Groundwork North East

14 Parsons Court
Welbury Way
Newton Aycliffe
DL5 6ZE

20th November 2023,

To whom it may concern,

Groundwork have been working on environmental enhancements along the River Tyne for the past five years. This has involved trials of innovative habitat creation techniques in the intertidal zone, including installing floating ecosystems, bio-receptive tiles, fish refuges and artificial rockpools. We also have a number of saltmarsh protection and restoration trials using low impact design and natural materials to allow saltmarsh growth. We have lost 85% of saltmarsh habitat nationally and over 90% of that on the Tyne. Classed as a BAP priority habitat, it is an important feeding ground for juvenile fish, supports invertebrate species in the sediment and is a superb carbon sequester.

Monitoring these trials will provide valuable evidence that we hope will feed into future planning when it comes to riverside developments improving the biodiversity of our river. Crucial to this is safe access to the sites, and often the only way is from the river itself. I fully endorse the proposals for South Shields Marina to be able to provide properly insured safety vessels for our ecologists and marine biologists to enable them to gather the necessary data.

Alongside the interventions, Groundwork have also been engaging with local schools, community groups and the general public to encourage a greater understanding of and connection to the river. We would support the educational opportunities that could be run from South Shields Marina, where safe, controlled access to the river would benefit local people who do not normally have this opportunity.

South Shields Marina has been very supportive of the work Groundwork have been doing and have a significant range of intertidal habitats already on trial on their quay walls.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Machouki

CMLI
Landscape Architect, Groundwork North East