

## IMPACT REPORT

GROUNDWORK YORKSHIRE 2021/2022



### **FOREWORD**

At Groundwork Yorkshire we are passionate about creating a future where every neighbourhood is vibrant and green and able to shape its own destiny, where every community is strong and no-one is held back by their background or circumstances.

As part of the Groundwork Federation we celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2023 and while much has changed many of the issues we have been wrestling with remain; restoring pride of place and a sense of community, tackling climate change, working with unemployed people to improve their life chances or supporting individuals and communities with the multiple challenges of the current cost of living crisis.

I am fortunate to be the Executive Director of Groundwork Yorkshire – even in these most challenging of times our team continue to rise to the challenge of delivering ever more innovative solutions and support to the communities we serve. This impact report highlights some of what Groundwork Yorkshire has achieved in the last year.

In the coming year we will be supporting a number of our local authority partners as they strive to make the most of the Levelling Up Opportunities designed to help build pride in place. We will also, as we always have, work with individuals and communities to grow human capital and build community resilience.

On behalf of the Trustees and myself I would like to thank our great team, our many partners and all of those who don't just participate in our projects but actively help us **Change Places** and **Change Lives**.

A. Curtis

Adrian Curtis Executive Director



# WE HAVE A MISSION TO MOBILISE PRACTICAL COMMUNITY ACTION ON POVERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. WE'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT:

- IMPROVING PEOPLE'S PROSPECTS:
  Increasing confidence, health and wellbeing, skills and employability of those most in need, lifting them out of poverty.
- CREATING BETTER PLACES:
  Helping people work together to make their surroundings greener, safer and healthier; getting involved in local decision making.
- PROMOTING GREENER CHOICES:
  Helping people, communities and businesses
  understand and reduce their environmental
  impact to fight climate change.



## **THE YEAR IN NUMBERS: 2021/2022**



7,840

People helped to reduce their energy use. Tackling fuel poverty and climate change



389 Ha

Landscape restored = 544 football pitches. Tackling the climate & biodiversity crisis



5,320

Trees planted.
Improving access
to nature



312

Community groups supported. Building pride of place



23,954

Hours of volunteer time. Supporting people to be active in communities



**241** 

Young people supported to learn, achieve & thrive



186,540

People benefitting from our public space improvements



**170** 

Schools, businesses & SMEs supported with potential cost savings of £74,500



201

Projects delivered, bringing benefits to the people of Yorkshire



# WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT A FUTURE WHERE:

- Every neighbourhood is vibrant and green.
- Every community is strong and able to shape its own destiny.
- No-one is held back by their background or circumstances.

We believe that working with local communities to build their resilience is vital in facing up to the challenges of a global economy and changing climate.

We know that the negative effects of climate change and environmental breakdown impact first and worst on those who have the least power in society, and who contribute least to the cause of the crisis. A 'just transition' to an inclusive, net zero economy must tackle, rather than entrench this inequality, and provide a springboard for better work and healthier, happier lives in the places that need it most.

This means creating green jobs that build wealth in local communities, changing behaviour to reduce wasted food, energy and water, providing biodiverse, accessible green spaces, supporting businesses to be more responsible and empowering communities to lead activities that improve their quality of life and promote health and wellbeing.

## **GREEN DOCTOR**

#### HELPING TO REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Groundwork Green Doctor service provides energy efficiency experts who visit people in their homes across Yorkshire, helping vulnerable households to save money and stay warm and well. With over 1 in 10 households in the UK experiencing fuel poverty, it's a crucial lifeline for many residents helping to reduce inequality and support those most in need.

Green Doctor helps people engage with the climate emergency and save money at the same time. The need for and success of this programme means we are actively training and integrating more Green Doctor advisors into wider Groundwork programmes, to reach more people in need, such as Employment and Youth programmes.









## **GREEN DOCTOR**

#### **RETROFIT**

The Groundwork Energy Management Service is a sub section of the Green Doctor programme, providing **retrofit** services and energy efficiency reports for domestic dwellings and community buildings.

The retrofit team is made up of four domestic energy assessors, qualified to provide Energy Performance Certificates.

The team also includes four retrofit assessors and two coordinators. These roles are key in the government retrofit frameworks PAS2035 & PAS2030.

To achieve a compliant retrofit project, the assessors first create an indepth energy report for all aspects of the building, looking at any defects and mould or condensation issues. The coordinator then oversees the project by creating a 30-year plan for the property, an improvement option document which shows how measures interact with each other, and a ventilation plan for the dwelling. Finally, the team provides energy reports for community buildings created from a site visit. An overview of performance is given and potential recommendations and improvements are critiqued for each individual building.







## **GREEN DOCTOR**

#### **RETROFIT CASE STUDY**

We were given the opportunity to conduct a full retrofit service for the Abbey Road pilot project in Kirklees. Kirklees Council and Michael Dysons architects used the Groundwork Energy Management Team to provide pre energy performance certificates, retrofit assessments, coordination and evaluation and guidance in navigating the government frameworks for retrofit. Eight properties in the Fartown estate of Huddersfield were selected for a 'deep retrofit', aiming to replicate the process across social housing stock. The following measures were approved for

**+** External wall insulation

+ Loft insulation

improvement, and designs created.

+ Air source heat pumps

+ Triple glazing

+ Solar thermal and photovoltaic panels

Ventilation upgrades

Pre & post air tightness tests

+ High performance external doors

We were involved in weekly toolbox meetings to offer **support** and **advice** on any challenges that arose. Work was done over a number of months and once complete, we ensured the retrofit was to a very high standard and each aspect of the PAS process was followed correctly.

The aims of the retrofit were achieved as people's bills are projected to fall by £450 and in this cost-of-living crisis, retrofitting homes is a key way to maximise income and ensure warm and well-ventilated homes to prevent excessive winter deaths.



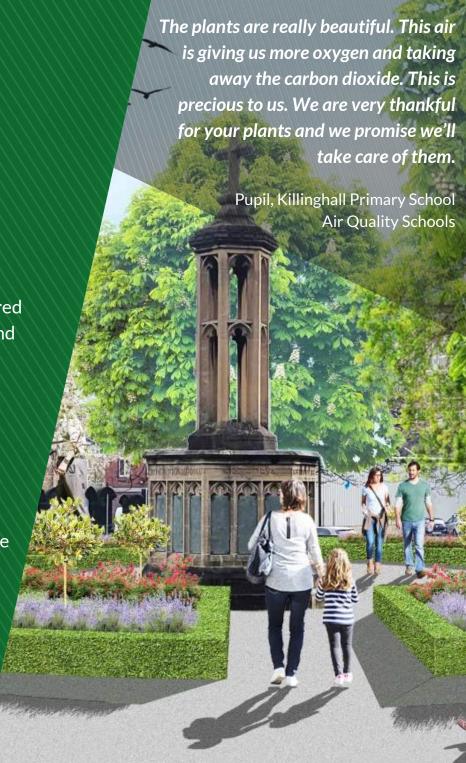
## CREATING BETTER PLACES

#### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Groundwork Yorkshire's qualified Landscape Architects are passionate about creating better spaces and have a unique set of skills to bring together community engagement and quality design. Staffed by Chartered Landscape Architects, the team is dedicated to delivering imaginative and innovative design solutions to meet the needs of our clients.

The team has extensive experience of planning and managing projects from inception to design, implementation and aftercare. Environmental improvement and regeneration projects are undertaken for clients in urban and rural areas, both for public and private sectors.

In making changes to the places that people live, work and play, we strive to achieve maximum community involvement in design and implementation and are committed to delivering enhanced and sustainable environmental quality.



## ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

#### **BETTER PLACE BRADFORD**

Better Place was a three year project delivered in partnership between Better Start Bradford and Groundwork to involve local people and develop safer and healthier places for expectant parents and families with children under four years old to increase their access to outdoor spaces.

Groundwork Yorkshire were the lead landscape architects for the project, **improving a range of green spaces** throughout Bradford. These spanned from a small snicket leading to schools, to larger heritage parks.

Pockets of green spaces and playgrounds were either discovered by the team through research or were nominated by a member of the public for improvement. The community team organised public consultations and co-design sessions where information was gained about the site and it's land users. Parents of small children were especially considered in these consultations to gain a more accurate image of what should be proposed for young ones.













#### **BREATHE EASY SCHOOLS**

To help tackle the issue of **air pollution** around schools, we worked in partnership with Balfour Beatty on the 'Breathe Easy' project. By using **nature-based solutions** and the expertise of our landscape architects, we created a natural barrier to make the air cleaner for the school children who breathe it.

Along with volunteers from Balfour Beatty and Sunbelt Rentals, we worked within **Seacroft Grange Primary School**'s playground to create a green barrier of
Western Red Cedar hedging plants and Birch trees to help trap the fine particulates from vehicle emissions.



Over 380 hedging plants and trees planted



25 volunteers from Balfour Beatty, Sunbelt Rentals and Groundwork











#### **SUSTAINABLE SPACES**

**Central England Co-operative group** has teamed up with Groundwork UK to create a range of different **spaces on land** around its own retail stores and funeral homes funded by their plastic carrier bag levy fund.

The **Dodworth** store was chosen as one of four pilot projects which transformed part of its car park into a new **community space**. A much needed, accessible slope from car park level up to the High Street side has been incorporated, along with **picnic tables**, **stepped timber planters** with **flowering plants**, **herbs**, **sensory species** and **fruit trees**. This has softened the space, provided year-round colour and created an attractive meeting place for residents and visitors. Artist **Adrian Moakes** was also commissioned to design sculptural elements around the theme of **biodiversity** which appear throughout the site.



**325m2** of land transformed into a community space



Six new trees planted

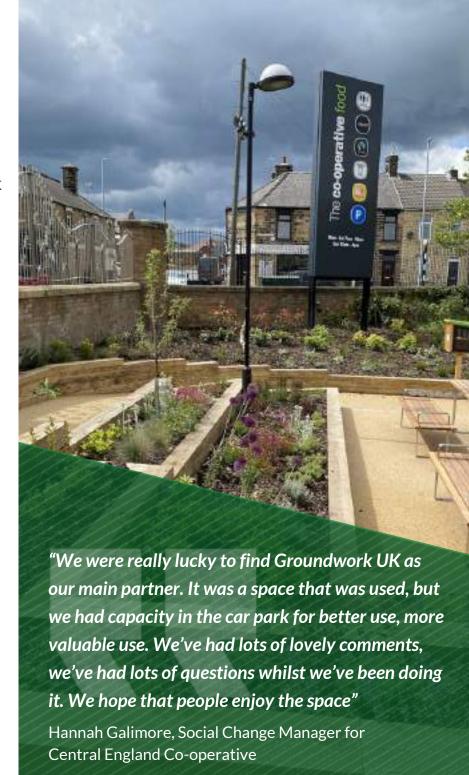


28 local school children took part in activity on the opening day









#### FRYSTON, FRICKLEY AND RABBIT INGS COUNTRY PARKS

Our Countryside Park Rangers team manage over **217 hectares** of Land Trust owned open spaces to ensure the maintenance, conservation and accessibility of parks for local people. They also work to **enhance the natural environment** and **engage the community** in various events throughout the year.

Due to the Covid pandemic, organised activity sessions were put on hold and replaced with self-led trails and engagement events including wildlife spotting, litter picks, a halloween trail, a Christmas trail, winter photo requests, a children's photography competition and other events run by local groups.

In 2021, Rabbit Ings was one of only 18% of Local Wildlife sites in Barnsley that remained in **positive conservation management**.











#### **GROUNDWORK PRIDE**

Established in 2006 Groundwork Pride is a subsidiary of Groundwork specialising in delivering minor civil, soft and hard landscaping ground maintenance and treatment services to the construction industry and wider companies across Yorkshire.



**147** miles of the river system walked and **56** miles treated through our Invasive Species programme.



**Currently employs 14 people** 



Actively working on 16 different housing development sites made up from six different housing developers





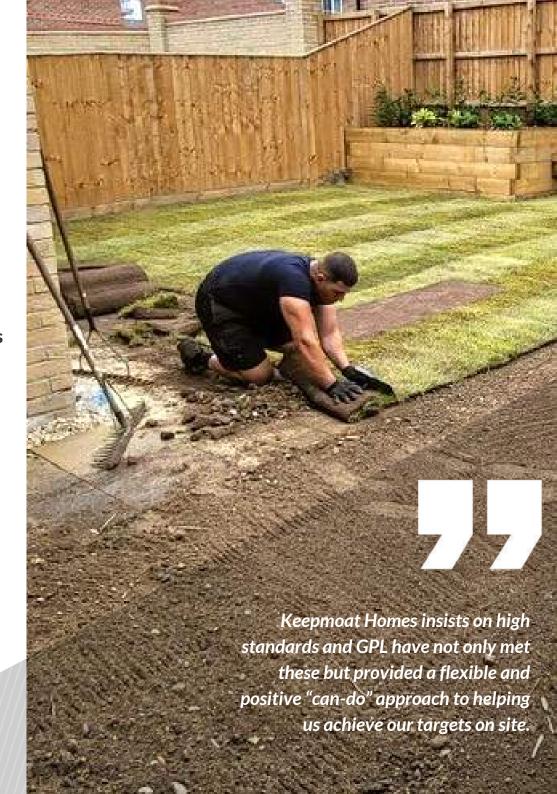












#### **GROUNDWORK PRIDE - COUNTRYSIDE HOMES**

Countryside Homes are the UK's leading mixed-tenure developer, offering four different types of houses, bringing together modern and efficient delivery methods to **create sustainable communities**. They have a place-making approach to new developments, not only to build high quality homes, but also to think critically about the social and digital infrastructure, transport and **green spaces** needed to nurture a vibrant, connected and healthy community.

GPL currently work on the **City Fields** site in Wakefield. The development fulfills Wakefield City Council's vision to create a **safe**, **secure** and **vibrant** new neighbourhood for the residents and local community. Ensuring every resident at City Fields is supported by local infrastructure, Countryside invested £2.2m in valuable local services, including £1.05m towards **open space** and **play areas**.

GPL ensure the homes and public open, green spaces are completed to the highest landscaping quality possible. Whether we are constructing a private dwelling or a larger residential development, every residential build benefits from a well-planned, attractive external surrounding. Phase 1 of this development saw us completing the soft landscaping to three key sections of open space areas and the new build house gardens.







# INCREASING CONFIDENCE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING; EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

#### **GROUNDWORK HULL**

In June 2021 Hull launched its **Shed** project with the aim of creating an inclusive hub where people could visit to **learn and share skills** in woodworking, metal work, soft crafts and up-cycling. In July 2021 we took over the running of the local community **Repaint** scheme, funded by Dulux, to support our work and help generate additional income to contribute towards the sustainability of The Shed.

We have been working in partnership with the **Environment Agency** and **Hull City Council** on the **Dynamic Drains** project and successfully secured over £150,000 from the **DEFRA Green Recovery Challenge Fund** to build green skills, engage local community and improve the biodiversity and amenity value of Barmston Drain.



Diverted over 4,646 litres of paint from landfill



Generated over 2,000 volunteer hours



**12** projects ran in 2021/22



**Engaged over 820 people** 















## HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES, TACKLING FOOD INEQUALITY

Food insecurity is increasing rapidly; especially during school holidays and across the North

#### **GO WILD LEEDS**

Go Wild is a Healthy Holiday programme funded by Leeds Community Foundation to support low income families and those with children who have Special Educational Needs. The programme offers a full day of activity with a **free**, **healthy**, **hot lunch** focusing on teaching children and adults how to make healthier, budget friendly choices.

We provide **free activity packs** for families to take home which contain fun games, puzzles and information about where to find support with debt, energy and cost of living issues, help with school uniform, free PE kits and signposting to other support services.



Handed out 1,586 activity packs, supported 1,002 children and provided 1,519 meals



96 sessions ran across four locations across Leeds





Healthy Holidays Fund

Leeds Community Foundation



## **HEALTH & WELLBEING**

How we feel is central to the way we live our lives. Just like our physical health, our mental health has ups and downs.

#### **MORLEY SHED**

The Morley Shed in Leeds is a fully-equipped wood workshop for those who are experienced, want to brush up on skills, or are completely new to woodwork.

The Shed is more than just a workshop, it helps bring people together; tackling mental health and loneliness by providing a space to socialise. It's a great place to share skills and knowledge, or just have a cup of tea and a biscuit and spend time with like-minded others.



Over 70 members and volunteers



Men in Sheds, Women in Sheds and mixed sessions run throughout the year.



## **BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION** & MOBILITY

#### Delivering action to make a positive difference

The impact of Covid 19 has been significant and deeply felt in areas of deprivation and by those with additional needs. Across Yorkshire our dedicated Community teams have been delivering a varied package of projects to help those most affected to address issues including health and wellbeing; financial pressures; unemployment and environmental degradation.

Our work has helped individuals and groups by providing services including:

> The delivery of food parcels, shopping and check-in calls for the most vulnerable

Offering safe opportunities to socialise outdoors whilst walking or gardening

- > Providing school holiday activities including hot food
- **Volunteering** and work experience
- > Providing grants to local organisations to support their project activities





## **BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION** & MOBILITY

#### **COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS**

Lady Pit Lane allotments in Beeston, Leeds has hosted projects running throughout the year and is currently aimed at Leeds residents with learning difficulties and/or mental health challenges. Project aims vary seasonally but include supporting individuals into employment, encouraging people to feel Covid safe in the outdoors again, increasing fitness and mobility, increasing mental well-being and growing healthy, fresh food for local food banks and participants. The allotments were one of the first projects to restart again after the Covid lockdown was eased and paved the way for other projects. It was the ideal setting: being outdoors with plenty of space and tools avoided contamination.

There are currently **10** participants who attend weekly sessions at the allotment completing tasks including building a greenhouse out of plastic bottles, weeding, creating raised beds so that participants with mobility issues or back problems can also join in, learning about composting, pruning and propogation and constructing a polytunnel.



## **BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION** & MOBILITY

#### **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

As a **trusted partner** our experienced grant management team helps to support thousands of projects every year through our **grant programmes**, ensuring money gets to where it's most needed.

Grants awarded to groups have supported:

- > Children and young people
- Food and security
- Unemployment
- Homelessness
- Gender equality and justice
- Mental health
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Isolation and the elderly



46 ESF grants awarded to programmes supporting those who are unemployed or economically inactive



612 Tesco Community Grants awarded to support children, young people, food insecurity and other community projects



24 groups supported through the Comic Relief Fund based around a safe place to be, children survive & thrive, gender justice and mental health







## **COMIC RELIEF COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Bloom Sheffield set out to deliver social theraputic horticulture courses for women who require support in managing their mental health needs. The courses include a variety of activities including growing, garden maintenance and craft; making meaningful and valuable changes to their lives. The programme also enables them to gain positive experiences, meet new people and feel part of the community.

By delivering these mental health gardening groups, Bloom Sheffield have been able to provide a consistent safe-space for women to be outside - improving mood, reducing stress and encouraging a more active lifestyle. It also provides a place to go, giving the women a stepping stone to build confidence to leave the house after the Covid lockdown. The varied activities means that each attendee builds their self-esteem, empowering them to achieve and give back to their local community.



Supported 158 different women



Worked with different community organisations including Shelter, Chula Education and The Snowdrop Project



72 gardening sessions ran in 2021



Groundwork Yorkshire 2021/2022



## **ESF COMMUNITY GRANTS**

The Street Life, Pathways into Employment project worked with participants at the **Thornbury Centre** in East Bradford to overcome barriers to employment, including:

- Poor IT skills due to the generational gap in technology
- Regular/home access to an internet connected device
- Lack of drivers' licence and or access to a vehicle
- Affordability of bus fares
- Childcare commitments
- Low self-confidence
- English language barriers
- Little to no **experience** of work

The centre provided bespoke training that met each participants' individual needs, developing a respectful relationship and building trust. Personalised activities included **CV writing**, **career pathway planning**, **IT training**, **mock interviews**, **volunteering opportunities** and **additional support** to address long-standing barriers. Many participants stated that the isolation during the Covid-19 lockdowns had knocked their confidence and left them feeling very low. Through the **one-to-one** work and the **encouragement** they received, many completed the course feeling considerably **more confident** and **positive** for their future.





## **SPRINGHEAD GOLF CLUB**

Groundwork Yorkshire has managed **Springhead Park Golf Course** and **Clubhouse** since 2014, operating the facilities for the benefit of the **local community**. The ground staff and management strive to improve the course year on year.

Groundwork have made significant investment in the Clubhouse to help develop a facility that better meets the needs of the local community, developing a **community hub** with a calendar of regular events and social activities, space available to hire for parties and a coffee shop and catering facility. During the pandemic the coffee shop provided an affordable home cooked meal delivery service for the elderly and vulnerable across Hull.

In addition to memberships, the club provides opportunities to the community through pay and play sessions, junior coaching, society visits and women's golf sessions.



Over 300 members in 2021/22



Eight regular community events and activities and over 100 customers in the coffee shop per day









## WHITWOOD GOLF CLUB

Whitwood Golf Club is a 9-hole golf course that provides an affordable provision in Castleford, offering a friendly and relaxed experience with a small clubhouse and competitions played four times a week.

In 2017 Whitwood diversified by creating Wakefield's first **footgolf course** on an unused practice area at the back of the Clubhouse. This has been very successful and brings in a new generation of customers. Since then, the team have worked closely with local football teams and schools that have used the course on an annual basis, including parties and business' corporate days.



Over **230** members in 2021/22



Pay and play sessions up 5,000 rounds



Over 3,000 rounds of footgolf, an increase of 50%







I've been at the club for the last four years and I can really see the benefit it has for the local community. I moved here after my local course closed down in 2019 and I have certainly been impressed with all the hard work the club does to grow participation and be welcoming. The friendly nature of the club is something that made me feel part of the local community.

Mr Charles Ansell, Club Captain



## IMPROVING PEOPLE'S PROSPECTS

Hopeful Families is a community programme designed to help individuals who are out of work to develop their confidence and build skills to journey back to employment.

The programme helps people to tackle the barriers for daily life, health and wellbeing and work, through training and skills.

Hopeful families is part of the Building Better Opportunities programme. It is jointly funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and European Social Fund.

413

People supported in to work, job searching or training





## **EMPLOYABILITY**

Supporting the most vulnerable into employment

#### **GREEN SKILLS**

Groundwork delivers an innovative green skills training programme for **unemployed** adults aged 19 years plus. The programme runs over six weeks and provides **horticulture** and **grounds maintenance training**.

Learners gain a range of nationally recognised qualifications including NOCN Level 1 Certificate in Horticulture, a CSCS Card and a professional brush cutter qualification.



12 learners completed



Four learners progressed into work and one looking into additional training



**Eight further courses planned to run in 2022/23** 

JOHN LEWIS
PARTNERSHIP







Groundwork Learning Centre promotes a positive learning environment for the community to **learn new skills**, **improve wellbeing** and **increase confidence**. Classes we delivered included:

> Arts & Crafts

Digital Skills

**Employability** 

Woodworking



Over 20 courses ran



200 people enrolled across our adult education and private courses













I've always wanted to learn how to use computers as I've never really used one before. I've had more confidence since I've been to this course. I've had my Chromebook about six weeks, never used one before, but I use it every day now.

Lynne, Essential Digital Skills course





### **OUR VALUES**

#### THE GROUNDWORK APPROACH:

We will deliver impact through a range of diverse local and national projects, programmes and services, responding to the changing needs of local communities and the opportunity to build powerful partnerships to unlock new resources.

## Wherever and however we deliver, our approach will be informed by the following commitments.



We will invest in the places and people that need us most. Prioritising our resources to bring about lasting change by building skills and capacity within local communities where we can make most difference.



We will work with local leaders and listen to local voices. Ensuring our work is shaped by those it is designed to benefit and adding value to the assets that exist in local areas.



We will grow a culture of equity and inclusion – operating transparently and with integrity, and seeking out a diversity of viewpoints, both in the work we do and the people we employ.



We will be committed to collaboration – forging strong partnerships, contributing to a thriving community sector and helping others lead where this will achieve greater impact.



We will act as environmental exemplars – championing practical action to combat the climate and nature emergency and measuring and reducing our own environmental impact.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We will prioritise our work and measure our achievements based on the difference we make to the lives of people, our impact on the environment and our contribution to UN Sustainable Development Goals. We have identified six goals which align most closely with our work.



#### Goal 1: No poverty

Helping people into work and building the resilience of those who are most vulnerable.



#### Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Improving energy efficiency and promoting renewables.



#### Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Creating jobs and enterprise and helping young people into work.



#### **Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities**

Improving green spaces, promoting sustainable transport and improving air quality.



#### Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

Reducing waste and promoting positive environmental behaviours among communities and businesses.



#### **Goal 13: Climate action**

Promoting practical action and strengthening the resilience of communities to cope with climate-related events.

## **THANK YOU!**

Working in partnership with public, private and community stakeholders, we improve, protect and enhance our local communities, partners and environment. A wholehearted THANK YOU is extended to all the organisations and people we have worked with in 2021/22.

#### IMPACT REPORT 2021/2022 GROUNDWORK YORKSHIRE



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