



**Sheffield &
Rotherham**
Wildlife Trust



Annual Report 2024-25

For nature, for everyone

STRATEGY2030





WELCOME!

The year's achievements are a direct result of the incredible dedication of our members, volunteers, supporters, funders, staff and Trustees. Together, we continue to create lasting gains for wildlife, green spaces and the communities that care for them.

I am delighted to be joining Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust at such an important time. While the successes in this report were achieved before I arrived, I'm excited to see the continued impact that is possible when people come together for nature.

Thanks to your support, more people than ever are volunteering with us, our work is becoming more inclusive and representative, and Ughill Farm is now being managed in a way that puts nature first. Each of these milestones means more people are connecting with and benefiting from nature, while our landscapes and wildlife recover and play their part in tackling the climate crisis.

We know there is still much more to do to achieve our goals of people taking action and nature in recovery by 2030. Every step forward, however, brings us closer to that ambition.

Thank you for being part of this important journey.

Dr Edward Tripp
Chief Executive Officer

Edward Tripp



OUR 24/25 HIGHLIGHTS

1

Nature is in **recovery** and helping solve the climate crisis

Our nature recovery strategy includes the development of six programmes covering over **2,000 hectares** (ha).

We supported local authorities to develop a **South Yorkshire Trees & Woodland Strategy**, including a Trees and Woodlands Plan. **43,985 trees** (35.69 ha) and almost **8km of hedgerow** have been planted.

93% of our ongoing biodiversity improvements on our nature reserves have been delivered and we have continued to monitor their ecological condition to inform our management.

The Species Survival Fund project for **great crested newts** at Woodhouse Washlands nature reserve began, and the **water vole** research project near Penistone has been completed. We also worked with partners on a feasibility study to create a shortlist of **potential beaver sites** in South Yorkshire.

"Not only did we do some incredible work for nature, we also met some lovely people, so it's a win win!"

Wild Work Day Attendee,
Fragomen



Attendees at a Wild Work Day, Centenary Riverside

A management plan for the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) at **Ughill Farm** is in place, and **41ha** is being **restored** through a combination of grazing and cutting. A **wetland area** has been created and **7.6ha of woodland** has been planted.

Working with the Environment Agency, we completed approximately **4km of habitat and natural flood risk improvement work** along river corridors in Sheffield and Rotherham.

6 farms have been **engaged** via our land management advice work, including specific advice on Environmental Land Management schemes.

We supported the **Sheffield Street Tree Partnership** including delivering the **Urban Tree Festival**.

2

More people taking action for nature

504 supporters and members engaged with our online campaigns and events, and over **400 people** visited us in person at events and our nature reserve visitor stands.

8 grounds assessments and **5** 'Take action for nature' sessions and assemblies at local schools reached over **2,000** children. **89%** of **1,059** pupils asked said they would like to help wildlife this year and **104** young people took individual actions.

21 companies took part in Wild Work Days this year, involving **441 employees**.

Almost **20 hectares** of land has been added to the Community Action Map this year.

3 people were recruited to communicate our job opportunities to ethnically diverse communities.



"The Tinsley Chai group's journey has shown us that **when communities feel ownership** over the process, they become **powerful advocates** for their green spaces."

Lucy Graham, Nature Recovery Sheffield Report Year 1

The Nature Recovery Sheffield project began, building stronger relationships within local neighbourhoods. So far **14 community groups** have been engaged. Work with proactive community leaders has demonstrated a positive 'ripple effect', particularly in Tinsley, Page Hall and Darnall.

Our Community Nature Advisers have provided ecological advice through **10 site visits** and **115 responses** to enquiries.

Volunteers

Almost all of our volunteers - **97%** - would recommend volunteering, and say they feel valued and respected.

66 Volunteer Rangers (including **42** new ones) completed **406** patrols.

545 active volunteers gave **17,758** hours of their time to the Trust on activities, ranging from ecological surveying and conservation activities to administrative tasks and connecting with communities.

Thank you to all our volunteers - our achievements for wildlife simply would not be possible without you!



Volunteers bracken pulling at Blacka Moor

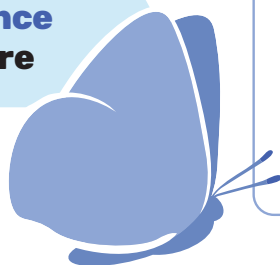
3

Everyone can experience and benefit from nature

A **Nature Equity map** has been developed to prioritise project development and place-based work in communities with the lowest access to nature.

1,641 children got hands on with nature connection activities through school sessions. **97%** of teachers surveyed reported the children had learned something new about nature.

Relationships with **15 new schools** have been established.



"I now feel **confident** to try some nature connection activities with the families I work with."

Social worker, attendee at our Green Social Prescribing Training

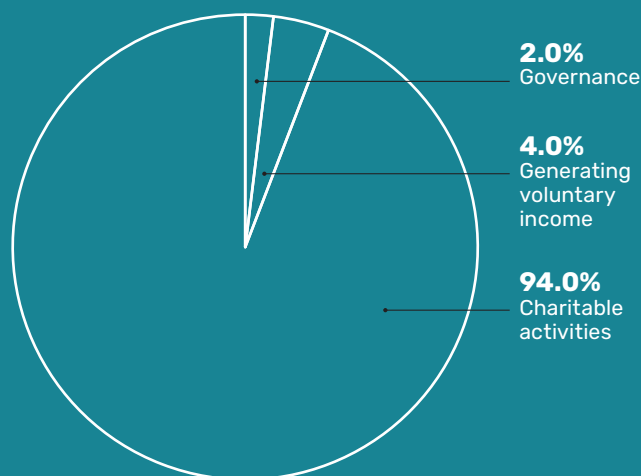
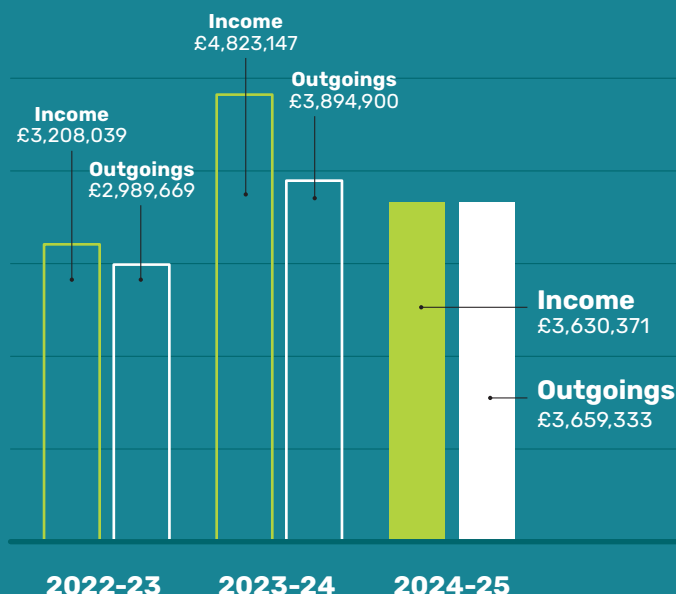
We have responded to **51** enquiries asking for advice and support to **protect local green spaces**.

Wild Play family activities reached **500 children** and **235 adults** with **96%** of parents surveyed reporting that they/their child felt more connected to nature after the activity.

Wild at Heart has supported **754 people** through green social prescribing activities, with **24 sessions**.

We delivered training in green social prescribing to **87 community and health professionals** enabling others to bring nature connection into their practice.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



How we spent our money in 2024-25



Trustees

Ben Stone (Chair)
 Helen Francis (Vice Chair)
 Dominic Tydeman-White (Treasurer)
 Sarah Blandy
 Dr Stephen Campbell
 Antony Davies
 Sarah Dew
 James Hall
 Tom Hocking
 Siobhan Laird
 Kris Mackay
 Oscar Morton
 Mary Wilton



Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust

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Cover photos, clockwise from top: Buzzard, Jon Hawkins; Ughill Farm, Philip J Smith; Red campion, Richard Griffin; Badger, Tim Russon; Marmalade hoverfly, Laura Cronin; Young carers event at Greno Woods, Jenny Owen