

People, Landscape & Wildlife

2022 Impact Report



Our impact in 2022

Thanks to you, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust continues to make a real difference to the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

In this annual report, we share highlights of our work in 2022, together with stories from the people and places you have helped to support. The figures speak volumes for the enthusiasm all our supporters and partners have for this special place.

Our work continues to benefit people from all walks of life - this year we recorded 6,948 interactions with beneficiaries across 373 project sessions. Almost 2,000 hours of activity were delivered to connect people with our work.

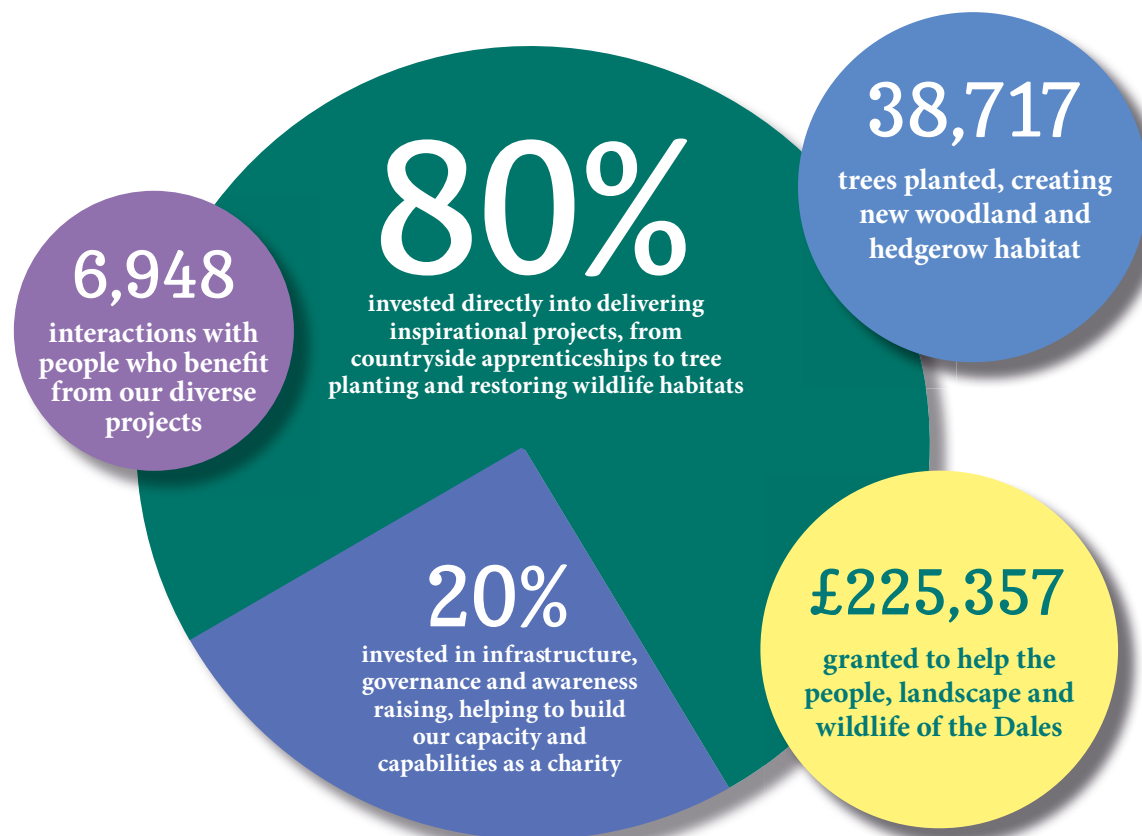
We have created, revitalised and restored 60.51 hectares of woodland and meadows to benefit our landscape.

And, across the National Park and surrounding areas, more than £225,000 has been given to local organisations and partnerships that create real change in their communities.

We've also helped ten apprentices gain vital conservation experience with different organisations across the Dales. At YDMT, we have two people engaged in long-term traineeships in woodlands and our wider work.

We know the Yorkshire Dales faces significant challenges, but with your support we know we can continue to make a real difference in the Yorkshire Dales for future generations.

2 YDMT 2022 Impact Report



Our Impact - At A Glance

60.51 - hectares of woodland, hedgerow, and meadows revitalised and restored.

373 - project sessions delivered to connect people from all walks of life with our work and wider Yorkshire Dales communities.

1,949 - hours of activity delivered. Many people attended multiple sessions that offered longer-term support.

25,601 - contact hours delivered to individual beneficiaries.



“My traineeship and everything I have learnt has been a driving factor in my push to train as an arborist. It’s always been a dream of mine to have a fulfilling role within the environmental sector and working with YDMT is giving me the opportunity to do that and so much more.”

Chloe, YDMT Woodland Trainee.

People

Our projects help people to visit, care for and live sustainably in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

- We support a vibrant and sustainable Yorkshire Dales with stronger, better supported and welcoming communities.
- We enable people to gain new skills to live and work in the Dales and provide more opportunities for people to access, appreciate and enjoy this special area.

In 2022...

- **£13,191** was distributed through our community grants programme, allowing organisations to make a difference in their local area.
- **1,494** connections were made with young people, inspiring them to care about the natural world and to get into the countryside and learn new skills. Many attended multiple-sessions which offered longer-term engagement and support.
- **348** project sessions, often involving practical conservation, were delivered to connect people to the precious landscape of the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.



We helped 11 groups make change in their local communities.



Woodland wellbeing brings lasting benefits

Over the last year we have been working with several schools and colleges to help young people who are struggling or at risk of exclusion from mainstream education.

33 students from Bradford participated in a pilot woodland wellbeing programme that promotes a long-term connection with nature. The programme aims to boost their mental health, improve self-confidence and self-esteem, as well as other skills.

Sessions are designed to help young people reflect on their lives and wellbeing.

They have included woodworking, bush-craft, planting an orchard, creating a food garden, and natural crafts,

alongside more reflective practices such as mindfulness, nature journalling, swinging in hammocks, and fire-lighting.

And we're already seeing a real difference in the students taking part in the project, showing a longer term approach to wellbeing can improve prospects.

One student told us:

"I have loved these sessions. I have learnt so much about myself. I used to get angry but not so much anymore. I think they have helped my future ... I want to work in law and this has helped me because I know that I can be useful now. They have helped me see things from the point of view of other people."

Landscape

Our projects help to protect and enhance the unique natural, cultural and built heritage we have in the Yorkshire Dales for future generations.

- We support the planting of trees and have helped to plant **1,593,667** since 1997.
- We are working with landowners and partners to reverse the loss of wildflower hay meadows - which have seen a 97% decline in the last 70 years.

In 2022...

- **38,717** new native broadleaf trees were planted in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.
- This helped us to create **2,167** metres of hedgerow and drystone wall, increasing this vital habitat for our most vulnerable and precious wildlife.
- **20,700** redundant plastic tree shelters were recycled from 17 sites across the Dales and Nidderdale, removing plastic pollution from our woodlands and water courses.
- We revitalised **38.51** hectares of our precious wildflower meadows.



We supported the planting of 22 hectares of native broadleaf trees across the Dales.



Make a deeper connection on the floodplain

765 hectares of varied landscape near Long Preston are being revitalised as part of Deeper Connections.

More than a fifth of this nationally important floodplain is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its unusual river morphology, breeding waders, and botanical interest. It is also an area rarely visited, despite being crossed and overlooked by public rights of way and dissected by the Ribble Way, a long-distance walk between the Lancashire coast and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

In partnership with Ribble Rivers Trust, we are restoring more than 10 hectares of floodplain, creating wildlife corridors, shallow pools, scrapes and ponds, improving woodland by planting 6,400 trees, and supporting

26 farmers with specialist advice. This will help the thousands of birds and wildlife that use the floodplain throughout the year. We've also been making sure the floodplain is accessible through clear maps and improvements to footpaths, and brought more than 120 people from urban areas to visit local farms.

One person on an outreach event from Leeds said:

"I thought all the women who volunteered to make lunch, play with the children, help decorate pots and showed us around the farm were, as one mum, said 'really good people'. I don't think they realised how healing and reassuring it is for people to feel welcomed. People never forget a kindness. I believe it can save lives."

Wildlife

Our work helps to protect wildlife and improve biodiversity in the Dales and surrounding areas.

- We improve the conditions of key habitats and species.
- Our work helps to create habitats that are more resilient to the effects of climate change.
- We enhance public awareness, support and appreciation of Dales wildlife.

In 2022...

- **548kg** of wildflower seed was sown in meadows to provide an important food source for pollinators. We also planted **5,804** plug plants.
- **30** bird, bee and bug houses, and **250** seed bombs, were made to attract wildlife - helping many people connect with nature in their local area.
- Across the **Tees-Swale** area, we helped make **8** scrapes for breeding wading birds.
- **5** landowners and organisations received help to establish meadows in their communities.



Local communities and schools created 15 habitat patches to benefit our wildlife.



Pollinator fight brings communities together

It's a sad fact that half of our bumblebee species are in decline with seven species reducing by more than 50% in the last 25 years.

Our Bee Together project aimed to reverse this trend by working with local communities to boost habitat for pollinators and other insects. Over the course of the last four years, 55 wildlife patches and community meadows have been created, three existing meadows have been enhanced and 30 nest sites established. This is thanks to the dedication of 668 volunteers.

We have trained 333 people and groups in pollinator ID and habitat management too - and 1,153 school children have been engaged with the project, bringing the plight of our pollinators to young people.

On a larger scale, two pollinator action plans have been prepared and 60 local authorities and landowners advised on the changes they can make. This will form the next stage of the project as we look to make landscape size changes to pollinator habitats.

One group we worked with was Addingham Environment Group. Janet Hindle said:

"It's been brilliant to have practical support and encouragement to help with the sowing and planting of new wildflower rich meadow in and around Addingham. Our new meadow areas are in prominent places and we hope they will inspire everyone in the community to make space for wildflowers and support our bees and other pollinators."

Organisation

Since 1997, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has worked to support a greener, stronger and healthier Yorkshire Dales for the benefit of everyone.

This year was an exciting one for YDMT as we welcomed a new chair of trustees and focused on training and wellbeing to ensure our team can continue to deliver the best outcomes for the Dales.

- We continued to **train our staff** and equip them to further YDMT's charitable aims and impact.
- We welcomed several **new trustees** and a **new chair** to help drive forward our organisation.
- We focused on the **health and wellbeing** of our team, providing one-to-one support and other opportunities.

Ensuring we stay green and sustainable

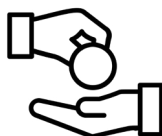
As a charity that operates within the environmental sector, we are committed to reaching net zero by 2030

Our Environmental Policy sets commitments to reducing energy use, limiting consumption of resources and the production of waste, alongside educating staff and Trustees in environmental issues.

Targets include having a 100% renewable energy supplier and transitioning to sustainable travel. We have moved some of our reserves into ethical investments and aim to move to a more ethical banking partner.



We deliver projects to support the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales



We raise and distribute funds to enable our partners and individuals to deliver projects



We work in partnership to deliver the maximum charitable benefits to the area

Our Values

Enabling - We make real practical things happen and are approachable, collaborative and inclusive, valuing people's opinions in everything we do.

Caring - We are passionate about supporting the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales and are committed to being sustainable.

Creative - We thrive on new challenges and act with entrepreneurial spirit in order to make a positive difference to this special area.

Honest - We always act with integrity and are open, clear and fair.



“I feel privileged to be in a position to be able to help, in a small way, with the wonderful work which YDMT are doing to preserve the beauty and heritage of the Dales for future generations to enjoy.

“Donating in Dad’s memory seems absolutely fitting; I am certain it is something that he would be very proud to support.”

With the support of Alf Wight’s daughter, Dr Rosie Page, we have restored three historical barns and planted the James Herriot woodland.

Supporting people, landscape and wildlife

Yorkshire Dales
Millennium Trust
Main Street, Clapham
via Lancaster, LA2 8DP
info@ydmt.org
015242 51002
www.ydmt.org

Charity no. 1061687

