

Celebrating Gosforth's Wild Web

24 November 2025

Gosforth's Wild Web inspires local people across the North East to notice nature near them. First funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, then woven into the future work of NHSN.

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Since August 2023, thousands of people across Newcastle and North Tyneside have come together through Gosforth's Wild Web to notice and protect the nature on their doorstep. Supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project grew through the enthusiasm of local schools, community groups and residents who embraced the chance to learn about wildlife in their local greenspaces.

2024 marked the 100th birthday of Gosforth Nature Reserve. To celebrate, people from across 100 one-kilometre squares surrounding Gosforth Nature Reserve got involved in nature-based activities, wildlife recording and events. From classrooms to community centres, participants explored their local nature and shared what they discovered. You can explore the full picture of the project in the evaluation report linked below.

[Gosforth's Wild Web Evaluation Report](#)

Local communities leading the way

Across two years, thousands of people took part in nature-based activities and events designed to help more people notice and enjoy local wildlife.

- 39 Community Groups
- 5071 People
- 15 Schools







Children took part in nature art, pond dipping, minibeast exploration and bird spotting. Families walked through their local parks to discover birds, plants, fungi and insects. Group leaders and teachers spoke about how these sessions grew confidence, encouraged outdoor learning and helped their communities notice the wildlife often overlooked in familiar places.

“We were absolutely delighted to welcome Gosforth Wild Web into our school to work with Year 4 around local nature and wildlife. The sessions were a real highlight, making pupils aware of the wildlife on their doorstep and, importantly, helping them understand the need to care for it and showing them practical ways to do so.” **Anthony Macleod, Pastoral Lead, Wingrove Primary School**

“We have learnt so much from our walks and talks this year. No matter what season, there is always something to discover. We have really appreciated the generosity and expertise of the NHSN team. They have opened our eyes to the treasures in our local area that we wouldn’t have noticed without their guidance.” **Diane Thurston, Friends of Hebburn Park**

A huge year for local citizen science

Citizen scientists also played a major role in Gosforth’s Wild Web. More than 230 local people recorded wildlife on iRecord and iNaturalist, helping build a clearer picture of the species living in and around Gosforth Nature Reserve.

- Over 60,000 wildlife records submitted
- More than 2,000 species recorded

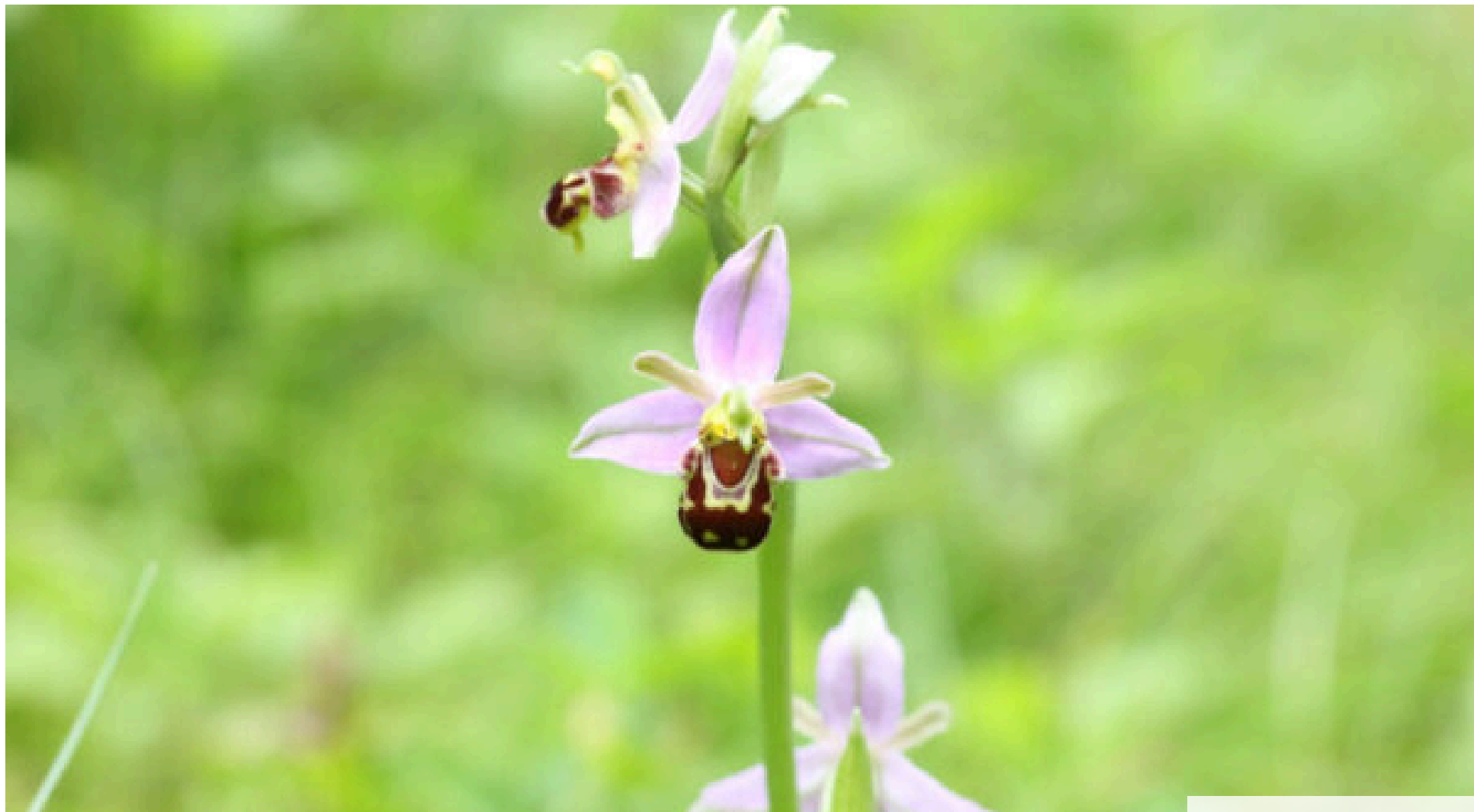
All records were shared with the Environmental Records Information Centre North East to help inform future conservation and planning decisions. Local groups have continued this momentum by starting their own recording projects, community nature trails and regular wildlife surveys.



Cetti's Warbler © Chris Barlow



Brown Hare © Brian Rutter



Bee Orchid @ Chris Barlow



Dingy Skipper © James Common

The lasting impact of Gosforth's Wild Web

From the start, Gosforth's Wild Web has grown because local people, just like you, want to see and care for nature on their doorstep. Volunteers and participants have and will continue to gain new skills and confidence by joining BioBlitz's, school events and guided walks. Schools and community groups shape their future plans, taking to more learning outdoors and creating their own nature-based projects.

As the National Lottery Heritage Funded journey of Gosforth's Wild Web comes to an end, NHSN is already weaving Gosforth's Wild Web into future and core work to ensure even more people have the opportunity to explore and protect North East nature. The citizen science projects from Gosforth's Wild Web remain active, and if you'd like to upload your wildlife sightings to contribute to the ever-growing nature database, be sure to join the project on [iNaturalist](#) or [iRecord](#)!

Thank you to everyone who has taken part so far and we look forward to meeting the many more of you who will join the Gosforth's Wild Web community in the future. Your involvement has shown the strength of community support for the wildlife and places that make our region special.



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Emily works on Gosforth's Wild Web, sharing her enthusiasm for nature with anyone and everyone. She is NHSN's Assistant Naturalist with a special love for woodlands and birds.