

## PROJECT NAME

**Woolsington Parish Council**

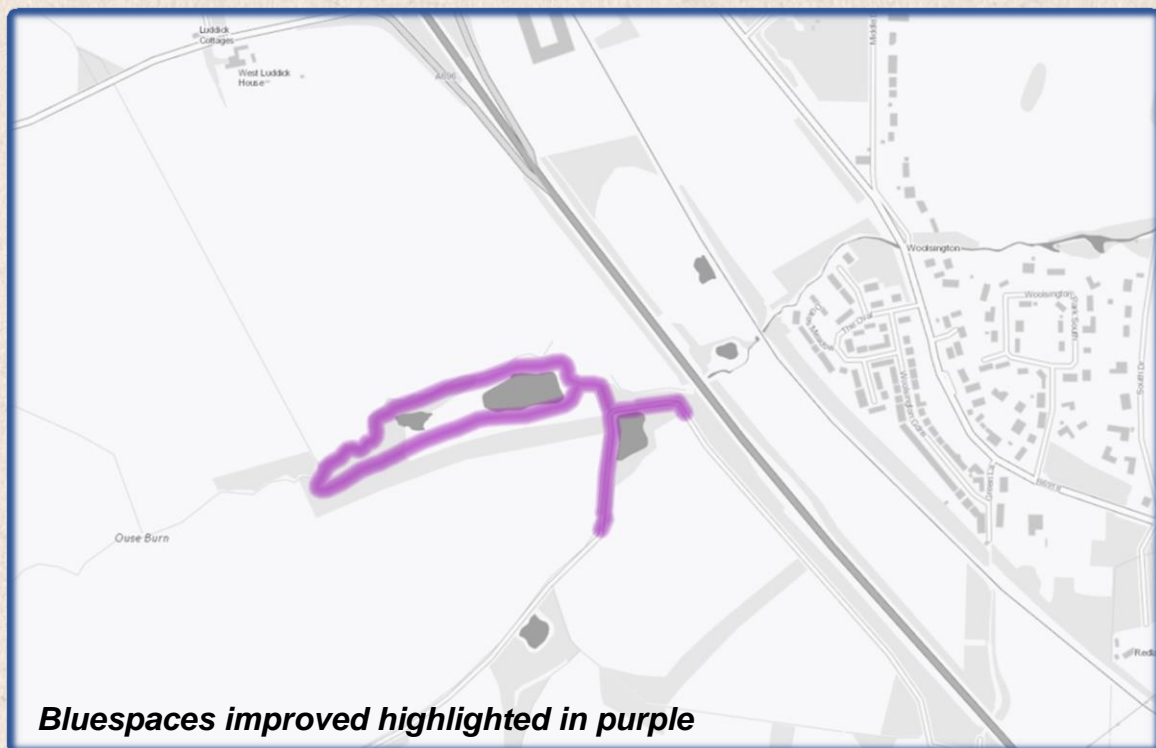
### Lead Partner

Woolsington Parish Council

Location	Bluespaces Improved	Delivery Year	Project Value
Woolsington Ponds	1.2km	2022 - 2023	£15,160

## Project Overview

In partnership with the landowner, Woolsington Parish Council have delivered 1.2km of Bluespace improvements to an increasingly important recreational site, completing phase 2 of an ambitious project to create a nature reserve that the local community can enjoy. The work has involved improvements to the recreational offer of the site, wetland habitat enhancement, and community engagement activities.



## Partnership Information

Woolsington Parish Council is a local Parish Council, based within the two Newcastle City Council wards of Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall and Callerton & Throckley. Parish Councils are the first tier of local government and are statutory bodies. They serve electorates and are independently elected. They raise their own budget via a precept, and the only paid member of a Parish Council is the Clerk. WPC has 12 parish councillors (members) who represent the 4 wards.

## Project Achievements

### Access, facilities and recreation

- Creation of a new woodland footpath
- Creation of a new wetland viewpoint area
- New log seating area created within the woodland
- Two community education days held to engage the public with the wildlife of the site
- Volunteering opportunities provided to enhance the site



**Volunteering event**

### Wildlife and biodiversity

- Removal of self-seeded willow saplings to restore wetland area
- New woodland trail diverts visitors away from important wetland areas, reducing disturbance to wildlife
- A dense area of invasive snowberry was controlled
- Pond restoration works with contractors created new shallow scrapes, shelter coves, a more varied pond edge and newly planted marginal vegetation.



**Education Day**



**New woodland trail**



**Four-spotted chaser  
at the ponds**



**Willow removal**



**Education Day**

## Testimonials

*"This grant funding acted as a seed and, as a result, additional investment was attracted from other sources."*  
**Woolsington Parish Council**

*"My wife & I were lucky enough to attend some of the community events also. The "Understanding Your Local River" in Sept (Village Green, Woolsington) with TRT - river dipping, invertebrate sampling, SUDS house model, river model, hapazome printing was incredible & both Northumbria Water Group & the Parish Council should be commended for this. To see the delight & enthusiasm on children's faces, as they took samples from the river & learnt about the amount of pondlife, invertebrates etc was an absolute pleasure.*

*FYI the litter picking events have also been a bigger success than you may think, with residents continuing this activity beyond the areas and timescales of the events. So much so that my wife & I often incorporate this into our regular walks around the ponds & Woolsington Parish Area.*

**Woolsington Resident**