

Natural History Society of Northumbria Annual Review 2021/22

**Thanks to your support this year,
NHSN has continued to inspire
wonder in the natural world.**

Thanks to your membership, volunteering and donations, we are engaging more people with North East nature and providing experiences to widen public support for its conservation.

Thanks to you, improvements continued for people and wildlife at Gosforth Nature Reserve, including the opening of the new Field Studies Room. Holding the first open days since the pandemic, we welcomed visitors to discover the reserve.

Regional citizen science projects continue to help people study and record nature. Discovering North East Orchids captured records of the orchids of North East England.

We are building partnerships with organisations across the North East, reaching more people and giving more opportunities to connect with nature. We launched 'How to be a Young North East Naturalist,' engaging with 200 children with their local nature.

Thank you so much for all your support over the last year.

**Gordon Port,
NHSN Chair**

**Inspiring wonder in the natural world,
from the Tees to the Tweed**



**Natural
History**
Society of
Northumbria

Celebrating Nature Conservation and Citizen Science

Thanks to the support of NHSN members, we reached more people than ever before to learn about and protect North East Nature.

Citizen Science

NHSN's citizen science programme went from strength to strength in 2021-22. The North East Bee Hunt and North East Ladybird Spot returned and achieved totals of 2,851 and 2,349 records, by 126 and 117 participants respectively. A new project, Discovering North East Orchids, launched in spring 2022. This proved successful with 1,604 records shared from 92 participants. Citizen science projects will return next year, and you can get involved to make a difference for local nature.

“I have really enjoyed taking part in the North East Bee Hunt. I have learnt so much from taking part and from local experts.”
Liz Richmond, citizen scientist

Citizen Science in the spotlight

- 6,804 records submitted
- 335 citizen scientists
- 293 people attended citizen science events
- 35,300 visits to learning resources online



Marsh Helleborine.

© Ho-Yin Wong

Specialist Groups

Our Specialist Groups have continued a wide and varied programmes of events, talks and activities. Approximately 68 events, 45 talks and 22 natural history education courses took place.

Earth Sciences

NHSN's Earth Sciences Specialist Group organised several successful courses, including an exciting new course on oceanography. Several field trips took geologists to a host of interesting sites across the North East, including Howick and Winlaton.

Botany

NHSN's Botany Specialist Group launched NHSN's first botanical citizen science project, Discovering North East Orchids. Several events were held to coincide with the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) New Year Plant Hunt. Fifteen field trips took place, and NHSN's botany Facebook group grew to 300 people.

Invertebrates

The Bee Hunt and Ladybird Spot returned this year and NHSN's Invertebrate Specialist Group led ten invertebrate field trips. Four special online workshops on bees and ladybirds were held and a new invertebrate Facebook group encourages learning and recording.

Supporting Regional Conservation

The Dickinson Memorial Fund supported Nature Guides to publish *The Plants of Holy Island* and Paul Miskin of Arts and Biodiversity Celebration to showcase high profile speakers.

NHSN is building collaborations, leading walks with the Environmental Records Information Centre North East and students from Newcastle University. NHSN botanists participated in a bioblitz at the Hepple Estate in Northumberland and several collaborative events were held to support citizen science with Urban Green Newcastle and the BSBI.



A botany trip at Walker, Newcastle, where attendees enjoyed spotting Bee Orchids.



NHSN Education Rangers on a 'bees and Bee Orchids' walk led by Senior Naturalist, James Common. They saw plenty of both!



A family from Bensham taking part in a North East Bee Hunt event.



Young people enjoyed activities, such as sonic pond dipping, at Gosforth Nature Reserve open days this summer.



Conservation Volunteers have been managing woodland and reedbeds.

Gosforth Nature Reserve

With open days returning and an abundance of wildlife recorded, it's been an eventful year for Gosforth Nature Reserve.

Over 25 Volunteer Rangers have been welcoming visitors and encouraging wildlife sightings. 20 Conservation Volunteers carry out habitat management and repairs across the reserve, managing woodland and reedbeds, repairing fencing and relocating the Pearce Hide.

May 2022 saw the official opening of the new Field Studies Room, welcoming more school and community groups. Thanks to committed volunteers who created access ramps and an outdoor learning space including a raised pond.

20 enthusiastic volunteer Education Rangers created a new and exciting educational programme, enabling school visits to return.

Open days returned post pandemic with 350 visitors discovering the reserve, their learning and enjoyment increased by the enthusiasm and knowledge of volunteers and partner organisations. A pollinator bioblitz further encouraged sightings and identification of invertebrates.

Persimmon Homes withdrew their planning application to build houses opposite the reserve on land designated for business use. Thank you to the individuals and groups who submitted 5,815 objections to North Tyneside Council.



Four-spotted Chaser

© Christopher Wren

A Great Year for Wildlife

You recorded 1,715 sightings at Gosforth Nature Reserve of 526 species. Highlights include new ladybird records for the North East, Barn Owl chicks, breeding Otter and a nationally rare lichen.

Invertebrate Species at Gosforth Nature Reserve

- 365 moths
- 30 hoverflies
- 25 bees
- 20 butterflies
- 17 dragonflies and damselflies
- 17 ladybirds

“Volunteering at Gosforth Nature Reserve is fantastic. I get to spend time outdoors and meet so many enthusiastic people too. Whether I'm helping build a boardwalk, cutting reeds, or creating educational materials, each day brings something new and exciting.”

Brian Rutter, Volunteer

Celebrating NHSN's Outstanding Volunteers

Thanks to your support, volunteers have made a difference for North East nature.

Volunteers bring their experience and knowledge to NHSN. They are contributing towards the protection of nature and enhancing and enthusing local communities too.

207 volunteers carried out vital conservation work at Gosforth Nature Reserve, leading events to engage people across the region and engaging young people with nature.



Education Rangers have been inspiring young people.

Heartfelt thanks go to:

- 25 Volunteer Rangers
- 20 Education Rangers
- 20 Conservation Volunteers
- 5 Deliverers
- 6 Library and Archive Volunteers
- 12 Trustees

“Volunteering with NHSN has helped develop my conservation skills. It has given me opportunities to be involved with educating school groups. By being a part of a wonderful community and experiencing nature, my mental health has notably improved and I have met like-minded people.”

Amber Tatman, Student Naturalist

Sharing Social and Cultural aspects of natural history

This year, NHSN continued Talking Naturally interviews. Thanks to the family of Derek Shannon for the generous donation of their father's impressive collection of 52 nature journals to our natural history archive. The library collection grew thanks to book donations from Peter Davis, Trevor Hardy and Louise Hislop.

We were pleased that our library and archive collections still generate interest and enquiries.



Students from Newcastle University visited Lindisfarne to look for the island's endemic helleborine and enjoy the fantastic display of summer orchids.

Connecting people with nature

Expanding our Digital Horizons

NHSN developed more digital opportunities as for many, digital events were still preferred following the covid pandemic. New material has been made available through our website and social media. Our natural history digital talks during the winter were enhanced by the 1829 Talks, a series of 15-minute talks showcasing the work of early-career researchers.

Other highlights include:

- YouTube channel film views totalling 28,000 in the year
- 13,700 followers on social media
- 52 videos released online

“We will all remember the summer of 2022! It has been a joy to be part of the Young North East Naturalist project. My class have embraced nature embraced nature in so many ways and many of them will go on to pioneer their love for nature as they get older.”

Kay Lister, Teacher

Inspiring Young Naturalists

In line with member's aspirations and local need, our work supporting young naturalists has increased this year. Thanks to your support, we are inspiring young people about North East nature.

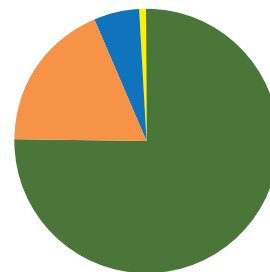
Highlights include:

- Distributing 660 nature activity bags to young people who have few opportunities to connect with nature, thanks to donors of our Lantern Fund.
- Launching 'How to be a Young North East naturalist,' engaging 200 children, from five primary schools.
- Connecting local young people with nature outside of curriculum hours through 'Your Plan A' for North East Nature project.
- Welcoming 585 young people to Gosforth Nature Reserve.
- Increasing student activities by working with the Newcastle University Student Union and supported four student research projects.



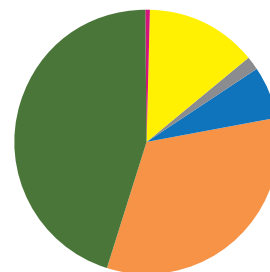
Finances

Income



Charitable activities	£52,000	18%
Investment income	£16,000	6%
Other income	£2,000	1%
Donations and legacies	£212,000	75%
Total income	£282,000	

Expenditure



Staff and Volunteer Costs	£150,000	45%
GNM: Hancock	£2,000	1%
GNR and Conservation	£45,000	14%
Investment Fees	£5,000	1%
Marketing	£22,000	7%
Charitable activities	£108,000	32%
Total expenditure	£332,000	

Summarised Accounts: 2021/22

	£'000	£'000
	2021/22	2020/21
INCOME		
Donations and legacies	212	204
Charitable activities	52	37
Investment income	16	17
Other income	2	-
Total Income	282	258
EXPENDITURE		
GNM: Hancock	2	5
GNR and Conservation	45	33
Investment Fees	5	5
Marketing	22	36
Charitable Activities	108	64
Staff and Volunteer Costs	150	155
Total Expenditure	332	298
Net Income / (Expenditure)	-50	-40
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-44	107
Net movement in funds	-94	67
Total funds brought forward	1,064	997
Total funds carried forward	970	1,064
REPRESENTED BY	2021/22	2020/21
Tangible assets	261	236
Investments	634	697
Net current assets	75	131
	970	1,064

A special thanks to our funders:



Falk Weinberger Foundation

The Joicey Trust



Thank you!

The passion of NHSN members, like you, has inspired wonder in the natural world for 193 years. NHSN has reached more people than ever before and has achieved so much for a small, regional charity. Thank you.

Help us grow our impact

NHSN members are working together to protect nature. Your support has helped us to inspire more people in 2022, together we are protecting the wildlife and wild places we love.

You can help us reach even more.

Watch, Share, Support

- Watch our online videos and come along to in-person events or talks, everyone is welcome.
- Do you have friends or family with an interest in nature, or know somebody who simply enjoys being outdoors? Tell them about us. Share your comments, photography, and passion for nature with us through email and on social media.
- Show you support. Continue sharing ideas to help us improve. We love to hear from you!


More information in your weekly e-news, online and on our social media.


A great year at a glance


- 2,558 memberships supporting natural history
- 1,661 young people inspired by Education Rangers
- 378 people discovered North East nature on courses
- 350 citizen scientists recording wildlife
- 15,000 engaging with North East nature online





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