

## **Habitat Improvements to Date**

### **Removal of Water Soldier from Main Pond 26-29 July 2021**

**Right: Aquatic Solutions at work removing approx. 500,000 Water Soldier plants**

This work was carried out in July 2021 by specialist contractor Aquatic Solutions. The objectives were to:

- re-oxygenate the Pond and therefore the quality of water going back into the Ouse Burn and downstream (Main Pond is connected to the Ouseburn via an outlet/inlet)
- improve water quality of Main Pond and prevent further spreading of the Water Soldier, which had become totally invasive
- deliver improvements to habitats and biodiversity



**Water Soldier infestation**



**Pond clearance complete**

### **Management of invasive shrubbery (Snowberry) September 2021 – January 2022**

Also, creation of dead hedging to provide shelter, nesting sites and foraging grounds for birds, insects, hedgehogs and small mammals. Under the leadership of the Tyne Rivers Trust, this work was carried out by 20 volunteers, sponsored by 'Better Ouseburn' funding, with support from the Reece Foundation.

#### **Below: Creation of habitat piles January 2022**





**Creation of Amphibian scrapes and dredging of the Wetland area (above) 29 March 2022**

Several scrapes were created in the western reed beds in order to:

- improve water retention of the wetland area of the Main Pond (which currently dries out in early summer)
- remove self-seeded Willow saplings
- improve habitat for breeding amphibians
- attract wading birds

**Creation of new woodland footpath: Bluespaces Phase I: 14-17 March 2023**

- Sponsored by Northumbria Water Group's Bluespaces project.
- This enabled the creation of a new path through previously inaccessible woodland



**Above: Craig & Andrew (with canine colleague Roy) of Haywood Contracting in action**

**Below: the path as it is today**

