

Greenspace 6- Herrington Burn

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This area of open greenspaces is composed of amenity grassland, rough grassland, hedges and areas of dense hawthorn scrub. The Herrington Burn, which flows down from Herrington Country Park, dissects the northern and southern parts of the site and is the main feature of the open space. There is a public right of way alongside the edge of the burn and a network of informal paths and routes across the open space and through the scrub. There are three crossing points over Herrington Burn connecting the open space with other greenspaces, relatively small areas of open countryside and residential areas.

1.2 Housing is adjacent and surrounds the northern half of the site, which is openly available for public access, whilst the southern half is fenced off and let out as grazing for horses. Land grazed by horses and used for allotments and small holdings abut the burn on its southern bank.



2.0 Location and Accessibility

2.1 The greenspace is located between Shiney Row (to the north and west) and Success/Philadelphia (to the east) in Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear. To the south, playing fields/open fields link the greenspace corridor towards Elba Park. It is approximately 7.5km to the south-west of central Sunderland. The greenspace is very open and accessible which causes problems of anti-social behaviour.

3.0 Existing Management and Maintenance

3.1 SCC manages the areas of greenspace around the Herrington Burn included in Link Together. Gentoo Housing Association manage other areas of amenity grassland. Clean It Green It have been involved in ongoing work to tackle litter and flytipping, organising community clean ups, speaking with residents about the local issues and working with trainees. A section of footpath across the greenspace is a Public Right of Way. The management of Herrington Burn is the responsibility of the Lead Local Flood Authority. Mapping and tackling Non-Native Invasive Species (INNS) will be a key delivery output during Link Together. This will map INNS and remove them where possible. Better information about their location through the catchment and along the watercourse will help make long-term management more sustainable.

4.0 General description and observations

4.1 Herrington Burn, Shiney Row has an urban feel. It is characterised by mixed of amenity grassland, rank grassland, areas of dense scrub and the Herrington Burn Water course, all in close proximity to housing, allotments and small holdings. The site experiences pressure from anti-social behaviour, from excess litter and dumping on the greenspace and in the scrub. The use of motorbikes and quadbikes causes disturbance to wildlife and puts people off from using the greenspace. The footpaths are in poor condition, which is exacerbated by motorbikes. There is evidence that areas of scrub are used as informal gathering spaces. This generates litter and creates an air of insecurity. This will put people

off using the burn other than for dog walking or as a cut through. There is no signage, entrance features and the site has no identity. The site is connected with other greenspaces such as Herrington Country Park and Success Railway via the public right of way that runs along the burn and the multiple bridges over the burn. However, there is little information to show the connections and some of the entrances and routes into and out of the greenspace are intimidating.

4.2 Herrington Burn is a key feature of the greenspace. As the Herrington Burn flows through this area of open greenspace, it is subject to dumping of large objects, such as fridges, sofas and bikes. In addition, dropped litter is blown into the water and carried down from further upstream. This rubbish affects Herrington Burn visually, creating a general feeling of neglect, as well as adding pollutants in the water. The burn has steep sides and is surrounded by dense shrub and tree vegetation. Horses graze in a number of fields, on the south side of the burn. Horse manure is stored on the bankside, which results in run off pollution. It will be important to engage with these landowners as the project progresses to raise awareness about pollution and encourage a change in behaviour.

Access and Site Identity

4.3 The greenspace surrounding Herrington Burn is very open with multiple entrances from the surrounding housing and crossing points over the watercourse. Therefore, it is very challenging to keep motorised vehicles off the greenspace. However, the entrance from South View can be improved. The entrance feels unwelcoming, and it looks as if the route leads the visitor into private property. There is evidence of fly tipping from vehicles. Therefore, this entrance point is a priority for improvement to ensure the greenspace is welcoming with a new barrier to deter vehicles.

5.0 Proposed Works (See also map further below)

5.1 Habitat Restoration aims at Herrington Burn at Shiny Row

- To improve Herrington Burn visually and habitat value by a series of in-stream interventions including green bank protection, re-meanders to stream, large woody debris, channel aggradation, fish easement and livestock fencing
- To improve diversity of scrub and create open areas
- To improve grassland quality through management programme
- To improve water quality by reducing run off and litter entering the water.
- To remove Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Montbretia along Herrington Burn from Herrington Country Park.

5.2 Access and Interpretation

- To provide greater identity and quality to routes and connections with surrounding greenspaces.
- To improve entrance from South View to elevate the character of the area to be more welcoming and to deter fly tipping.
- To resurface a 200m section of footpath.

6.0 Budget

Source of Funding	Amount (£)
Section 106	
Area Committee	25,000
NECF	16,900
NLHF	58,500
Total	100,400

Habitat	Project	Season Completed	Budget (£)
Scrub	Ongoing litter picking and removal of flytipping.	To be carried out by volunteers. All year	1,782
	Management to open up areas to improve ground flora, support regeneration and have variety of age structure	October - March	9,000
	Planting understory	April – June	1,800
Grassland	Cut and remove grass arisings	August -September	4,500
New Tree planting	Planting of heavy standards	November - March	13,860
	Design Fee	-	1,350
Water course – WRT costs combined	Green bank protection, channel aggradation, woody debris and re-meander	Anytime	27,415
	Fish Easement	Anytime	-
	Protective Fencing to protect the water course	Anytime	-
	Treat invasive species	April – June	4,937
	WRT management Fees		3,217
Access	Installation of entrance feature to stop vehicles.		4,500
	Installation of signage and directional signage		4,500
	Resurface 200m footpath		13,500
Contingency – DWT			5,850
Contingency – SCC			4,190
Total			100,400

The specification for each area of work is outlined in the Specifications Links with Nature document and details of future maintenance and management are outlined in the Maintenance and Management Plan document.

