

How your business can help nature

We manage a 1km x 1km nature reserve on the northern edge of Newcastle and are always looking for help to improve the reserve and its habitats for wildlife and visitors. Most of the work that takes place in the reserve is carried out by volunteers.



Gosforth Park Nature Reserve has a shallow lake, extensive reed bed, mixed woodland and is a beautiful and tranquil oasis from the city. The Reserve is scientifically important for its uncommon flora and fauna, which includes Bittern, Kingfisher, Otter, Red Squirrel, Coral-root Orchid and Purple Hairstreak Butterfly.

The reserve has hides and boardwalks that enable visitors to view waterfowl, waders and reed bed birds at one of the best bird watching sites in the Newcastle area. Woodland trails and a feeding station provide an opportunity to see a wide range of woodland birds, mammals and flowers. You can find out more about the reserve [here](#).



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Volunteer Work Parties

To improve the reserve for wildlife and visitors we need help cutting and removing vegetation, planting trees, picking litter and maintaining paths and boardwalks.

Habitats include meadow, woodland and wetland. From mid-September to the end of March we have volunteer work parties every Wednesday and on the last Saturday in the month. All volunteer work parties are from 10am-1pm, meeting at the reserve entrance ([click for directions](#)). If you have fewer than 9 people then you would be welcome to join in and help us at any of these work parties.

If you have a team of 10+ that would like to help us with this work, perhaps as part of a team building activity then we can organise a volunteer work party for your business.

Participants will need to wear clothes that they don't mind getting dirty and suitable footwear (we recommend wellies), and bring with them any drinks/snacks. They will also need to be able to carry out physical work.



Specialist skills

As a small charity we do not have the resources to employ specialist expertise. We would be really grateful if your business could provide experts to help us as a “gift in kind”.

Examples of this could include:

- Ecological surveying
- Engineering
- Construction

Donations/Loan of equipment/tools/materials (or gift)

As a small charity we do not have the resources to own or loan specialist equipment, tools or sometimes the materials to carry out work. We would be really grateful if your business could loan or donate equipment, tools or materials to us as a “gift in kind”.

Examples of this could include:

- Digging machinery

- Timber / Railway sleepers
- Aggregates
- Hand tools for volunteers (spades, loppers, rakes, wheelbarrows, etc, etc)
- Bird food

Sponsorship/Donations

As you might expect we also very grateful to receive financial donations to help pay for the care and maintenance of the nature reserve.

About us

Established in 1829, the Natural History Society of Northumbria is one of the oldest natural history societies in the world. We are a regional organisation, covering Northumberland, County Durham and Tyne & Wear.

We own the Great North Museum: Hancock in Newcastle and many of its collections (but we lease them to Newcastle University on whose behalf they are administered by Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums). Our office is based in the museum.

We maintain the best natural history library in the region and an important archive collection and we manage Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

We focus on the study of the natural sciences, providing talks, field outings and education courses and publishing journals. We are also involved in carrying out nature conservation and research.

Most of our work is undertaken by our members on a voluntary basis. We are a membership society and people pay an annual subscription to become a member. Around 1,200 households are members of the Society.

The Society is a registered charity and our aims are to promote and encourage the study of natural history, protect the flora and fauna in the northeast of England, and care for and extend our library and collections at the Great North Museum: Hancock.

You can find out more about the Society and our work at www.nhsn.ncl.ac.uk

Contact details

If you are interested in helping nature and helping us then please contact:

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