

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

24/25



WELCOME

Youngwilders is a youth-led nonprofit working to (1) accelerate the nature recovery of the UK and to (2) centre young people in the process and movement.

This year has been, by a distance, our most impactful and significant so far. We have launched two brand new nature education programmes, expanded our youth-led nature recovery projects around the country, and engaged and inspired hundreds of the next generation of environmental stewards.

We have also made huge strides internally, finalising our new three year strategy, honing and codifying our processes and growing our internal core team to 6 people.

There's still room to improve, but Youngwilders has never had more impact or worked as effectively as in 2024/25, and we are proud to present to you the results!





OUR IMPACT

Number of nature recovery projects:

12

Number of counties:

9

Young people engaged in person 24/25:

402

Young people engaged in person total:

937

Number of volunteer days 24/25:

15

Acres in recovery:

211.7 acres

Percentage of young people engaged from an underrepresented background:

35%

QUOTES

“Most wholesome and educational event I have ever attended. Better quality content than uni, YouTube and work combined. Great fun + learned a lot.”

Overgrowth, September 2024

“A weekend that brought me closer to nature, introduced me to new friends, and informed my career ambitions. Would recommend to anyone thinking of attending!”

Overgrowth, September 2024

“Phenomenal learning - felt heard by the whole group, truly a place to be and belong no matter where you come from!”

Urban Hedgecrawl, March 2025



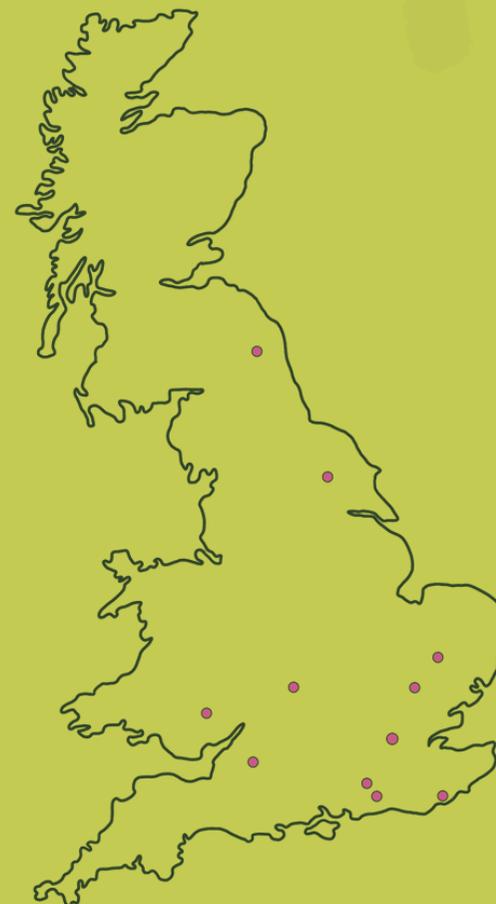
PROJECT MAP

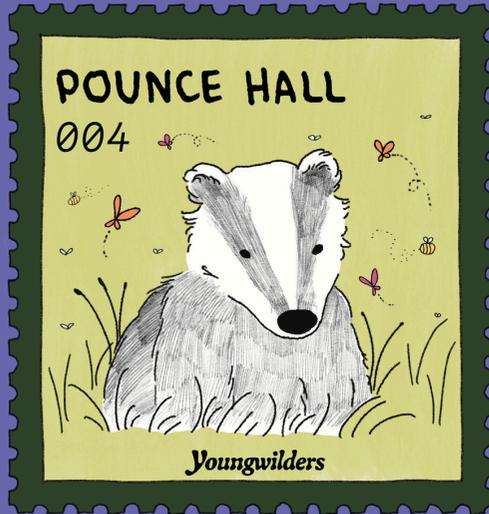
We work with young people to design and implement long-term management plans across our sites, premised on the guiding principles of process-based ecological restoration where nature leads the way as much as possible.

Number of projects worked on : **12**

Total acres in recovery: **211.7 acres**

Habitats	This year we
Wildflower Meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sowed yellow rattle across 1.5 acres at Pounce Hall and Maple Farm • Created a 100m² urban wildflower meadow in Central Islington • Set up a conservation grazing scheme at Nature Chain to manage for wildflowers across 20 acres
Wood Pasture Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted over 1000 trees at the Grange Project • Surveyed the health of over 1000 trees at Pounce Hall • Introduced grazing animals at Pounce Hall to manage this mixed habitat
Rough Grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed grazing across 23.6 acres of rough grassland habitat at Maple Farm to promote flower growth
Wetland & Ponds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created 2 ponds at Pounce Hall • Began work restoring 2 acres of marshy grassland at The Grange
Woodland & Hedgerow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertook the World's First Urban Hedge Crawl, creating 120m of new hedgerow in central London • Created 140m of new hedgerow at The Grange





PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: POUNCE HALL

BEFORE: Pounce Hall was 20 Acres of failing hay meadow, with significant challenges, including agricultural fertiliser runoff and extremely high deer density

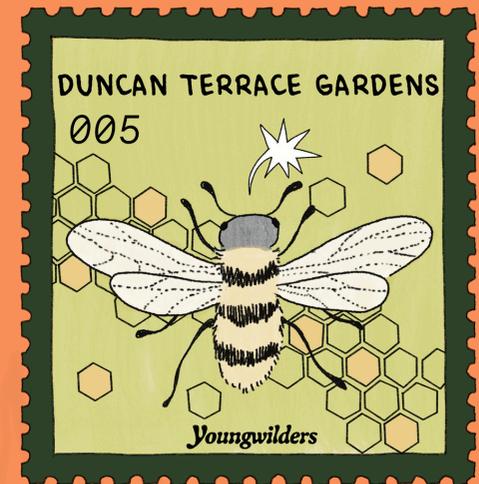
NOW: We have created a Woodland pasture ecosystem across the site, including:

- Planting over 3000 trees
- Reintroducing grazing animals to the site for the first time in 20 years
- Engaging over 100 young people in person in hands-on acts of care for nature
- Restoring 380m of degraded stream, including the introduction of 2 ponds and the creation of beaver-style dams
- Surveying 1000+ trees through our Wayfinders programme, with an 80%+ survival rate
- Utilising Bioacoustic recorders to show that 25 bird species now make their home on site, including the Song Thrush and Dunnock



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: DUNCAN TERRACE

Duncan Terrace Wild Meadow is a project developed in collaboration with Islington Council Parks and The Friends of Duncan Terrace and Colebrooke Row Gardens. The project has transformed a failing patch of lawn within Duncan Terrace Gardens in central Islington into a thriving wildflower meadow.



Before

4 grass
species
present



Year 1

20 species
of native
wildflower



Year 2

52 species
of native
wildflower

The 100m² meadow was created through a series of youth-led volunteering efforts, and has been monitored in its first year through a citizen science programme. So far 60 young people have taken part in the project, and thousands more visitors to the garden have enjoyed and learnt about the meadows.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

This year we ran **15 in-person events** across our 12 sites, bringing our total to 38 events so far. Over this period we engaged with **402 young people in person**.

These volunteer days involved **6 habitat management/creation days**, **4 field skill sharing weekends**, **4 guided hikes**, and **1 youth rewilding summit**.



Over the year we had **402 attendees** to our events, reaching young people from **33 counties** across England and Wales.

Throughout this year we focused heavily on reaching and engaging with young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds in an effort to address the ongoing issues of underrepresentation in the environmental sector.

This year, **35%** of attendees across all our events have been from non-white backgrounds.



4.5/5

Average
satisfaction
rate per
attendee

93%

of Young people
report feeling
more connected
to nature after
attending one of
our events

4.5/5

Average
likelihood a
young person
will attend
another event

SPOTLIGHT: WAYFINDERS

Wayfinders is our brand new programme offering young people the opportunity to gain hands-on ecological field ID skills at our nature recovery project sites across the UK. The Wayfinders programme supports employability and skills related to nature by providing financially accessible ecological surveying training where participants learn and actively deliver various ecological surveys, covering grassland, bats, birds, woodland health, soil, and invertebrates.

Wayfinders also aims to foster a sense of community among young people interested in nature, and increase access to nature and skills training for young people from typically underrepresented groups.

In our first year we delivered 3 weekends of ecological field skills classes, focusing on birds, bats, invertebrates, badgers, and woodlands.

We engaged 58 young people during this pilot year and worked with them in shaping the future design of the programme.



“I thought it would be great, but ended up being AMAZING!”

Wayfinders: Invertebrates, May 2024

“I am going to start volunteering now!”

Wayfinders: Invertebrates, May 2024

“This weekend reinforced my love for nature.”

Wayfinders: Habitat and Birds, June 2024

“Developing ID skills really helps to have more interactive relationship with nature - going for a walk is more fulfilling when you know what you are looking at.”

Wayfinders: Habitat and Birds, June 2024

“So nice not to have to think/worry about anything apart from learning!”

Wayfinders: Habitat and Birds, June 2024

This year, Youngwilders launched the Wild Stewards programme which places young people into paid, key decision-making roles in active nature recovery projects for one year, providing them with seminar and training opportunities as well as mentoring from the Youngwilders team, and peer support from other Wild Stewards across the country.

The programme is focused on experiential learning, developing local ecological knowledge, and providing agency, opportunity and fun for young people in the face of the environmental crisis.

The programme actively supports young people who face additional barriers to accessing the sector, including those who are ethnically minoritised, economically disadvantaged and living with a disability.

SPOTLIGHT: WILD STEWARDS





A huge shout-out to our first cohort of Wild Stewards for having such an incredible impact on the programme!

So far the Wild Stewards have:

- Begun a year of placements across four nature recovery projects, from Northumberland to Sussex (8 Wild Stewards in total)
- Completed in-depth botany training
- Visited major rewilding projects for inspiration and learning
- Taken part in webinars with Rewilding Britain, Knepp, and Restore
- Designed and delivered their own sessions at volunteer days and youth rewilding summits

FINANCES

LAST YEAR: YEAR 2

Total Income £115k

- 15% self generated
- 15% public donations
- 70% grants

3 Full time Staff

Jack Durant - Co-Director
Noah Bennett - Co-Director and Chief
Technical Officer
Molly Easton - Chief Strategic
Officer

3 Part Time Staff

Meg Cookson - Lead Ecologist
Layla Mapemba-Taylor - Engagement
Officer
Oscar Hartman Davies - Lead
Researcher

THIS YEAR: YEAR 3

Total Income £213k

- 19% self generated
- 6% public donations
- 75% grants

4 Full Time Staff

Jack Durant - Co-Director
Noah Bennett - Co-Director and
Chief Technical Officer
Molly Easton - Co-Director and
Chief Strategic Officer
Layla Mapemba-Taylor - Engagement
Lead

2 Part Time Staff

Meg Cookson - Lead Ecologist
Koto Akins - Creative Lead

FUTURE WORK

This year we have finalised our new three year strategy:

To ensure that every young person in England and Wales is within one hour of an accessible, youth-led nature recovery project.



We are particularly excited about expanding our delivery into North England with new projects in Northumberland and Yorkshire to kick things off next year!

Watch this space :)

As part of this vision we will:

- Provide opportunities for over 6,000 young people to spend time in nature and act on its recovery.
- Manage 27+ active accessible nature recovery projects run by young people
- Deliver measurable increase in biodiversity across all sites
- Have 40% young people attending events from low income families, and from ethnically minoritised backgrounds
- Graduate 126+ young people as Wild Stewards
- Self-generate 25% of our total income

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS FUNDED US TO APRIL 2025

Alpkit
The Cobalt Trust
The Tree Council
The Titcomb Foundation
Chichester District Council
Frederick Mulder Foundation
Treebeard Trust
Consano Earth
Cotswolds National Landscape
The Funding Network
Ennismore Foundation
The Fore
Uttlesford District Council
Picton Property Income Limited
Foodsteps
Lush
Lund Trust
Knepp Wildland foundation
Oldfield Family Trust
The Golden Bottle Trust
The Grange Project
The Alecto Trust
The ORP Foundation
The Blgrave Trust
Patrick Bushnell
South Downs National Park
St James Place Charitable Foundation
Islington Parks
Rewilding Britain
The John Lewis Foundation
The Land Trust

& all our generous public donors!