

People, Landscape & Wildlife

2021 Impact Report



Our impact thanks to your support

Despite a year of challenge and change, the amazing response from our supporters has enabled Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to continue to make a real impact on the people, landscape and wildlife of the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.

We will share the highlights of our work during 2021 with you in this annual report, together with stories of the special people and places your donations are helping to support.

The numbers show just how much you have helped us to achieve in 2021: 31,851 trees planted, more than 5,500 people benefitted from our projects and £160k given to local organisations and partnerships that make a real difference to their communities.

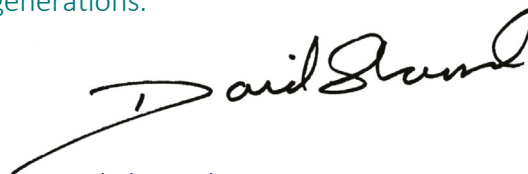
We also continue to make significant inroads into reversing the decline of our most precious hay meadows and, as a result, pollinators. Working in the Forest of Bowland we have restored 40 hectares of meadow – and across the Dales helped groups create 23 wildlife patches, gardens and ponds.

What is inspiring about these landscape-scale projects is the number of people who come together from the local community to work in partnership. There is a real groundswell to help nature recover – and engaging people is vital as we move forward in this climate crisis.

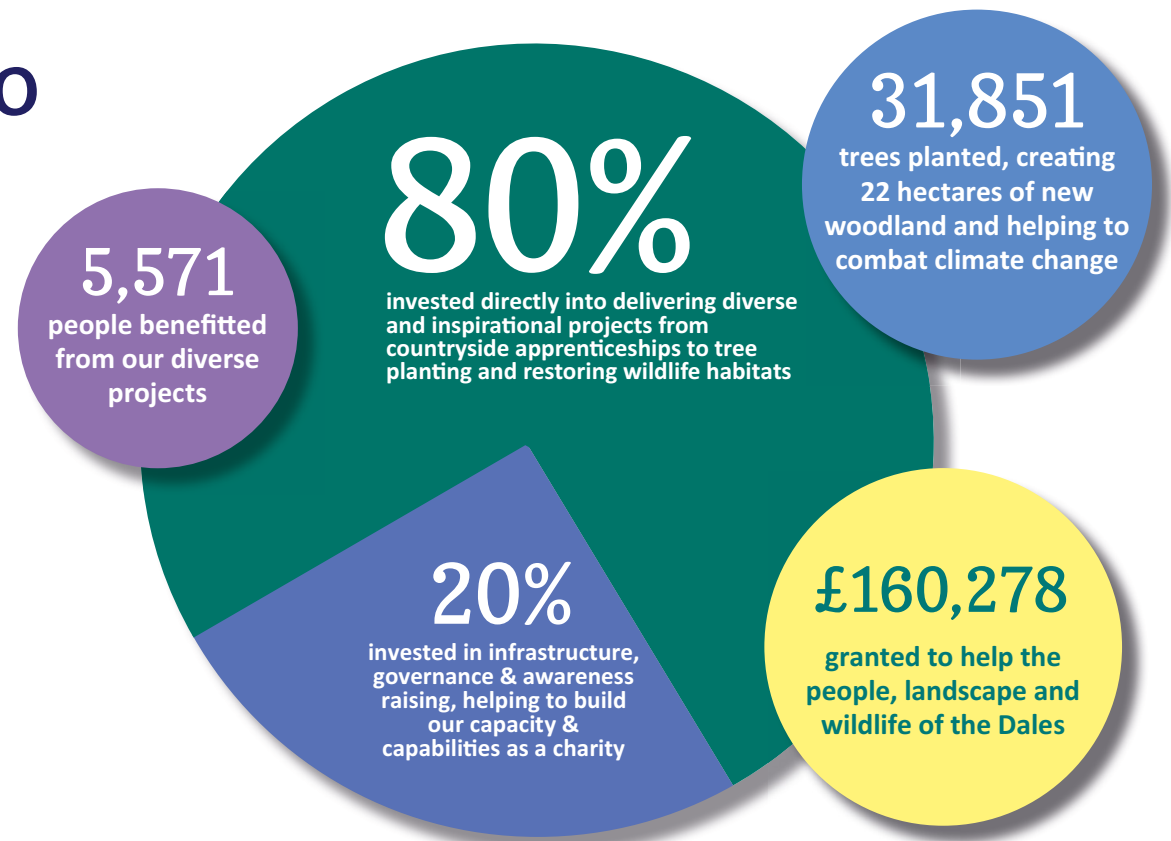
With that in mind, we are working with more young people than ever before and our life-changing

apprenticeship and trainee schemes are helping to get more of them into employment.

As ever, there is always much more work to be done. We know the Yorkshire Dales faces significant challenges moving forward. But thanks to the commitment from our partners and wonderful supporters, we know we can continue to make a real difference in the Yorkshire Dales for future generations.



David Sharrod
Chief Executive



“I really feel like I have done something worthwhile. I mean, I recycle at home, but making actual new habitats for wildlife is amazing. I really feel like I’m doing something to help the planet. And the best bit is that everyone else at my school will get the benefit in the future.” William

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 2021...

- **£160,278** was distributed through our grants and partnership programmes.
- An estimated **3,223** people have benefitted from our Community Grants programme.
- **1,029** young people were inspired to care about the natural world and to get out into the countryside to learn new skills. Many have attended multiple-sessions offering longer-term engagement and support to often vulnerable young people.
- **84** events were delivered to provide inspirational respite opportunities to minoritised or marginalised adults.



We helped 84 green influencers lead the way on local environmental change.



“Being out in the Dales is truly life-changing”

For refugees and asylum seekers, and many other groups of people with different needs, it is often difficult to access the Dales and enjoy the many benefits of being outdoors in this special place.

In 2021, we were able to bring more people to the Dales to enjoy some respite from the pandemic. One group of 24 mums and their children from the Maternity Stream of the City of Sanctuary in Leeds came to the iconic Ribbleshead Viaduct to discover what the Dales has to offer.

Most of the women are refugees who have fled their home country and have lived in the UK as asylum seekers before being granted refugee status. All have experienced hardship and have had to navigate the asylum process, whilst some have also spent time in a detention centre.

Many have also waited several years to get their papers and be allowed to work. Now, most of these women either run their own business, or work in our hospitals or schools.

One woman said about the weekend:

“Thank you for the work you do. It is truly life-changing. One of the women who has worked for the NHS on the Covid ward throughout the pandemic to save lives, told me that this has been the first holiday she has taken all year, the first time she has been able to feel peaceful since the pandemic started.

“An amazing weekend so important to all of us – thank you!”

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 **1,554,950** since 1997.
- We are working with landowners to reverse the loss of wildflower hay meadows - which have seen a 97% decline in the last 70 years.

In 2021...

- **31,851** new native broadleaf trees were planted in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas.
- This helped us to create **850 metres** of hedgerow, increasing this vital habitat for birds and small mammals.
- **40** hectares of hay meadows were regenerated, increasing biodiversity and providing a vital food resource for pollinators and other insects.
- **23** wildlife patches, gardens and ponds were created by local communities to help our vulnerable pollinators.



You helped us to plant 11,000 plug plants to restore wildflower meadows.



“Reducing the use of plastic in our landscape”

Our plastic free woodlands project has already removed 38,000 redundant plastic tree guards from the Dales.

Thanks to support from the European Outdoor Conservation Association significant progress has been made in trialling alternatives and highlighting the issue of plastics in forestry nationally.

Working with volunteers, community groups and landowners redundant tree guards were taken to two collection points and then recycled by Tubex.

More than 180 volunteers have taken part - including young people and children experiencing vulnerabilities, and community groups. They helped to clear an estimated 4,000 guards, with an additional 400 set to be reused. To

give woodland creators an alternative to planting with plastic we are trialling alternatives on six sites across the Dales and Nidderdale, each having up to six different types of alternative tree guards. The results will feed into a national trial.

We also launched a new supporter woodland at Whashton near Richmond, where 4,000 trees were planted without traditional tree guards. Landowner Paul said:

“Creating a natural habitat for wildlife is something we are passionate about, and we want to create a woodland that local people will enjoy visiting. And, of course, we want to do our bit to combat climate change as well.”

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 2021...

- **1,960** people came together to learn practical skills to help pollinators and other insects.
- **217** bird, bee, bug and hedgehog houses and baths were installed to attract wildlife - helping many people connect with nature in their local area.
- **31** binoculars were provided to young people to help them complete wildlife surveys.
- **450kg** of wildflower seed was sown to provide an important food source for pollinators.



Young people helped to create more than 200 sources of food and shelter for wildlife.



“Sessions help wildlife - and our well-being”

The Bee Together project aims to bring people together to help reverse the decline of wild bees and other pollinators, through engagement, education and practical conservation work.

We've been working with the Hyde Park Source community gardening group to not only help improve local habitats in Leeds but improve group member's health and wellbeing.

The group planted and cared for bee friendly garden plants in the Abbey House Museum walled garden.

They have also built a giant mini-beast house and taken part in a bumblebee ID session, using their new found skills to identify the five different species of bumblebee enjoying the garden.

As well as helping our vulnerable pollinators, the group also enjoys the benefits of being outside – helping to improve their health and wellbeing.

Hyde Park Source work with local communities to improve their surroundings, designing and creating attractive, exciting, safe and useful places for people to live, work and play.

Their group leader said:

“Thank you to YDMT and Bee Together for a beautiful and fascinating session. The volunteers truly loved it and were happy and proud at what they produced. These sessions really make a difference to the environment and our mental health.”

Organisation

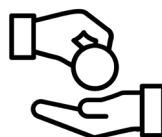
Since 1997, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has worked to support a greener, stronger and healthier Yorkshire Dales for the benefit of everyone.

We work in partnership to deliver the best outcomes for the Yorkshire Dales and to ensure we can do more for the people, landscape and wildlife of this special area.

- **80 per cent of funds** are invested directly into delivering diverse and inspirational projects. **20 per cent** is invested in infrastructure, governance and awareness raising.
- We continued to **train our staff** and equip them to further YDMT's charitable aims.
- We welcomed **new trustees** to help drive our charitable aims.
- We invested in new **evaluation software** to measure our impact and help us tell our story.
- We continued to be recognised by **Investors in People** for our commitment to our staff and are working with them to review and embed our values across the organisation.
- We focused on the **health and wellbeing** of staff, providing one-to-one support and other opportunities.



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

"Supporting staff through uncertain times"

"The pandemic meant the YDMT team had to be adaptable and flexible in the way they worked.

"Through our wellbeing group we introduced a range of measures to support staff. We created monthly wellbeing challenges including a team target to reduce our carbon footprint. A total of 567kg of carbon, 38kg of waste and 5,144 litres of water were saved by staff at home in just two months.

"A range of informal lunchtime learning sessions and more formal wellbeing sessions have been delivered, bringing staff and trustees together. Staff have access to one-to-one coaching sessions - incredibly useful in working out challenges we face in the workplace, as well as access to our new Mental Health First Aiders support scheme." **Gail Smith, wellbeing co-ordinator**

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.



"YDMT offered a great opportunity to gain the practical skills I needed to follow a career in wildlife conservation. I am now working as Woodland Officer for the Wyre Rivers Trust. I am very grateful for the skills I have learnt, and my new job is exactly what I hoped to get from my experience as a woodland trainee." Sam

Supporting people, landscape and wildlife



Charity no. 1061687

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