



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

Volunteers' Survey 2023

The Results



The results

Earlier this year we asked our volunteers for feedback about volunteering at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. We've looked at the feedback we received in the survey and we are delighted to share the results in this guide.

We are making a difference for people and wildlife across Yorkshire



100%

of our volunteers feel their volunteering is making a difference* for Yorkshire's wildlife



85%

volunteer specifically to make a difference to the natural environment



70%

of our volunteers feel happier as a result of their volunteer activity



98%

said volunteering improved their physical and mental health

“ One of my favourite volunteer moments was seeing a pond teeming with life after our efforts to clear it when it was overgrown ”

*on the scale of a little to a great deal of difference

Overall satisfaction



96%

of our volunteers said they would recommend volunteering at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust



80%

of our volunteers feel their contribution is recognised and celebrated across all parts of the organisation



98%

of our volunteers feel they are an ambassador for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust



4.5

Volunteer Managers scored 4.5 out of 5 stars for their support

“ My volunteer manager is patient, knowledgeable, caring, good at sharing their knowledge, and extremely hard working ”

The benefits of volunteering

 **87%**

of our volunteers feel they have learned something new

 **80%**

of our volunteers say they have achieved something worthwhile

 **69%**

have made new friends through volunteering

 **62%**

feel fitter through volunteering

“ My volunteering is enthusing and inspiring adults and children about the wonders of nature ”

Volunteer experiences

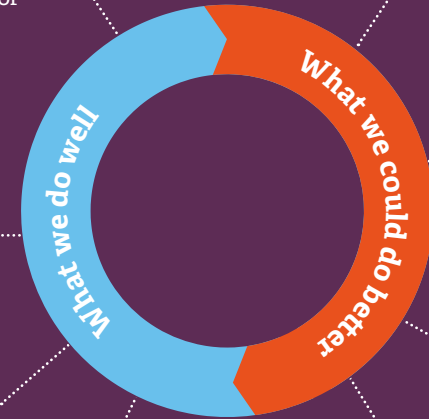
We looked at your feedback and some common themes came out about what we do well across our volunteer programme and what areas we need to improve.

Provide meaningful volunteer opportunities that make a difference for wildlife and people

Have expert Volunteer Managers that share their skills and knowledge

Enable like-minded people who share a passion to connect and build friendships

Provide a range of events and training sessions that give volunteers a chance to learn and develop



More flexible volunteering – evening, weekends, and remote opportunities

Connect lone volunteers, who are part of a wider group on reserves - such as livestock checkers and surveyors to allow better communication and networking

Ensure tools are fit for purpose and replacing broken tools quickly

Proactive communication - keep volunteers in the loop with advanced notice of volunteering needs and changes, plus wider Trust news



What will we do with the results ?

Our volunteers' opinions and experiences are important to us, by sharing these with us through the survey, we can ensure we provide the best possible experience.

The survey data will be used to improve our volunteering processes and support of volunteers. It is shared with our Senior Leadership Team and staff team who in turn will use feedback to inform future strategic plans and how we deliver our volunteering activities on the ground.

Thank you to all our volunteers for their dedication and support. Together we strive towards our vision of a Yorkshire that is abundant in wildlife, with more people having a genuine and meaningful connection with nature.

Some of the areas we'll be working on in the next year will include:

- ★ Providing more flexible opportunities to allow a wider range of people to volunteer – including younger people and people from different backgrounds.
- ★ Developing opportunities both online and in real life for volunteers to find out more about our work and meet one another.
- ★ Ensuring there is a consistently good level of experience for volunteers across the Trust. This includes providing quality tools, training and ongoing support.
- ★ Building on the existing good levels of communication we have, by exploring further ways of connecting with our volunteers and assisting networking among our volunteers.



ywt.org.uk

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Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is registered in England no. 409650 and is a registered charity no. 210807. Registered Office: 1 St George's Place, York, YO24 1GN
Images: Cover- Marie Fooks. Inner page - Howard Roddie. Back - Rachel Loffman.