

CATCH MY DRIFT



Northumberland
Wildlife Trust

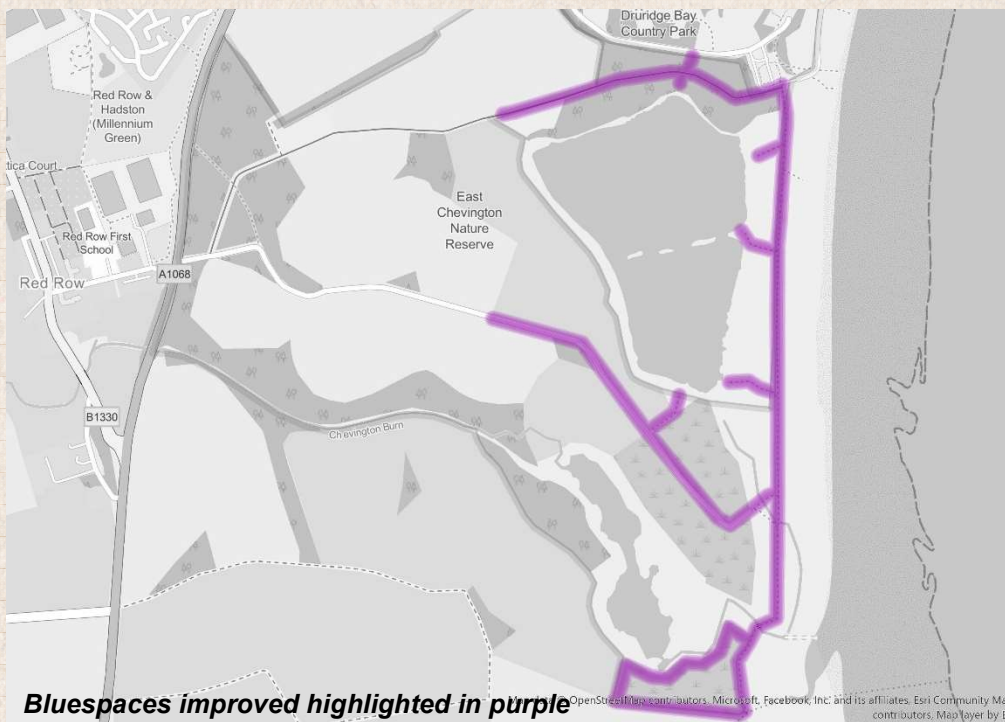
Lead Partner

Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Location	Bluespaces Improved	Delivery Year	Project Value
East Chevington Nature Reserve, Northumberland	4.8km	2021	£780,000 * *over 3 years 2020 to 2022

Project Overview

Various sub-projects and activities supported by ‘match funding’ from the Bluespaces scheme have helped enhance the site and reconnect people with nature. This has included the creation of a 12-hectare wildflower meadow, installing an innovative ‘reed island’, planting bluebell and wild garlic bulbs, and establishing new woodland shrub species. Improvements have also been made to three bird hides and their associated access routes.



Partnership Information

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is a charity dedicated to saving wildlife and wild places and helping people to get closer to nature. NWT manages more than 60 nature reserves and helps to create wildlife-rich landscapes and seas by working in partnership with other organisations, landowners and communities. NWT is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts, a grassroots movement working across the UK to make life better – for wildlife, for people and for future generations.

Catch My Drift is a three-year project (2020-23) and aims to: improve the habitat quality and complexity at East Chevington, conduct ecological surveys, improve public access and interpretation on site and organise community engagement events at the reserve.

Project Achievements

Access, facilities and recreation

- Visitor paths have been improved including the main track from Hadston Village, which is now accessible to wheelchair and pushchair users.
- Three hides have been renovated, providing greater accessibility for users and will offer a new unique wildlife watching experience.
- Volunteers delivered 142 activities totalling 1,842 hours, this included woodland thinning, reed transplanting, wildflower sowing and planting, ecological surveys and training in reptile and butterfly monitoring as well as fungi ID courses.
- 21 events have been held for visitors and local communities, engaging 265 people and including wildlife walks, wildflower plug planting, family bird box making events, a school visit for the John Muir award, and local group talks.



Common Lizard using new dead wood corridors

Wildlife and biodiversity

- Woodland management creating glades and rides providing great hunting for dragonflies, and sunning areas for butterflies and reptiles
- Tree, shrub and bulb planting to help increase the woodland diversity
- Dead wood corridors have been created across the whole reserve
- 12 hectares of wildflower meadow have been sown on the west side of the North Lake



Volunteer sowing wildflower seeds

Water quality

- 12 hectares of fields were replanted as traditional wildflower meadows and will be used for hay production. This will act as a buffer for the water environment and decrease nutrient runoff and soil erosion

Testimonials

“Thanks to this grant we were able to run numerous events to get people engaged with the project and the site which has led to many returned visits. Without this grant we would not have been able to achieve so much in such a short time. The cash boost provided allowed us to sow even more seed on our wildflower meadows, work with the local community and visitors to plant Bluebells and Wild Garlic in our woodlands and enabled us to run even more volunteer activities.”

Grants and partnerships like this one are vital for both small- and large-scale conservation efforts and create opportunities for communities to benefit as well as wildlife from these projects.”

Sophie Webster, Catch My Drift Project Officer, Northumberland Wildlife Trust

