

**Second Phase Growing Schools Accredited Sites
2012**

**GIBSIDE –National Trust
Newcastle upon Tyne**



View down the Long Walk or Avenue of oak trees towards the Column to Liberty, at Gibside, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Photograph: Robert Morris/NTPL

Gibside is a Georgian Hall and garden close to Tyneside overlooking the Derwent Valley. The estate was landscaped after it was inherited in 1722 by George Bowes. It is home to a number of protected species such as bats, great crested newts, roe deer and red kites.

**POOLES PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL,
Islington,
London**



Poolspark is the first school to gain Growing Schools Garden Accreditation, doing so in February 2012.

Poolspark Primary School is a community school in Islington, London that places a huge importance on outdoor learning. Its outdoor space includes an organic allotment, where fruit and vegetables are grown, a wildlife pond, a hen enclosure and a roof garden. It employs an environmental tutor and has an "Eco Team" of pupils who take responsibility for the outdoor space. As well as the outdoor learning environment being used during curriculum time, play times and after school activities, the children and their families are also invited to attend "volunteer Saturday" events that are held throughout the year.

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

Kennington

London



Roots and Shoots provides vocational training for young people, from the inner city, mainly from the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark, giving them the skills and self-confidence that will equip them for work.

The charity was set up in 1982 by Linda Phillips, MBE, who is still the Director, to help young people from Lambeth and Southwark prepare for the world of work. Up to twenty 16-19 year olds who have had difficulty coping in the traditional educational system spend a year learning at Roots and Shoots. Alongside this training local schools and the wider community are involved by establishing the site as an important green space for urban biodiversity.

Since the charity was founded, the one-acre former Civil Defence site has been transformed. Where once a Meccano factory engineering works and barrage balloon launch pad stood there is now an eco-training centre, plant nursery, shop, Wildlife Study Centre and Wild Garden. The eco building, completed in 2005 and officially opened in 2007 by HRH The Prince of Wales, is the hub of Roots and Shoots' activities.

The Roots and Shoots Wildlife Garden and Study Centre are a learning resource, providing environmental education for schools and the community. Diverse habitats have been developed in the Wild Garden to increase and promote the biodiversity of insect, plant and bird life. Surrounded by high buildings, the entire site is a lush inner-city oasis in which plants from warm temperate and Mediterranean climates flourish.

The Wild Garden is also the base for the London Beekeepers' Association who hold meetings and courses there. The honey, said by many to be some of the best in London, is sold in the shop. The shop also sells Roots and Shoots Orchard Bounty- apple juice, pressed on site with apples from the friends' orchard in Wales, as well as other ethically sourced items.

KINLOSS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Moray

Scotland



Kinloss Primary School and Nursery is the first Scottish school to gain Growing Schools Garden Accreditation, doing so in February 2012.

Kinloss Primary is located in Scotland on the Moray Firth's southern coastline, about 30 miles east of Inverness.

Classes are allocated areas within the school grounds to grow foods for use in the school. The staff are also supported through the Garden Club to sow, bed, plant, prune, crop and use foods grown. The site is also used by RHA to train teachers in developing school grounds and gardens.

The school provides two working weekend activity days for parents to spend in the gardens working with the children and sharing expertise. The school also shares its expertise with teachers and staff from neighbouring schools who are invited to training sessions on the site.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH

Scotland



The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh was established in 1670 as a physic garden. Now it extends over four gardens boasting a rich living collection of plants, and as a world-renowned centre for plant science and education.