

# Sites of wildlife interest



# 6 Newton Garths and Tiledsheds Local Nature Reserve



Woodlands, wildflower meadows, works of art and a busy wildlife pond are all evidence of how this area has been transformed, with the help of local people, into being a vibrant corner of the Great North Forest in South Tyneside.

**Newton Garths** is a former landfill site, reclaimed during the 1980s. Its wide open spaces, ideal for skylarks, offer panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. New habitats created here include hazel and willow coppices and a colourful wildflower meadow.

**Tiledsheds** is named after the former brick and tile works that used the natural clay deposits from here as their raw material. Throughout the 1990s the Local Nature Reserve was created by the excavation of a pond and marsh, and the laying of a substantial network of paths. Thousands of native trees and shrubs were planted by local volunteers from STAG, the group now known as Countryside Volunteers South Tyneside. The Council reclaimed the adjacent piggery site in 1998.

The pond now teems with life such as water boatmen, frogs, toads, newts and dragonflies.



COMMON FROG

There are also breeding swans, coots and moorhens.

Cotman Gardens, to the north east, is a rare wildlife gem. A traditional old meadow, unploughed for generations, it comes alive with cowslips in the spring, followed by great burnet and yellow rattle.

### ACCESS

A good network of level, rolled stone, paths gives access to the pond dipping platform. The path network features seven of the sculptures on the six mile Forest of Imagination sculpture trail, whilst the Linnet Way links Tiledsheds to Newton Garths.

### TRANSPORT

From East Boldon Metro Station it is a 15 minute walk along Cleadon Lane, then left along Tiledshed Lane. There is a regular bus service along Benton Road (nos 533 and 551).

