

Plan A for North East Nature

Connecting 1,500 local children with nature



*“ I love nature,
this is the best day ever,
I used to be scared
of spiders but now
I’m not. ”*

Harry, age 8

*“ I have been amazed by
everyone’s interest and enthusiasm.*

*The young people are genuinely
concerned about our natural world
and want to make a difference.*

*They benefitted from time outdoors
connecting with local nature. ”*

Angela, teacher



Some of the 1500 pledges completed by children will now be added to the North East Nature Archive.



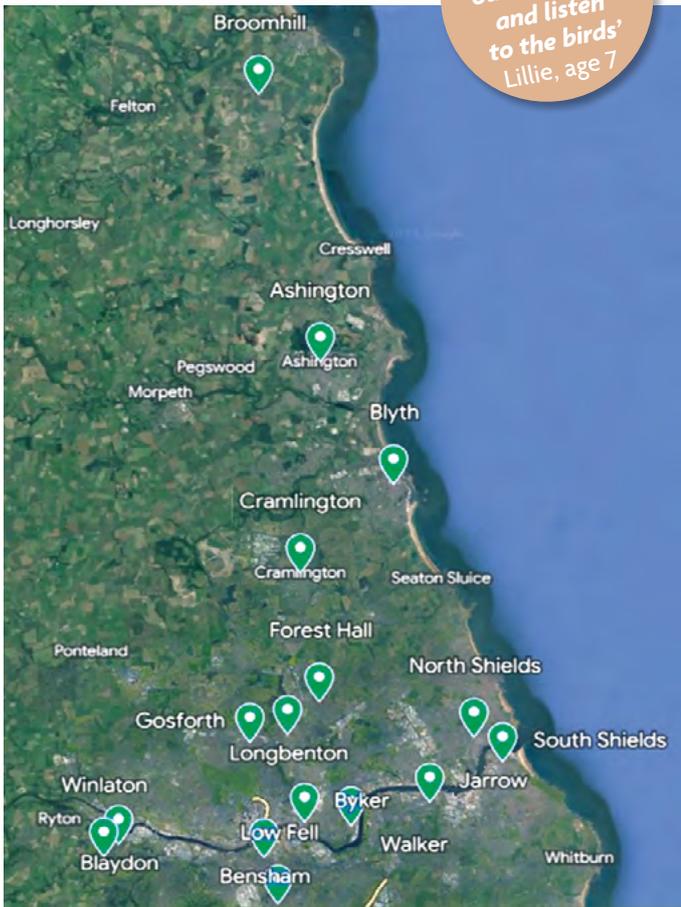
Young people have connected with nature in ways they had never thought about before.

Getting outdoors and experiencing nature first hand has been enjoyed by all participants.

Taking time to realise that nature can be experienced and enjoyed by anyone, anywhere was something that young people wanted to do more of as a result of the sessions, and were keen to make time for.

Where did we go?

'I pledge to play outside more and listen to the birds'
Lillie, age 7



Map showing locations of Plan A sessions.

Children thrived from being outdoors and came up with some heartfelt pledges that they wanted to make. Plan A sessions foster discussions about nature, what it means to young people, the challenges that nature currently faces and climate change.

Children spent time outdoors using their senses to explore surroundings and take part in nature-based activities, art and writing. Children complete the session by writing their own 'Plan A for North East Nature'.

Plan A sessions are delivered by Natural History Society of Northumbria's (NHSN) Nature Ranger Julie Ross, along with NHSN Volunteer Education Rangers from Gosforth Nature Reserve.

Close to 100 nature sessions have been carried out with over 1500 young people in schools and clubs across the North East including; Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Newcastle and Gateshead.

What did the children say?

Common concerns for young people were the affect our actions can have on climate change, pollution and decline in wildlife.

Children were conscious of trees being cut down for new housing developments and how this impacts biodiversity.

“ I will plant flowers in my garden for the bees and butterflies. ”

Francesca, age 6



Children at Parkhead Primary School were very excited to be part of the class where pledge 1000 was made.



Riley, aged 11, was delighted to be the 1000th pledge.

“ The sessions weren't just about the pledges at the end, but seeing young people connect with nature, children who initially didn't want to go outside or said they didn't like nature, had a great time, moments like that can't be bottled. ”

Julie Ross, Nature Ranger

'I will plant flowers in my garden for the bees and butterflies'
Francesca, age 6

Plan A is promoted on NHSN's website



Pledge Number 1000 made

From all over the North East, primary school children have been writing their Plan A pledges for North East nature, what they are personally going to do to enjoy, learn about and protect it.



Inspiring Young People

Outdoor Education Officer, Julie, and our Education Rangers have been busy inspiring young people across the North East. Find out what they've been up to.

In addition to visits to schools and clubs the funding received has helped improve inclusion for children at Gosforth Nature Reserve, children have been able to:

- Experience Gosforth Nature Reserve without travel costs being a barrier
- Watch wildlife by borrowing new binoculars
- Borrow wellies and coats to keep clean and dry

With over 1500 pledges made, they fell broadly into five categories:

- Protecting wildlife and planting trees and flowers
- Listening to the birds and noticing other nature
- Spending more time outdoors
- Recycling and using reusable plastics
- Saving energy

'I am going to recycle more and use reusable water bottles and containers'
Elsa, age 10

'I promise to plant trees so that animals have homes and we have oxygen'
Muhammed, age 8

'I am going to turn off lights when I leave the room to save electricity'
Lewis, age 9



Children using newly purchased binoculars at Gosforth Nature Reserve.

Children from Kids Kabin in Walker enjoying Plan A activities out and about in December



Litter picking.



NHSN volunteer Amber on a Scavenger hunt.



Writing Pledges.

Thanks to the funding received, NHSN has obtained the accreditation for 'Learning Outside the Classroom' Quality Badge. Also, three members of NHSN's team completed Designated Safeguarding Lead Training. They were Director, Clare Freeman; Trustee for Safeguarding, Rinke Vinkenoog and Nature Ranger, Julie Ross. NHSN's safeguarding policy was updated and agreed at March 2023 Board meeting.



Children from Brighton Avenue Primary School were able to visit Gosforth Nature Reserve, a trip they otherwise would not be able to have made.



Dear Julie and all the staff, thank you so much for letting us come and see all the nature. I had so much fun and loved the bird spotting. Thanks so much! Ella xxx
Loved it!!!
ooo

“ We have had a brilliant day. Children have said they ‘don’t want to go home’, asked ‘can we come back again?’ and said it was the ‘best trip ever’ Ms Morgan, teacher ”

We are extremely grateful for the funding received, enabling us to connect more children with nature to benefit their local environment and ultimately their planet!

“ Thank you so much! ”

Ella, Brighton Avenue Primary School



Children at English Martyrs enjoying Plan A activities

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