



# GROUNDWORK YORKSHIRE IMPACT REPORT 2023/24



CHANGING PLACES  
CHANGING LIVES

# 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.**

We can only achieve this by working in partnership with others who want to make a difference. Our collective endeavour achieves more than we ever can as individuals; adding value remains central to Groundwork's way of working.

Looking forward, many of our key partners and the communities we serve will continue to face challenging financial and environmental futures. We continue to play a role in meeting these challenges, in part thanks to our years of experience but also due to our passion for finding innovative solutions and approaches.

This impact report highlights some of what Groundwork Yorkshire has achieved in the last year. Many of our programmes and projects have never been needed more than now and I am pleased to report that many of the partnerships highlighted here will continue to evolve positively over the next year. We will continue to work with individuals, partners and communities to grow human capital and build community resilience.

I am fortunate to be the Executive Director of Groundwork Yorkshire. I see every day, not only the enthusiasm our great team bring to delivering their projects and programmes, but also the interest of partners as they seek solutions to the many challenges they face and the positive benefits our projects bring to communities and individuals.

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



*A. Curtis*

**Adrian Curtis**  
Executive Director



# WE'RE 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 help people gain **confidence** and **skills**, get into **training** and work, protect and improve **green spaces**, lead more **active** lives and overcome significant **challenges** such as poverty, isolation, low skills and poor health.



## 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 2023-24



**£695,360**

Grants distributed to over **100** community organisations.



**591**

People supported into education, employment or training



**922**

Days of volunteering by 357 people, valued at £98,058



**632 Ha**

Landscape restored = 1,561 football pitches.



**202**

Actions to improve biodiversity or nature-based solutions



**194**

Projects delivered, bringing benefits to the people of Yorkshire



**480**

Front line workers trained on the impact of cold homes on health



**6,154**

Tonnes of CO2 saved in 3,837 domestic properties



**£1.4m**

Domestic utility bill savings

# GREEN DOCTOR



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Groundwork's Green Doctors help Yorkshire residents *stay warm, stay well, and save money* on household bills and benefit the environment through Carbon savings.

National Energy Action estimates that 5.6 million UK households are paying 10% or more of their income on their energy bills.

- + 3,394 visits and calls completed
- + 2,161 clients supported
- + £294,424 lifetime savings worth of energy saving measures provided
- + £1,228,628 financial savings from energy advice
- + Carbon savings = 494,400 Kg CO<sub>2</sub>e
- + 348 households received emergency fuel payments worth £18,869
- + £249,584 financial gain from the Green Doctor Money Service

## CASE STUDY

### NATALIE

Natalie lived in a privately rented house with her children, newborn granddaughter and partner. She had received letters from an energy supplier she was not registered with, saying she was over £3,000 in energy debt. This debt was affecting her credit score and was due to an old meter having been incorrectly left in the house.

She had struggled with recurring mould in the upstairs of her house since moving in 2019. Her landlord had offered her a bottle of cleaning spray, which she regularly used to clean the ceilings, but the mould kept returning. The Green Doctor gave comprehensive advice on how to reduce the damp issue via a range of methods and gave drying racks and a hygrometer to monitor the humidity levels.

Natalie had already reached out to Citizens' Advice who addressed the billing issue. The Green Doctor explained the mistake with her meter. He also fitted reflective radiator panels around the house.

## Read our articles

[Tackling Fuel Poverty and Energy Vulnerability](#)

[Engaging with Ethnic Minorities](#)



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# RETROFIT



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## How to get a warmer, more comfortable and energy efficient home

As part of the Green Doctor service, we provide retrofit services and energy efficiency reports for domestic dwellings and community buildings. In 2023/24 we saw some significant changes to the service as it continues to build.

 **18 projects across 8 local authorities and 3 projects from Northern PowerGrid and Northern Gas Network**

 **Over 700 properties achieved retrofit measures**

 **Over 1500 energy report interventions**

Read our articles

[Retrofit, Home Energy Renovation](#)

[Retrofit VCMA Scheme](#)

+

- 13 full time staff delivering across the region
- Continue to deliver compliant PAS2035\* assessments, coordination and evaluation as part of funded government work
- Significant work on the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2\*\*) funding, where we are a trusted compliance service for Leeds City Council
- Continue to be a trusted partner of Michael Dysons, completing a large amount of modelling work for their designs for retrofit projects
- Addition of non-domestic audits being completed via the DCMS/VCSE funding. Northern Gas Network have also commissioned an extension of the GEMS projects which is audits for VCSE organisations
- The LEAD and WYCA projects have allowed us to provide bespoke retrofit reports for residents
- The VCMA gas replacement service ensures vulnerable residents who have had their gas supply cut off due to a faulty appliance or gas leak can access a fully funded remedial through a new heating system or appliances
- The Kirklees Asthma project works closely with Green Doctor. Large scale damp, mould treatments as well as ventilation improvements aims to prove this money can be spent in the home rather than the cost of treatment through the NHS.

\*PAS2035 is the government standard for retrofit, so any funded work has to follow this process

\*\*HUG is home upgrade grant, insulation, heat pumps and solar panels



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# PLACES



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 clients' needs.



78

projects delivered



9

community consultations



4,320

trees planted



2,266,792 m<sup>2</sup>

of land Improved

Read our articles

[Play Sufficiency](#)

[Ecological River Restoration](#)

[Higher Education project with Leeds Beckett University](#)

[Making Spaces for Young Women and Girls](#)

## BOW STREET MICRO WOOD

In March 2024 we began planting Leeds's first Micro Wood, inspired by the Miyawaki-style of forest. Our Micro Wood will provide a noise and pollution barrier intercepting and dispersing harmful, airborne, ultrafine particulate matter blowing across the site from the adjacent A61 dual carriageway.

We planted 1,200 trees over two days with help from Mount St Mary's Catholic High School, Richmond Hill Academy, Caval volunteers, a White Rose Forest member and Saxton Apartments Residents volunteers. Everyone really enjoyed getting stuck in. Our volunteers and the pupils got a lot out of it and we've hopefully helped attract some custodians for the forest as it grows in the next few years.

[Read More](#)

| [Watch The Video](#)



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# PLACES

## HEMBRIGG PARK

Hembrigg Park is the first of many improvements to be delivered by the Morley Town Deal and Leeds City Council over three years, utilising a £24.3m government Towns Fund grant. As part of the Morley Town Fund programme of work, eight parks in total are due to be improved. Works at Hembrigg Park include a new fitness station, toddler/junior play area, fruit trees with new stone footpath and picnic tables, bulb, wildflower, and tree planting.

On 1st June 2023 we held a free, half-term 'Art in the Park' event, to celebrate the completion of the park. The celebration was for local people of all ages and abilities to work with Leeds artist, Cortisol kid (Jamie Steward), and his assistants from United Art Project, to create a new ecology and biodiversity-themed wall mural for the park's changing rooms which was due to be installed later in the Summer. Some of the children created designs for new thermoplastic playground markings in the park.

In August 2023 Cortisol Kid installed the mural in the park, depicting Mother Nature and the four seasons. The mural was designed around the theme of nature and biodiversity to compliment the wider work completed within the park.



# PLACES

## DYNAMIC DRAINS

Groundwork Hull's Dynamic Drains project has been running for three years in partnership with Hull City Council, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Environment Agency. The project aims to increase biodiversity, improve the water quality, engage the local community in nature and collective action to address issues such as littering and fly tipping.

- ✓ New informational signage was installed along the length of the drain which spans over **524,164m<sup>2</sup>**, providing details about the local environment, wildlife and heritage.
- ✓ Wildflower meadow created on Clough Road. Over **6,137m<sup>2</sup>** of land improved.
- ✓ Created one new pocket park at Thorpe park. **10,029m<sup>2</sup>** of land improved
- ✓ Cleared the water at the Holderness Drain, removing large debris to improve the flow of water and habitat.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund

Hull  
City Council



The National Lottery  
Heritage Fund



## GOLF

Groundwork Golf is a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Groundwork Yorkshire. It comprises two operational golf courses – **Whitwood Golf Course**, a 9-hole golf and footgolf course in Wakefield; and **Springhead Park Golf Course**, an 18-hole golf course and coffee shop in west Hull.

Both courses have a club membership, but also provide a pay and play offer, helping to make golf available to the wider community.

- ✓ **538** members across the two clubs
- ✓ Over **2,140** pay and play rounds
- ✓ Over **1,430** footgolf rounds

GROUNDWORK  
GOLF



Whitwood  
golf club



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# PLACES

## FRYSTON, FRICKLEY AND RABBIT INGS

Our Countryside Rangers manage over 200 hectares of ex-colliery sites, now country parks owned by the Land Trust. The Land Trust require their managing partners to focus on five key performance indicators to direct management and site use. These are community cohesion, economy, education, environment and health. With these in mind the rangers work to enhance the natural environment, engage the community in volunteering opportunities and run various events throughout the year. They also support several external organisations to host their own events on the sites including a weekly park run, football activities, scouts and local forest schools.



- ✓ 2,743 hours of volunteer time by 317 individuals
- ✓ 4 education events, engaging 210 local children
- ✓ An improved outdoor classroom space at Rabbit Ings Country Park
- ✓ Over 8 different habitat types managed including woodland, lowland heathland and ponds.
- ✓ 32.31ha of wildflower meadow cut and collected
- ✓ 3 new and expanded wetland scrapes at Frickley Country Park
- ✓ 13 seasonal events with 347 participants
- ✓ £24,535 spent on local contractors, adding economic value to the local areas



# PLACES

## GROUNDWORK PRIDE LIMITED (GPL)

GPL is our landscape contracting subsidiary specialising in delivering minor civil, soft and hard landscaping contracts throughout Yorkshire including maintenance, invasive species treatment and landscape creation. GPL predominantly work with major housing developers, local authorities and other public bodies.

- ✓ 34 projects completed, worth over £880,000
- ✓ Worked on 600 plots on 40 housing development sites



**Oxford Street** was a paved, pedestrianised, residential street in East Ardsley which comprised of a number tree pits and raised railway sleeper planters. Over the years the area had become tired and planters had started to rot and had become difficult to maintain. [Read More](#)



We work with housing developers to create safe, secure and vibrant new neighbourhoods for the residents and local community. 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.



# COMMUNITIES

## HEALTHY HOLIDAYS (GO WILD)

### WEST YORKSHIRE

Go Wild Leeds ran two programmes in Morley North and Morley South across Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays. The programme was funded by HAF via Leeds Community Foundation. Sessions focus on cooking with the children who learn new skills and work together to help prepare the meals which they then eat.

Go Wild Bradford was also delivered over Christmas 2023. Sessions took place at Academy St James where children learned cookery skills and enjoyed meeting some unusual guests.



52 sessions run



956 children attended

Healthy  
Holidays  
Fund

Leeds  
Community  
Foundation



### EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

Go Wild Goole ran throughout August 2023 at West Park, Goole. It offered a fun but structured educational programme to children aged 7-11 focusing on the environment, nature and health. The scheme was funded by East Riding of Yorkshire HAF, Goole Fields Wind Farm and Twin Rivers Wind Farm.



20 sessions run



87 children attended

*My son has really enjoyed coming to Go Wild and he's made new friends and done new things, before he wouldn't have tried to do that.*

*We couldn't manage the summer if it wasn't for Go Wild, it's a godsend.*



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# COMMUNITIES

## OUTDOOR WOODLAND LEARNING

We ran an Outdoor Woodland Learning (OWL) provision in Goole for four Wednesday afternoon sessions. OWL was aimed at 5-10 year olds who were either too young to come to Go Wild or hadn't been able to secure a place. Activities, led by our Green Skills Tutor, included crafting, exploring nature and the environment.

We also delivered **six** OWL sessions, after school, in a variety of primary schools across North Yorkshire and East Riding. We engaged **90 children** in activities all focused around nature.



## GREEN HUBS

We took part in the Green Hubs pilot which was delivered this year. We joined a Northern Network partnership across five, northern Groundwork trusts and our West Yorkshire team developed Horton Community Farm in Bradford. Work involved understanding barriers and engaging local residents to find out what they would like to see on the site. Over this year the project had the following outputs:

- ✓ New **signage and welcome signs** created, a need identified from the consultation
- ✓ A series of **taster and activity days** delivered in a range of green topics identified by local residents; compost training, apple juicing day, outdoor cooking and a pond development day adding oxygenating plants
- ✓ **Big Green Festival** held in June
- ✓ **Plan of capital works created to improve the site**; raised beds timber, small polytunnel reskin, two new taps, cabin porch shelter and signage inside the farm
- ✓ **£11,000 raised** via the Save our Wild Isles funding
- ✓ Development of plans for a **sensory garden** for the visually impaired/blind with the input of our Landscape Architects

Read our article

[Cultivating Community and Sustainability: The Northern Network's Green Revolution](#)

# COMMUNITIES

## MENOPAUSE FOR THOUGHT

MenoPause for Thought was a brand-new project starting as a pilot from October 2023 until March 2024. During this time we offered online and in person sessions every two weeks. The sessions are a safe space for people to come along to, offering support and guidance.

The project also attracted attention from ITV who visited us and interviewed Mandi about the project. This interview was then on local Calendar news to coincide with the new pre-payment prescription for HRT.

We have now secured further funding from the Outer South Leeds Committee, Morley Town's Fund and funding in Kirklees to run monthly sessions going forward.



- ✓ Over 100 participants
- ✓ 41 in-person and 28 online sessions held
- ✓ Recognised by Kim Leadbeater MP for IWD



## BLUE INFLUENCERS

The Blue Influencers Scheme is a ground-breaking project from The Ernest Cook Trust and the #iwill fund (a joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities.

Facilitated by 22 'Blue Mentors' across the UK, the project's ambition is to engage more than 4,000 young people (aged 10-20) as Blue Influencers over the next three years. We will help support young people from diverse backgrounds and those living in deprived coastal, estuary and riverside locations, by empowering them to tackle environmental and climate issues. [Read More](#)



# COMMUNITIES

## THE MORLEY SHED

The Morley Shed is open to those aged 40 and over. It is a fully equipped wood workshop open to all abilities located in Groundwork Yorkshire.



The Shed 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 with like-minded others. The shed currently has over **80 members**.

This year The Morley Shed has embarked on its first projects.

- Hey Neighbour; Three workshops were held for local Beaver, Cub and Scout groups. They worked together and made bug hotels.
- The Four B's; a Climate Action Leeds project which saw The Shed making 40 bug, bird, bee and bat boxes and gifted to local community organisations.

In January 2024 the shed sadly lost one of its long serving members, Sandra Hudson. Sandra had been living with cancer since 2017 and decided to write a poetry book, documenting her 'Fantastic Life with Cancer'. She donated the profits from the book back to The Morley Shed, and even wrote a poem about her time there.



[Read More](#) | [Watch The Video](#)

## WELCOME SPACE AND COMMUNITY PANTRY

Our Welcome Space sessions were held every Thursday afternoon and Friday morning throughout winter in our Morley reception area. Sessions were scheduled as a co-ordinated local response with other local organisations to maximise the offer to the local community.

Our pantry is available five days a week where six items can be purchased for £1.50. Over the season we saw a significant increase in the volume of people accessing the pantry. While some users came in for a friendly cuppa and chat, others accessed it due to the cost of living pressures.

*"It's so hard trying to make money stretch to cover the basics. I'm on a basic pension and after buying little food, there is precious little left. I like to think I am good with money, but there is not a lot you can do when the bills have gone up and some of them have tripled."*

- ✓ 22 Welcome Space sessions with 76 people attending
- ✓ 480 people accessed the pantry

# COMMUNITIES

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

We work with various organisations on their CSR, offering tailor made packages to help make a positive impact on communities. We help site hosts, organisations and volunteers every step of the way to plan and run a CSR day. We have various sites to choose from, suitable for different group sizes.



18 CSR days ran

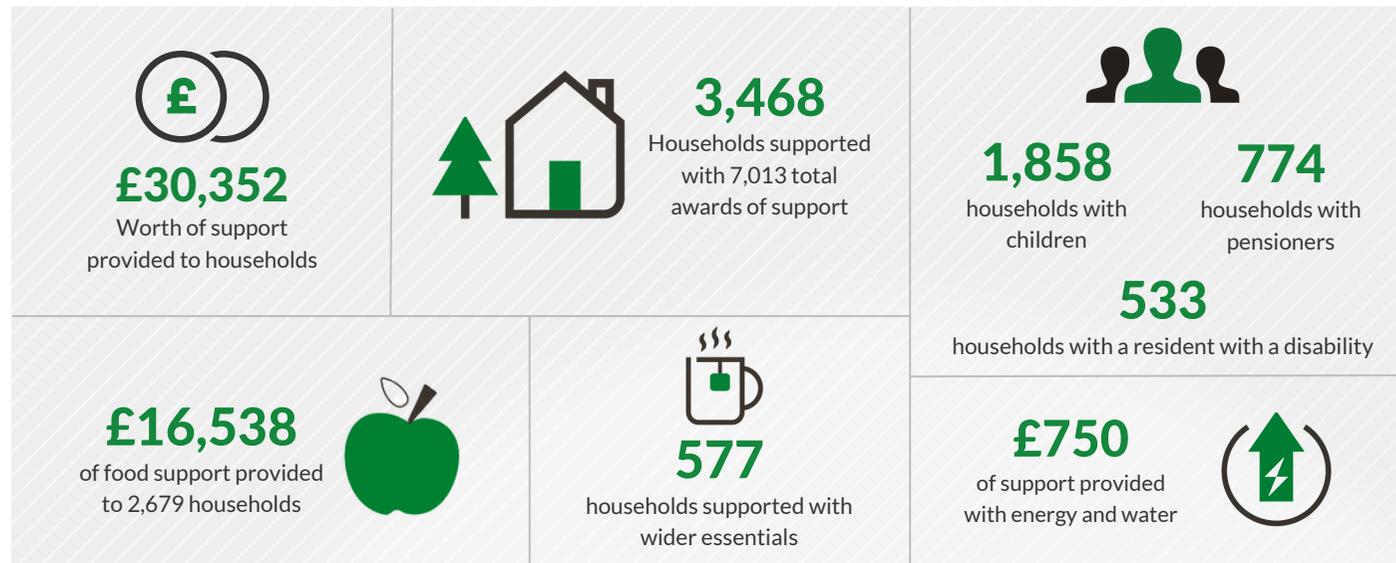


225 volunteers



## HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

As part of our role as Outer South Leeds Community Anchor, we distributed £30,352 of Household Support Funding. Seven local organisations received funding which collectively benefitted:



# COMMUNITIES

## BELLE ISLE COMMUNITY GARDEN

New for this year was the creation of a new community garden in Belle Isle, Leeds. The project was funded as part of LEAP (Leeds Encouraging Activity in People) work across the city. The project saw the Communities Team create the garden with the help of volunteers who were recruited and referred via their GP. Volunteers attended weekly sessions where they gained knowledge skills and confidence in planting, growing, maintaining gardens and artistic touches such as painting pots and chairs. The garden is a relaxed calm environment which can be enjoyed by all.

[Read More](#)



## ARDSLEY WELLNESS WALKS

A series of monthly themed guided walks were delivered around Ardsley Reservoir. The walks were targeted at local people who were affected by low level mental and physical health issues, social isolation, post-Covid anxiety or a lack of exercise and time spent outdoors. The walks were promoted through schools, local Councillors and other voluntary sector organisations.



✓ 8 walks delivered

✓ 80 people attended

Funded by Leeds City Outer South Area Committee



# COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY FRIDGE

The Groundwork Community Fridge, located at Springhead Park Golf Club in Hull, worked with local businesses to source fresh food to provide to Hull residents facing economic challenges. This resource is available to all Hull residents, from working families to older people on fixed incomes.

Additionally, as part of our winter support project, alongside our community freezer we operated a hot soup and refreshment station, a teatime club and provided a warm space from October 2023 to March 2024. We also provided energy advice and signposted individuals to our Green Doctor and other services for further support.



826 people accessed the Community Fridge



2,934 meals distributed



120 meals provided through the Tea Time Club

## COMMUNITY REPAINT

As part of our strive to be sustainable, our Hull communities' team manages the **Community Repaint Scheme** for Hull and Humber. The project works with local businesses to divert viable, high quality paint for various uses from landfill. The paint is then sold at just £2 per litre to individuals, community groups, schools and anyone that is looking for paint.

[Read about the Community Repaint Scheme and why it's beneficial for the environment.](#)



Over 6,025 litres of paint donated



776 members of the community purchased paint



6 schools and 20 businesses or groups supplied with paint



# COMMUNITIES



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## THE SHED

The Shed in Hull is a free, inclusive hub where we enable people to build friendships and get involved in all things crafty. We encourage the community to learn new skills and share ideas through a variety of workshops, bitesize courses and taster sessions.

The Shed provided a Warm Space for the community, together with winter craft workshops that enabled people to make practical items to help them keep warm form hats and scarves to draft excluders.



- ✓ **Wednesday Shedders** provides a weekly woodwork and upcycling drop in for individuals of all ages and abilities
- ✓ **Ladies That Lunch** Our women only Thursday drop-in session where participants can enjoy sewing, crochet, and other soft crafts
- ✓ Thanks to the **DCMS Know Your Neighbourhood fund** we have been providing a dedicated programme from the Shed. This includes:
  - Bite Size Courses; a six week pattern making course including measuring, drafting, and pattern manipulation
  - Monthly taster sessions that have enabled new audiences to explore their creativity through a range of needle crafts and upcycling projects including creating wooden signs, door numbers, planters, and different simple needle craft projects
- ✓ **Edible Hanging Basket Workshop** A four week programme enabling participants to create and plant an attractive windowsill planter from scratch



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Increasing volunteering and tackling loneliness through the  
**Know Your Neighbourhood Fund**



# PEOPLE

## GROUNDWORK LEARNING CENTRE

Our Learning Centre in Morley has delivered classes in digital skills, developing confidence, wellbeing, art and crafts, family history, green skills, family learning and employability. This is in addition to new holiday workshops and grant funded projects on employment support, numeracy and household budgets.

As our team and activities have grown, the progress has been recognised this year. We have achieved 'Outstanding Provider' as part of the Leeds City Council Employment, Skills and Adult Learning Ofsted Inspection in February 2024.

- ✓ Over 300 sessions delivered
- ✓ Over 90 adults attending per week



## GREEN SKILLS

We led two Green Skills projects, targeted at unemployed adults (19+) to gain a range of green skills, enabling them to find employment. Five programmes were delivered in Wakefield and Goole. Participants very much enjoyed their time on the programme, learning new skills and making new friends.

- ✓ Five courses (30 days) were held
- ✓ 36 adults attended
- ✓ Approx 30 achieved the NOCN Horticulture qualification and 11 gained their brushcutter certificate.



# PEOPLE

## ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM

During the academic year we ran a targeted programme of education and training for young people in Year 9/10. We worked at five schools across North Yorkshire on local green space or within the school grounds.

The young people joining our programme struggled with formal education for a variety of reasons and are at risk of leaving school with few or even no qualifications. For them the alternative curriculum programme is an alternative to being in the classroom. The students get on well with our Tutor, Steve, who empathises with the group well and is a huge hit. They enjoy their time with him and really enjoy the opportunity to be outdoors doing practical work. The young people undertake a range of work experience within horticulture, achieving a NOCN Level 1 Horticulture Certificate.

The schools that we work with on this programme have given some really pleasing feedback, reporting an improvement in behaviour, attendance and confidence among the young people concerned.



30 sessions



30 young people achieved NOCN Level 1



# 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 2023/24.

## IMPACT REPORT 2023/24 GROUNDWORK YORKSHIRE

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