

# Greening the Marina

## Lead Partner

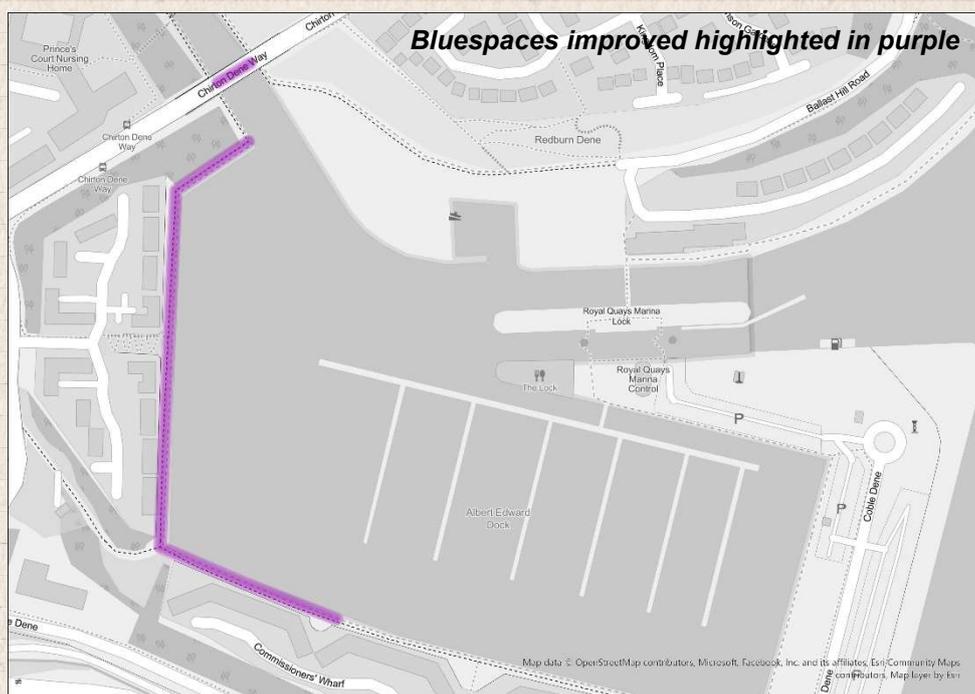
Groundwork North East



Location	Bluespaces improved	Delivery year	Project value
Royal Quays Marina, North Shields	0.4km	2021	£100,000

## Project Overview

Groundwork NE and Northumbrian Water have delivered improvements to 0.4km of publicly accessible water environments at North Shields Royal Quays Marina. The aim was to regenerate the old marina and create a sustainable green ecosystem for wildlife to grow; the floating ecosystem will provide habitat for plants, birds, and invertebrates. Improvements include the installation of a 50m<sup>2</sup> floating ecosystem. Alongside the benefits of improvements to wildlife and biodiversity it also provides picturesque viewing which will encourage people to attend.



## Partnership Information

Groundwork was founded to help communities cope with change (political, social, and economical) and to make neighbourhoods better. In every community there are deep reserves of pride and Groundwork exist to harness that pride – this provides ideas to improve circumstances and surroundings. Groundwork services, projects and programmes change lives, they also help to build communities for the future. Groundwork is an organisation that embraces transformation and looks to change lives positively wherever possible. Many more solutions need to be created over the years and that is why Groundwork employs more than 450 staff and the impact is clear to see already.

Find out more: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/north-east-and-yorkshire/>

## Project Achievements

### Access, facilities, and recreation

- Creation of a new ecosystem, adding a natural element to an artificial harbour, which is viewable to visitors from the shore and marina.
- Production of interpretation panel at the site and promotional video featuring the floating ecosystem.



**View of Ecosystem**

### Wildlife and biodiversity

- Installation of a 50m<sup>2</sup> floating ecosystem at Royal Quays Marina. Extra habitat for wildlife on the floating ecosystem (new plants and shrubs).
- Basket's underneath provide shelter for fish and a surface for plants to grow.
- A 'swan step' has been installed to allow access for the Royal Quays Marina Swans



**Floating Ecosystem**

### Additional Benefits

- Online engagements have received more than 1000 interactions.
- Volunteers engaged in environmental activity.
- Virtual events were held to promote the scheme.

## Testimonials

*"Having overcome the complex feasibility design and development of this floating ecosystem, Groundwork NE & Cumbria working in partnership with Boatfolk, the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water were able to install this innovative habitat. It has been quickly adopted by humans and wildlife alike with common tern, mallard duck, herring gull and mute swan all finding refuge above water. Under water the shelter provided by the raft has given juvenile herring a place to hide from predators. We are overjoyed at the success of the floating ecosystem and look forward to seeing further nature-based solutions installed along the Tyne through the Tyne Estuary Partnership"*

**Hellen Hornby, Programme Development Manager, Groundwork North East**

