**PRESS RELEASE: Esk Estuary Day—Revitalising Our Estuaries**

**Sunday 5 February
11am – 3pm
Seafarers Mission, Whitby, Y021 3PP.**

**BECOME A ‘CITIZEN SCIENTIST’ FOR THE DAY WITH GROUNDWORK AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION ON THE ESK**

Groundwork will be hosting a free event for families and environmental enthusiasts on Sunday 5 February to celebrate its work with partners to revitalise the Esk estuary. The public are invited to get involved and become ‘citizen scientists’ for the day.

The Seafarers Mission in Whitby will welcome the public for a day of free activities from 11am – 3pm including storytelling workshops, tales from the harbour’s history, local craft stalls, art from the Pannett Gallery, and tours of the Lobster Hatchery.

Groundwork will also be encouraging people to become ‘citizen scientists’ for the day, to help test the water quality in the area, as well as taking part in guided wildlife walks to explore the new artificial marine habitats that have been created to improve biodiversity along the Esk and help fight climate change.

The public will be treated to tours of this innovative environmental project which has installed artificial habitats for marine life between high and low water, including 18 living sea wall panels fitted below New Quay, and at Scotch Head in Whitby.

Further interventions including cutting rock pools into rocks will take place under the Fish Quay in February.

Groundwork is working with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on a series of nature-based solutions to improve water quality and habitat as part of the Environment Agency-led BEACH (Better Estuaries and Coastal Habitats) Esk project.

BEACH Esk ties in with Groundwork’s wider Revitalising our Estuaries programme, funded by the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF) and the Caterpillar Foundation, and delivered in partnership with The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

Revitalising Our Estuaries is a Groundwork initiative to support nature and economic recovery in six estuary areas of the North East, in the Wansbeck, Blyth, Tyne, Wear, Tees and Esk. The aim is to deliver impressive, high profile habitat protection schemes to improve and save our estuary habitats and wildlife, as well as promoting the work and activities through educational visits, public events and volunteer days.

In another nature-based project, Groundwork, working with ecological technology company Biomatrix, has created the first floating eco-system on a major tidal river on the Tyne. Equivalent to the size of eight car parking spaces, the floating eco-island was designed to create habitats that were lost during the industrialisation of the estuary, and support wildlife above and below the waterline. This project was delivered thanks to the Tyne Estuary Partnership and the Revitalising our Estuaries which have been working together to help fight climate change, improve water quality, and address biodiversity losses.

For more information on the Esk Estuary event contact Helen Hornby,

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**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**For further information, images or interviews:**

please contact Sara Ragan, Garage PR on 0754 059763

**ABOUT GROUNDWORK**

**Groundwork North East & Cumbria**

Groundwork North East & Cumbria is the community charity with a green heart that operates across the North East and Cumbria to transform places and lives in some of the most disadvantaged communities. Activity focuses on positive sustainable change in places of need across the region. Unit 14 Parsons Court, Welbury Way, Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6ZE Newton Aycliffe, UK 01388 662666

**Groundwork UK**

Groundwork is a charity working locally and nationally to transform lives in the UK’s most disadvantaged communities. We’re passionate about creating a future where every neighbourhood is vibrant and green, every community is strong and able to shape its own destiny and no one is held back by their background or circumstances. We help people gain confidence and skills, get into training and work, protect and improve green spaces, lead more active lives and overcome significant challenges such as poverty, isolation, low skills and poor health: [www.groundwork.org.uk](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/)