

**Woolsington Parish Council Biodiversity Project:
Parish Ponds restoration: Phase I removal of water soldier vegetation**



The Ponds are located immediately south of the Ouseburn, about 200 metres west of the A696. They are in the centre of the Parish, on the boundary of the Callerton and Woolsington Wards



West end of Pond: choked by Water Soldier



A sad old Heron looking for food that isn't there



East end choked by water soldier



**July 26 2021
Dredgers arrive and work
removing an estimated 500.000
plants from the main pond**





Aquatic Solutions: specialist contractors



Litter being removed from the Lily Pond



**A water soldier hat?
will never catch on**



Vegetation dumped well away from the water to decompose naturally



July 29 2021: Job Completed in 4 days: the pond is now looking like a pond again



Councillors George Pattison (left) and Alex Hay (far right) visit the WPC Biodiversity Team (John & Joanne) on site



July 30 2021: The first birds return the next day



**August 5 2021: Could almost be a painting by Constable.
Summer returns to the Parish Ponds**

Here are a few photographs to illustrate how the removal of water soldier vegetation from the Parish Ponds was completed, with some examples of before, during and after. The results have been spectacular.

The other large corner pond, the one with the water lilies, was cleared of surface weed and litter.

The Ponds now look like Ponds again and re-oxygenated water will soon be fed back into the Ouseburn when water levels rise in the main pond, thus having a cumulative impact downstream, along the full length of the river.

The Parish Council is sure that this project will pay huge dividends, not just in the short term with this restoration exercise, but in the longer term as a significant step forward in creating a local beauty spot and nature area for us all to cherish.

The removed water soldier is piled up in areas away from the ponds to decompose naturally, but during this time it will provide a shelter habitat for wildlife.

The Parish Council would like to express a big thank you to the land owner, Northumberland Estates, for its support throughout.