



### **Adopt a Stream- Nineveh Grant report**

With the help of the Nineveh Trust grant we held 6 training sessions and trained 37 people in water quality testing across the catchment in both urban and rural areas. We did have training days scheduled to train another 12 children and 10 adult volunteers however these were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020. These individuals will be trained over the next few months to carry out water quality testing at specific sites of interest across the catchment.

We now have over 100 people trained to carry out water quality testing and almost 300 volunteers who now use our app to send in their data on wildlife, invasive species, flooding, and litter. Since we received the funding from Nineveh, we have received further records relating to wildlife, invasive species, litter and flooding despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Nineveh funding has allowed us to work with Whitley Chapel First School and Birkheads Wild in Gateshead, we have had many other schools very interested in the project and keen to get children to take notice of the rivers close to their own school in a safe way and link with their curriculum.

We currently have a waiting list of over 40 people who would like to be trained to carry out water quality testing and we have had interest from several urban primary schools which is fantastic. We hope to visit them once we can do so safely. We have found that young people in particular are really attracted to the project because of the use of technology through our 'My Tyne' app.

We recently launched a campaign on social media via our Communications Officer to promote our 'My Tyne' app and encourage individuals to get outside in the fresh air, get some exercise and get involved with sending us their records.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic we had sessions booked in with local primary schools including Bill Quay and Washingwell Primary School based in Gateshead. We were arranging sessions with Mountfield Primary and Walbottle Campus in Newcastle, which unfortunately also had to be cancelled. We are confident these sessions will go ahead when circumstances allow due to the interest from schools and eagerness to get children outside.

The grant has allowed Tyne Rivers Trust to spend staff time on communicating with volunteers who have been trained, helping them to find sites and use the app, we have been able to maintain momentum with those volunteers and support them. The funding has allowed us to find volunteers in new areas and contact groups such as Birkheads Wild who believe that getting outdoors is important to every aspect of our health and wellbeing, and crucial to our understanding of the world around us. They help local young people (and their families) to discover, explore and enjoy the outdoors and share their passion with them. They have developed their site in an environmentally friendly way and aim to leave no trace at every camp. They re-use and recycle almost everything on site and buy local wherever possible. We completed one training session with a fantastic group of 12 children and hope to work with them again soon.

The funding allowed us to meet with 'Success 4 all', a brilliant organisation created to improve employment chances of pupils after school. S4A work in the toughest areas of Newcastle and see the incredible potential that young people have, many have low self-confidence and low educational aspirations, and many believe that they cannot succeed in school. Their aim is to encourage other children and young people to engage, empower and motivate each other to succeed and have various 'Learning Hubs' along the Tyne which they are very keen for us to get involved with. We have developed a promising relationship with S4A and plan to work with their young people very soon in the most deprived urban areas of our catchment.

The grant has allowed us to carry out essential work that often is not funded elsewhere but without it we would not be able to keep the project going. It is vital that we can continue to grow and improve Adopt a Stream, to have funding to follow through any issues that are picked up through the monitoring and share with partners. It is important we can continue to supply kits to our volunteers so that they continue to be part of a bigger community of volunteers and help their local rivers to stay clean and healthy. We need regular monthly data for the information to be relevant and useful, so we can see change and detect any problems. Nineveh funding has contributed towards keeping our mobile phone app updated and relevant, and it has been especially important for us to be able to spread the word and get people involved across the catchment during lock down. We have contacted those based in disadvantaged urban areas where the project really is most beneficial for both people and wildlife. The funding Nineveh has provided has really helped us to do this since last year, despite the struggles with coronavirus.



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14 Sep · Gateshead · 🌐

After a break for the summer holidays today we resumed 1:1 provision for a young person who struggles in a classroom setting. Along with some more structured time with his tutor outdoors, he also gets forest school, outdoor learning and bushcraft skills with me. Today we combined everything and hiked a couple of miles off site down to the stream we have adopted with @tynerivertrust to test the water quality and monitor pollution. Here we are testing for Nitrites/ Nitrates, collecting our water sample and spotting invasive species (Himalayan Balsam). Walking is great for talking too and we chatted a lot about planning and preparing for walks, what to take with you (and leave behind) and how to work as a team when walking in a group [#outdoorlearning](#) [#getkidsoutside](#) [#walkandntalk](#) [#adoptastream](#) [#science](#) [#nature](#) [#gateshead](#) [#hedleyhallwoods](#) [#outdoorcareers](#)



# Birkheads Wild commencing their AAS monitoring sessions in September 2020

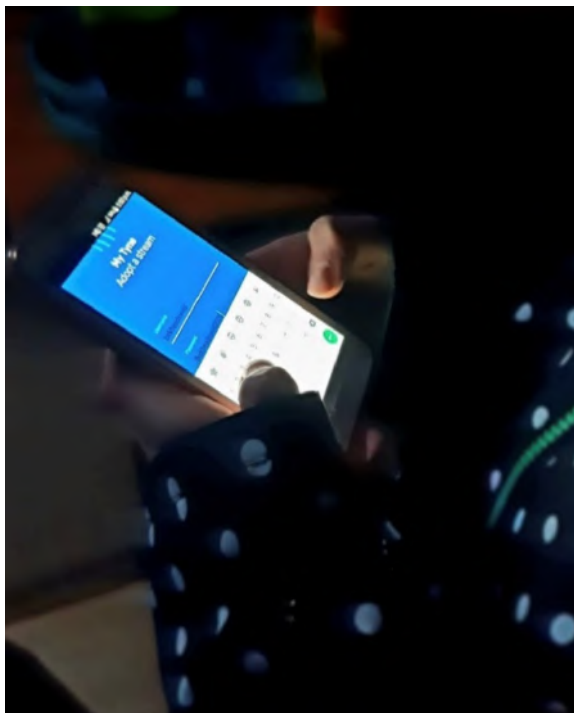
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**birkheadswildcic** Young Explorers Outdoor Youth Club this evening : we are Adopting A Stream ! So excited to be welcoming Simone Price from @tynerivertrust this evening to train the young people in how to monitor, observe and look after our nearest named stream which is Red Burn, down towards Beamish near Hedley Hall Woods. It will be a mini expedition for our groups in the spring lighter nights to hike down there regularly to hang out and look after the stream, reporting back on our findings. #adoptastream #outdooradventures #community #conservation #volunteers #environmentalactivists #forestscool #environment #flooding #pollution

10 March



Our training session at Birkheads Wild in early 2020- Unfortunately the second session the following week had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.





AAS Volunteer Dorothy on the Ouseburn in Woolsington (above left). Without the Nineveh grant we would not be able to continue to support our volunteers in their monitoring efforts. AAS Volunteer Hannah (above right) who volunteered for us as part of her university studies monitored a stream close to her home on the River Derwent. Hannah carried out a study on Citizen Science as part of her dissertation and with the help of TRT achieved a distinction which meant overall she received a pass with distinction for her masters degree. Through students such as Hannah we have developed a fantastic relationship with the local university and have many students currently monitoring rivers and streams within the catchment in both urban and rural areas. With the help of funding through Nineveh we have been able to liaise with students and staff at the university to further improve our project and testing kits and develop a mutually beneficial relationship.