to save money and stay warm and well. With over 1 in 10 households in the UK experiencing fuel poverty, it's a crucial lifeline for many residents helping to reduce inequality and support those most in need.

Green Doctor helps people engage with the climate emergency and save money at the same time. The need for and success of this programme means we are actively training and integrating more Green Doctor advisors into wider Groundwork programmes, to reach more people in need, such as Employment and Youth programmes.



GREEN
DOCTOR



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022



I'm so grateful for the Green Doctors. They have saved me money, helped me access a grant to replace the boiler and kept me warm all winter.



**GREEN
DOCTOR**

Raising Climate Awareness for All

CARBON LITERACY TRAINING

Groundwork, in partnership with the Carbon Literacy Project, is proud to be an accredited **Carbon Literacy training provider**. Educating staff and apprentices through environmental training in climate change awareness, energy efficiency and the climate impacts of everyday life and work.

Groundwork has committed to train all staff, trainees and apprentices in 2022 and roll out Carbon Literacy Training to our supply chain, partners, schools and groups. This supports our goal to be **carbon neutral by 2030**; leading the field as an ethical environmental and community charity.

Participants really value the Carbon Literacy Certificate on their CV, many becoming climate champions in their workplaces and communities.



Groundwork NE & Cumbria 2021/2022



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....



Our Values

The Groundwork Approach:

We will deliver impact through a range of diverse local and national projects, programmes and services, responding to the changing needs of local communities and the opportunity to build powerful partnerships to unlock new resources.

Wherever and however we deliver, our approach will be informed by the following commitments.



We will invest in the places and people that need us most. Prioritising our resources to bring about lasting change by building skills and capacity within local communities where we can make most difference.



We will work with local leaders and listen to local voices. Ensuring our work is shaped by those it is designed to benefit and adding value to the assets that exist in local areas.



We will grow a culture of equity and inclusion – operating transparently and with integrity, and seeking out a diversity of viewpoints, both in the work we do and the people we employ.



We will be committed to collaboration – forging strong partnerships, contributing to a thriving community sector and helping others lead where this will achieve greater impact.



We will act as environmental exemplars – championing practical action to combat the climate and nature emergency and measuring and reducing our own environmental impact.



Sustainable Development Goals

We will prioritise our work and measure our achievements based on the difference we make to the lives of people, our impact on the environment and our contribution to UN Sustainable Development Goals. We have identified six goals which align most closely with our work.



Goal 1: No poverty

Helping people into work and building the resilience of those who are most vulnerable.



Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewables.



Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Creating jobs and enterprise and helping young people into work.



Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Improving green spaces, promoting sustainable transport and improving air quality.



Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Reducing waste and promoting positive environmental behaviours among communities and businesses.



Goal 13: Climate action

Promoting practical action and strengthening the resilience of communities to cope with climate-related events.





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

Visit: www.groundwork.org.uk/north-east-and-yorkshire
Email: north.east@groundwork.org.uk
Telephone: 01388 662 666

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-  @gwkne

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