



# Celebration and impact report



**Generation Green 2 has supported 26,663 young people from the nation's most socially disadvantaged places to have inspiring experiences in the nation's most beautiful places. The vast majority of these young people would not have had the opportunity otherwise.**



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# Foreword – A sense of belonging



**Alison Stevens**  
Generation Green 2  
Programme Director

Many people take the simple act of visiting the countryside for a breath of fresh air and a dose of nature for granted. But the fact is many people in this country – including those with the countryside on the doorstep – will never or rarely get the chance to experience it. There are children from coastal towns who have never been to the beach; young people growing up next to national parks who don't even know what they are.

So it's with tremendous pride that I'm able to report that Generation Green 2 has exceeded its target, enabling more than **26,000 young people** from England's most socially disadvantaged areas to connect with nature in beautiful protected landscapes.

## Shared belief

Just as with the first Generation Green, which connected thousands of young people to nature through jobs, training, volunteering, and educational experiences, this success is the product of collaboration and partnership. In this case, it has seen 24 partners from the third and public sector come together through the Access Unlimited coalition to work towards a common goal, grounded by a shared belief in the transformative power of outdoor experience.

Both Generation Green projects were born from the conviction that learning about nature, experiencing the outdoors and feeling a connection to our country's most beautiful places is a right, not a privilege, and should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or the circumstances of their birth.

When nature is accessible to everyone, we all benefit. An extensive body of research shows that people who are more connected with nature are usually happier, healthier and more likely to report feeling their lives are worthwhile. Nature connection also leads to more willingness to take action to help our wildlife and the environment, which is more vital than ever in the context of collapsing biodiversity and the climate crisis. We also know that spending time in natural environments is linked to increased social cohesion and a stronger sense of community. This connection manifests in several ways, including greater empathy for others, more social interaction in natural spaces, and a heightened sense of belonging to a place.

## Connection

So has Generation Green 2 helped the participating young people feel better in themselves, more connected to nature, and more connected to each other? Absolutely. Preliminary feedback shows that after taking part in Generation Green 2-supported courses, participants felt more connected with nature; their sense of wellbeing increased; and they had a stronger sense that it was important to look after nature. Generation Green 2 was in part inspired by the vision of 'a night under the stars for every child', and research suggests that participants felt a stronger connection to the night sky through taking part in supported courses.

The range and depth of experiences supported by Generation Green 2 has been huge. They have included farm visits, day visits, residential and evenings under the stars. They have ranged from

*Report written and  
edited by Carey Davies,  
National Parks England*

stargazing in the Yorkshire Dales to residentials with rappers in the Surrey Hills; from action-packed adventures in the Lake District to biology-focused field trips in the Shropshire Hills; from farm visits in the Peak District to beach trips in Northumberland.

## Belonging

Ultimately, the end goal is to have a transformative impact on the lives of participants by helping them feel more connected to nature. The headline numbers only tell a part of the story – the personal testimonies from young people, teachers and parents are at times profoundly moving.

Many of the same types of stories are told again and again. ‘Challenging’ individuals find a new lease of life; groups of otherwise disparate young people from different backgrounds discover a sense of shared purpose and camaraderie; children who have never visited the countryside before react in delight to their first sightings of sheep or wildlife. All these experiences help to contribute to that essential thing – a sense of belonging in nature and the countryside, which is so vital to the desire to protect it.

This report celebrates these stories and successes, gives a glimpse into the impact on the lives of participants, and looks ahead to the future. Although we can be proud of what Generation Green 2 has achieved, we have to remember that huge inequalities in access to nature remain, and that a society where everyone has the opportunity to experience the magic of outdoor experience – and feel a sense of belonging to our land – is still a long way off.

**But thanks to Generation Green 2, we are that bit closer to it.**

**Alison Stevens**

Generation Green 2 Programme Director



# Generation Green 2

## Impact in numbers and data

# 26,663

young people participated in a nature connection experience in one of the nation's protected landscapes\* through Generation Green 2

This is 106% of our original target of 25,167

# More than 41,504

evenings under the stars, residentials and nature connection experiences were delivered

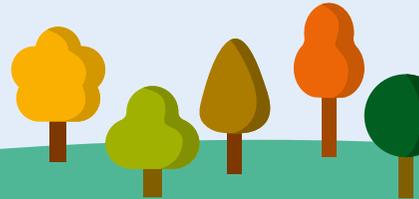
# 80%

of participants were unlikely or very unlikely to have an experience like this without support from Generation Green 2



For **38%**

of participants,  
this was their  
first visit to the  
countryside



**57%**

had never had an  
overnight stay in  
the countryside  
before



**87%**

of participants  
want to visit  
a protected  
landscape again



Preliminary evaluation by the University of Derby shows that as a result of their Generation Green 2 experiences:

- Participants felt **more connected with nature**
- The sense of **'wellbeing'** of participants increased
- Participants had a stronger sense that it was **important to look after nature**
- Participants felt **more connected to the night sky**



*\*National Parks, National Landscapes and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)*

## Generation Green 2: a breakdown



**1,370**  
young people  
went on farm  
visits



**6,635**  
young people  
went on evening  
or day trips

**5,133**  
young people  
went on 1 night  
residential



**10,138**  
young people  
went on 2 night  
residential



**1,925**  
young people  
went on 4 night  
residential

**65**  
young people  
went on 6 night  
residential



**James Blake,**  
Chair of Access Unlimited



If we want the environment and nature to be looked after, we need to inspire the next generation. Generation Green 2 has proven how government funding and civil society delivery can work together to extend this inspiration, and the personal development it provides, to many more young people.

Through a true partnership approach, Generation Green has connected more than 26,000 disadvantaged young people with the natural world, encouraging the environmentalists of the future, promoting green jobs and setting young people up for lifetimes of enriching adventure through activities in protected landscapes. Despite this, fewer young people have access to the outdoors and nature than before covid.

The headway we have made collectively through Generation Green must continue through further funding.

Through the turbulence of recent years, we have learned anew the power of nurturing confidence and connection in an uncertain world.

The aim of the Access Unlimited partners remains unchanged – a desire to see every child have a night under the stars in a green space.



# Generation Green 2: The impact in words

What teachers said about the impact of Generation Green 2 on young people



**The children's community where they are from is incredibly limited with lots of antisocial behaviour. The children were able to see the picturesque views with their own eyes, learn about nature in person, see the different habitats, face their fears, push themselves and try new things, and were incredibly positive about it, even though they found some activities challenging.**



“One parent reported that their child doesn't usually leave the house so it took a lot of persuading for him to go, but he came back and was so excited to tell [them] all about it and just absolutely raved about it.”

“The difference between what they're like in the classroom and here is night and day. I've got more engagement out of these kids today than I have in the whole term. It's just sad that we're not able to do this more often. I don't think children are meant to spend all their time indoors.”

“All students said that they would have liked to stay longer and did not want to leave. We had a number of students crying when they returned to school; they had enjoyed the experience so much they did not want it to end.”



**Pupils were blossoming out here away from class and showing their leadership skills. The boys worked so well together – they don't do that in the classroom. It's so good to get them out of the classroom to spaces like this.**



**We gave one student the opportunity to go on a Generation Green 2-funded trip who doesn't really engage with school. His behaviour at school wasn't great, let's put it this way. But since the trip, not only has it affected him in his school life, but also in his outlook. He actually comes into school early now. It impacts him in his studies. He wants to achieve more.**

“

**The students have thoroughly developed their knowledge of the outdoors and their responsibility to conserve it.**

”

“The growth and character development we’ve seen even from one day to the next has been amazing. It has built resilience, leadership, teamwork, reciprocity and friendships.”

“The children and staff have come back buzzing! They had such a great time and learnt so much. Thank you so much I know it would have meant a lot to them as none of them have ever even visited the countryside before.”

“Trips like this make an enormous difference for some of our young people, they are absolutely vital and inspirational for these children who would otherwise not get these opportunities. This work is essential for the youth of today and it must be prioritised.”

“”

**The children really enjoyed seeing the animals and finding out about the habitats within the farm. It complimented and supported their learning in science.**



## What young people themselves said about their Generation Green 2 experiences

"I had the most amazing time of my life."

**"I just like the scenery and it's very calm. Obviously because we live in the city, we don't see any of this."**

"It's a lot closer to Leeds than I thought it was on the train."

**"I made a friend today. I haven't made a friend in a long time."**



"You can walk around and listen to the birds; you can get deeper into nature than staying inside and watching electronics."

"I really enjoyed it, because it was a break from busy Croydon and it's very calm and peaceful here."

**"I feel like I don't need to just be inside London. I can do new things outside of my area. I don't always have to be using my phone, I can find new things to do."**

**"I loved being independent. It's helped us learn about how to take care of the environment."**

"There are so many more stars than at home."

**"I have never seen a real sheep before."**

"We got to learn new skills. I love being in nature, it's calming and it's fun."

# Videos from Generation Green 2



## Connecting to Nature at YHA Langdale through Generation Green 2

In September 2024, Primary School pupils from Dene House Primary, Park Primary and Westfield Community Primary enjoyed a fully funded Connecting to Nature residential at YHA Langdale, thanks to Generation Green 2. This short film showcases some of the highlights of their trip, with reflections from teachers and students.

[youtube.com/watch?v=De0VoNxBcOk](https://youtube.com/watch?v=De0VoNxBcOk)



## Rapper Still Shadey and Croydon youth mentorship group experience a nature-filled Surrey Hills visit

MOBO Award-winning rapper Still Shadey joined a group of young people from Ment4 for an inspiring two-day residential in the Surrey Hills National Landscape as part of the Generation Green 2 project. Over the course of their stay, the group explored the local wildlife and landscape, participated in skill-building activities, and even crafted their own kazoos!

[youtube.com/watch?v=MctdGTvaEMU](https://youtube.com/watch?v=MctdGTvaEMU)





## National Landscapes x Generation Green

During 2024 and 2025, National Landscapes across England supported thousands of children to have amazing experiences in nature through Generation Green 2. This video shows the reactions of youngsters as they explore woodlands, grasslands, coastlines, and heritage sites. It is a heartfelt celebration of empowering young people through meaningful connection with England's natural landscapes.

[youtube.com/watch?v=a96JGR3QyWo&si=0sEfEynQ0ynWYq4t](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a96JGR3QyWo&si=0sEfEynQ0ynWYq4t)

# Why did we need Generation Green 2?

**England has major inequalities in access to nature.** Poorer communities and people from ethnic minorities in the UK have the worst access to green spaces. Research has shown that 18% of children living in the most deprived areas never spend time in any kind of natural space.

**Almost half of the country's most socially deprived areas are more than 15 miles by road from a protected landscape** (such as a National Park or National Landscape), and opportunities to explore these landscapes are hindered by inadequate transport options.

Through delivering inspiring experiences in beautiful protected places, Generation Green 2 has helped to address major inequalities in access to nature by **connecting more than 26,000 young people living in England's most socially disadvantaged areas to nature**, rural life, and the wellbeing benefits of the outdoors.





**Generation Green 2 supports key recommendations in the 2019 Landscapes Review**, addressing the need for a wider range of first-time visitors to engage with protected landscapes in order to help make them fit for the future.

**An extensive body of research shows that people who are more connected with nature are usually happier and more likely to report feeling their lives are worthwhile.** Nature connection also leads to more willingness to take action to help our wildlife and the environment, ranging from conscientious small actions like leaving less litter and being more mindful of fire risk, to larger steps like being actively involved in conservation or pursuing green careers.

**The ‘quality’ of our connection to nature also matters. The closer we feel to it, the more we are willing to take action to help our wildlife and the environment.** In the context of collapsing biodiversity and the climate crisis, closer relationships with nature are more vital than ever before. The UK is one of the poorest countries in Europe for nature-connectedness, ranking 16th out of 18th countries surveyed.



**Our National Parks and other protected landscapes are where we go to experience and engage with nature, to rest and recreate, and to learn about our landscapes. Every child should have the opportunity to experience this vital part of our national fabric, but sadly not everyone does.**

**Generation Green 2 takes us a step closer to a society where everyone feels engaged with the outdoors, the countryside and nature. That should be everyone’s right, but it’s also what we need if we want to foster a culture that can respond to the climate and biodiversity crisis in the future.**

Jayne Butler, CEO, National Parks England

# Who did Generation Green 2 support?

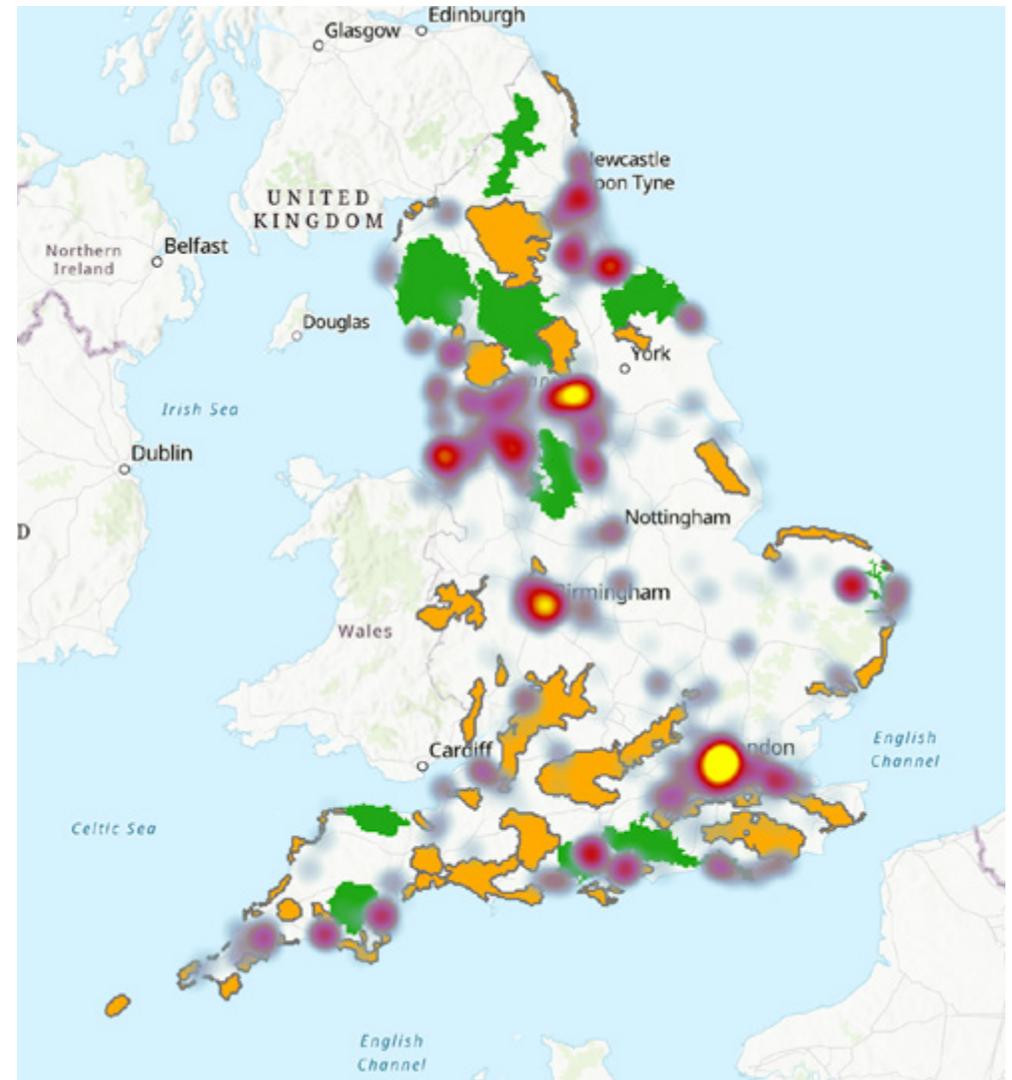
Participants in Generation Green 2 were young people from geographic locations in England falling into the Index of Multiple Deprivation scale (1-3) and schools where at least 30% of pupils are eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

Nearly half of all participating groups surveyed that took part in Generation Green 2 had a higher-than-average proportion of young people from minority ethnic / global majority backgrounds (over 20%).

Participant postcode – Heat map



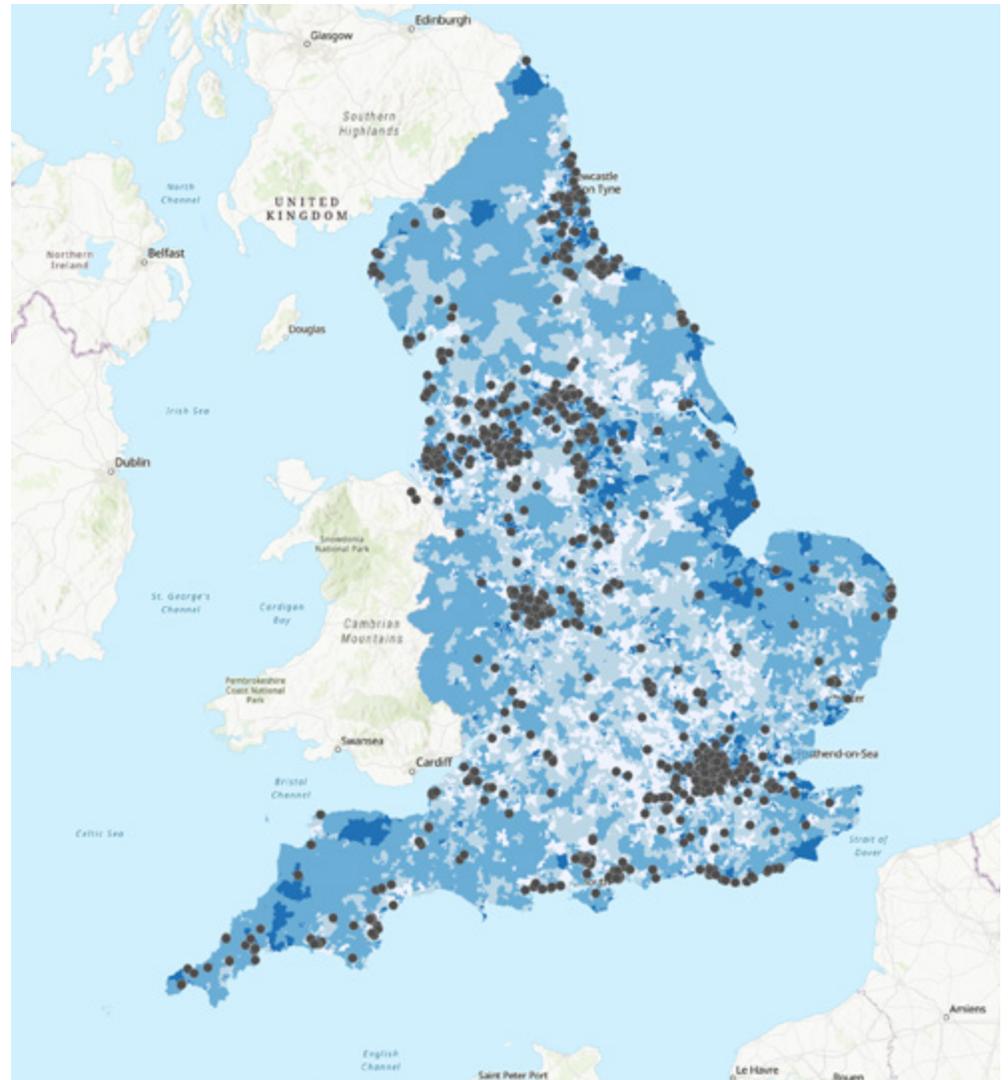
Heat map of postcode locations for young people participating in Generation Green 2



The vast majority of Generation Green 2 participants were school and college pupils, participating through their school or educational establishment. Some participants also came through community groups and outreach organisations representing, for example, asylum seekers or young carers.

The highest concentrations of participants were within the London region. Large numbers of participants were also from Birmingham and around major urban areas in northern and north west England.

## Location of young people supported by Generation Green 2 in relation to Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Index 2019



**IMD deciles 1-3 refer to areas ranked among the 30% most deprived in England.**

● Participant postcode location

**Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019**

- IMD Decile
- > 8-10
  - > 6-8
  - > 3-6
  - 1-3



View the maps online  
[storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/db3c5ba10ece4515abc152700b2fd18a](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/db3c5ba10ece4515abc152700b2fd18a)



# The power of collaboration

**Just as with the first Generation Green, Generation Green 2 was delivered by Access Unlimited, a unique coalition of not-for-profit youth organisations, school residential outdoor providers and organisations managing protected landscapes. This time around it was expanded to include the National Landscapes Association. If individual participating National Park Authorities and local authorities managing National Landscapes are included together, this makes a coalition of 24 organisations.**

The Access Unlimited coalition encompasses England's leading organisations in the delivery of outdoor learning and engagement, with centuries worth of experience amassed between them and a collective reach of well over two million. The 'oven ready' expertise, knowledge, networks and infrastructure across this coalition meant it was well-positioned to move quickly to deliver a £4.45 million project delivering more than 41,500 nights under the stars, residential and nature connection experiences to young people.

Each partner has also brought their own particular expertise and specialist focus, meaning that the courses supported by Generation Green 2 have featured a huge variety of approaches to outdoor learning and experience. Leveraging this collective experience and reach has been fundamental to the success of Generation Green 2.

The Access Unlimited coalition was tasked with delivering experiences for 25,167 young people and has over-delivered on this target, supporting an additional 1,397 participants, a testament to the dedication of partners to making sure as many young people as possible benefit from this funding opportunity.

The vast majority of Generation Green 2 courses took place within the UK's National Parks and National Landscapes. These protected landscapes provided the backdrop for residential, day visits, and immersive activities delivered not only by National Park Authorities (via National Parks England) and National Landscape teams (via the National Landscapes Association) themselves, but also by partners YHA (England & Wales), the Scouts, Girlguiding, Field Studies Council, and The Outward Bound Trust. In this way, National Parks and National Landscapes played a dual role: as the physical spaces that hosted the majority of the programme's activity, and as active delivery partners running bespoke courses for young people.

This is a summary of the number of young people supported through Generation Green 2 by each partner.

Partner	Young people
Field Studies Council	3,938
Girlguiding	2,839
National Landscapes Association (8 participating National Landscapes)	3,122
National Parks England (9 participating National Park Authorities)	6,244
The Outward Bound Trust	2,719
Scouts	3,728
YHA (England & Wales)	4,073
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,663</b>



**Generation Green 2.0 has been a powerful reminder of the impact that time spent in nature can have on young people. We're incredibly proud to have worked with our partners to deliver such inspiring experiences across our National Landscapes — from day visits and farm walks to life-changing residential. This project has not only opened doors for thousands of young people but has also strengthened our collective commitment to making the outdoors more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming for all.**

John Watkins, Chief Executive, National Landscapes Association





# 4 powerful outcomes

The next four sections will look more closely at how each of the four outcomes of Generation Green 2 was delivered, and the contribution made by each Access Unlimited partner to them.



## Outcome

# 1

# Increase and enhance opportunities for young people to engage with nature



**Generation Green 2 has been a powerful catalyst in helping over 3,700 young people, many from underrepresented backgrounds - connect with nature through meaningful outdoor experiences. By removing barriers, we've widened young peoples access to protected landscapes and sparked deeper connections to the environment - supporting wellbeing, resilience and an appreciation for the natural world.**

Aidan Jones, Chief Executive, Scouts



Generation Green 2 has unlocked nature experiences for **over 26,000 young people** across England, many visiting green spaces for the first time. Across all delivery partners, there was a clear focus on reaching the most deprived and underserved:

- **YHA** connected 4,073 young people, averaging 49% pupil premium eligibility, with some groups at 100%. Nearly a third were from global majority communities, and 16% had disabilities or SEND. Their "Connecting to Nature" package ensured full immersion, particularly for those from urban areas.
- **Field Studies Council (FSC)** provided 108 funded trips, reaching 3,938 young people aged 7 -18. Many had never seen the stars or walked in open countryside before. One KS2 pupil said: "It just makes you feel so much better... it can help you through life."
- **The Outward Bound Trust** exceeded targets, reaching 2,719 young people with residential courses ranging from 3 to 7 days. Their work focused on young people from schools with 30% - 90% pupil premium.
- **Scouts** engaged 3,728 young people - 2,243 on residential camps in protected landscapes and 1,500 through local events. Activities ranged from pioneering and raft-building to nature surveys.
- **Girlguiding** supported 2,760 girls to take part in Generation Green 2 trips, spread across 162 residential visits and 62 day visits.
- **National Park Authorities** reached 1,367 on residentials, 3,438 on day visits, 807 through farm visits, and 632 through "evenings under the stars" sessions.
- **National Landscapes** teams reached another 952 on residentials, 1,531 on day trips, and 639 on farm visits - bringing rural experiences to those who'd never set foot in the countryside.

Success was not just in numbers but in firsts: first camping trips, first mountain climbs, first time seeing the Milky Way. Teachers repeatedly reported that for most participants, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: "Without this funding, our students would never have had this experience. It's been life-changing." (Winstanley School)



## Outcome

# 2

# Widen access to and engagement with protected landscapes and sites



A defining feature of Generation Green 2 was its commitment to **bringing underrepresented groups into England's National Parks, National Landscapes, and protected sites:**

- **YHA** chose 10 hostels close to protected landscapes, targeting schools within 50 miles to keep travel more affordable. Many participants came from inner-city Birmingham, London, and Manchester, seeing moors, mountains, and forests for the first time.
- **Field Studies Council** spread access across eight centres, from Exmoor to the Lake District. Day trips reached further - into the Chilterns and Epping Forest - helping young people discover natural treasures near home.

- **The Outward Bound Trust** delivered fully immersive experiences in iconic landscapes like Snowdonia, the Lake District, and the Scottish Highlands, using dark skies, rivers, and mountains as classrooms.
- **Scouts** used a national network of camps and bases to connect young people with Kielder Water, the Lake District, Ashdown Forest, and local green spaces, often less than an hour from home.
- **Girlguiding** ran residentials at the Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre in the High Weald, with activities ranging from high ropes courses to peaceful nature walks.
- The **National Parks** and **National Landscapes** teams played a vital role:
  - In the Yorkshire Dales, the "Come to the Farm" days introduced young people to upland farming, showing how food is produced and how landscapes are managed.
  - Exmoor National Park ran night-time bat walks, where children heard bats through echolocation detectors—one child exclaimed, "It's like a secret world at night!"
  - The South Downs and North York Moors ran the "Night under the Stars" events, inspiring awe and introducing urban youth to stargazing.
  - The Quantock Hills National Landscape hosted day trips where participants tried hedge-laying and conservation tasks.



**Generation Green 2 has again demonstrated the big impact that high quality outdoor learning can have on so many aspects of a young person's life. For many it was completely new, for some it will be life changing and Field Studies Council is proud to have played our part in that. We saw improvements in mental health, confidence, a love of learning, classroom subjects sparking into life and a renewed sense of joy in running around and being a child. The project also showed us the need for more such opportunities to ensure that no child misses out.**

Mark Castle, CEO of Field Studies Council

Quotes from teachers highlight the impact:



**The students loved their mountain walk and were proud of themselves. They'd never seen views like that before.**

Mulberry Academy London Dock

**They returned saying they now want to explore more parks near home.**

St Michael's Catholic Academy

## Outcome

# 3

## Boost nature connectedness (a precursor to pro-environmental behaviour)

Generation Green 2 designed every element to foster **a lifelong connection with nature** – a foundation for future environmental stewardship:

- **YHA's Passport to Nature** asked each student to pledge a personal action after the trip (like planting pollinator-friendly flowers or joining school eco-clubs). Bug Hostels were gifted to schools to continue engagement.
- **Field Studies Council** combined curriculum learning (e.g., pond-dipping for biology) with creative and reflective activities like environmental art, guided meditation, and stargazing—helping students feel nature rather than just study it.





**Generation Green 2 hasn't just opened the door to the outdoors, it's thrown it wide open. Tens of thousands of young people, many from Britain's most disadvantaged communities, have climbed mountains, camped under the stars, and found their confidence in the wild. And in doing so, they've built resilience, connection, and a deeper understanding of the natural world.**

**This project proves what we've always known at The Outward Bound Trust: When you give young people meaningful experiences in nature, they don't just grow, they thrive. The legacy of Generation Green 2 will live on in every young person who now sees the outdoors not as something distant, but as a part of who they are.**

Martin Davidson, CEO, The Outward Bound Trust

Evidence of growing nature connection included:



**I saw so many plants and animals I didn't know about. I want to help them now.**

**Nature makes me feel calm and safe. I want to go outside more.**

Teachers reported that many students returned home asking to visit local parks and open spaces with their families – an outcome not just of education, but of personal transformation.

- **The Outward Bound Trust** embedded the **Five Pathways to Nature Connectedness**:
  - *Contact* (foraging and nature play)
  - *Emotion* (sharing awe at views or stars)
  - *Meaning* (talks on protecting landscapes)
  - *Compassion* (doing small conservation tasks)
  - *Beauty* (reflecting on landscapes)
  - Expeditions included cookouts using local herbs, wildlife spotting, and night walks.
- **Scouts** used hands-on learning – building bird boxes, tracking wildlife, and identifying trees – to build curiosity and care.
- Many participants on **Girlguiding** courses had never visited or spent time in nature before. The 'hands on' element of the courses was appreciated by participants, with one saying: 'It's just good being outside, good to be able to just walk around and pick things up and touch them, but don't touch some things as they are prickly like this bramble!'
- In **National Parks** and **National Landscapes**:
  - Yorkshire Dales students were taught about biodiversity during farm visits, leading to nature pledges like "I will plant more flowers for bees".
  - South Downs' sessions asked students to write poems after nature connection sessions, expressing wonder and appreciation.

## Outcome

# 4

# Enable young people to gain wellbeing benefits from accessing the natural environment



Wellbeing gains were among the most consistent and powerful outcomes reported across Generation Green 2.

- **YHA's** mindfulness-based approach included forest bathing and reflection circles. Staff observed anxious and homesick students becoming relaxed and energetic by the end. Teachers reported boosts in self-esteem:

**“They arrived nervous and left saying they wish they could stay longer.”**

- **Field Studies Council** documented improved teamwork and confidence. Children who struggled indoors excelled outdoors – working in teams to build dens, track mammals, and climb hills:

**“They blossomed – many with difficult home lives found joy in just playing outside.”**

Feedback from teachers on FSC-run GG2 course

- **The Outward Bound Trust** focused on building resilience, leadership, and independence. Schools saw students develop perseverance during mountain hikes and responsibility through shared tasks.

**“Students cried when it was time to leave. They didn’t want this experience to end.”**

Skegness Junior Academy

- **Scouts** found that the residential camps boosted mental health by providing safe spaces for social interaction and achievement, often lacking in disadvantaged communities.
- **Girlguiding** found that being outdoors had a noticeable beneficial impact on participants. One girl’s response was typical:

**“I feel calmer here, I feel all the stresses [of normal life] are gone because I’m around nature and the natural habitat.”**

- **National Parks** and **National Landscapes** added layers of wellbeing through farm visits (which offered nurturing, hands-on experiences), and dark skies sessions (which promoted reflection and awe).

- Within the Surrey Hills National Landscape, one particularly unique experience involved a rapper working with young people to explore and express their connection to the landscape through music and lyrics. This creative collaboration allowed the participants to engage with nature. This approach not only deepened their connection to the environment but also offered a platform for young people to reflect on their experiences in the natural world through art and music.
- On Exmoor, bat walks and night skies helped students feel calm and connected.
- In the Quantocks, hedge-laying activities provided physical outlets and a sense of accomplishment.

Overall, teachers and partners observed lasting benefits: better mood, increased physical activity, reduced anxiety, and greater social skills. One teacher summed it up:

**“Nature gave them confidence, peace, and happiness. They found themselves outdoors.”**





**Access to the outdoors is very important to girls and we're happy to have given so many of them the opportunity to enjoy nature through Generation Green 2.**

**At Girlguiding we want to make adventure accessible to girls from all backgrounds, including those less able to take part in outdoor activities due to their financial situation or where they live. For many of the girls who took part, this project gave them their first night away from home and the chance to have fun and be themselves in a safe environment.**



**In 2023 our Girls' Attitudes Survey revealed 81% of UK girls aged 7-21 found being outdoors and in nature helps them feel happy.**

**The funding from Generation Green 2 has allowed us to give even more girls the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and have a trip away, to build their confidence and improve their physical and emotional wellbeing and we're very appreciative to have been involved in Generation Green.**

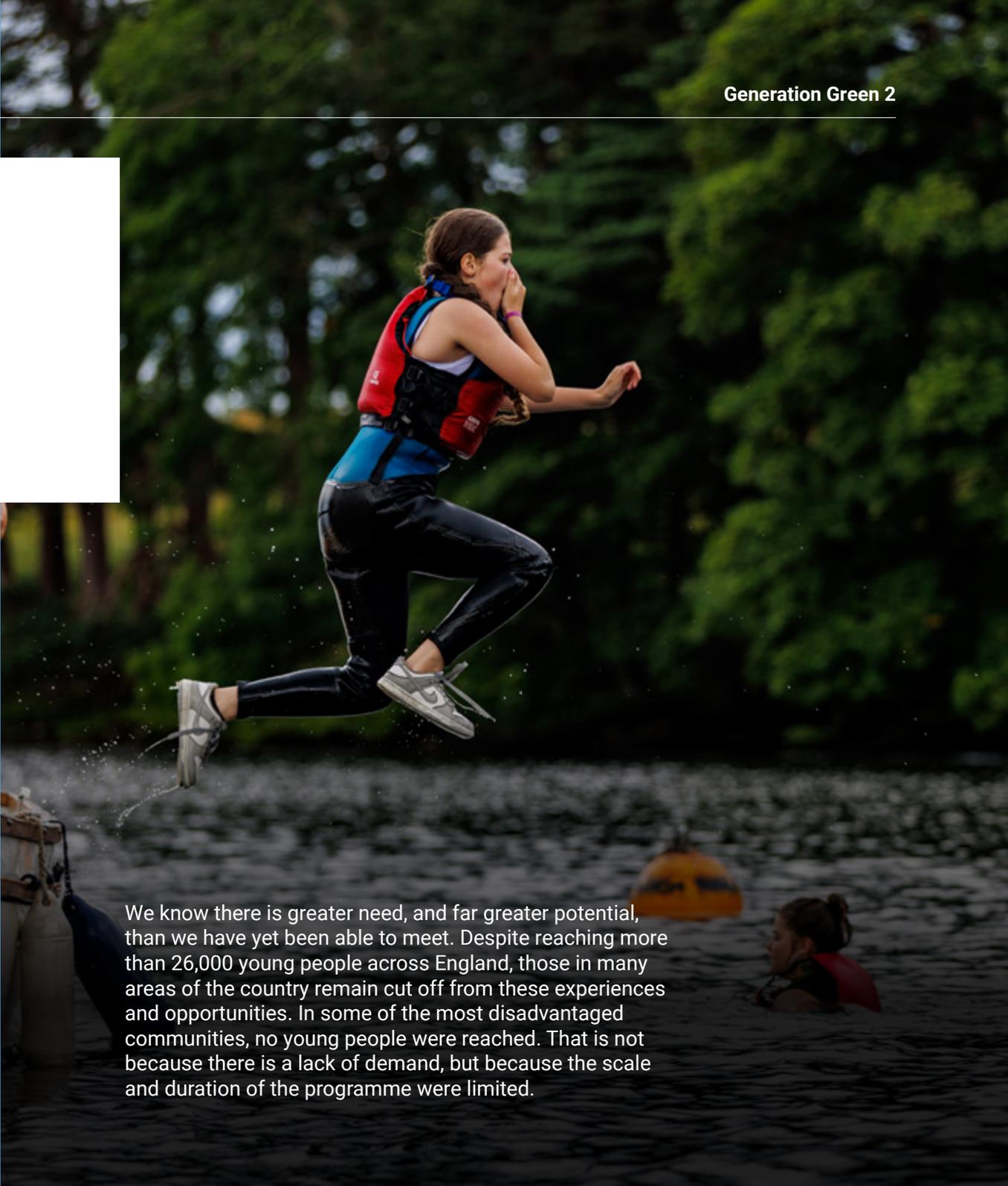


Angela Salt OBE, Chief Executive, Girlguiding



# Looking to the future

Generation Green 2 has shown the transformative impact of giving young people the chance to connect with nature. From improvements in confidence and self-esteem, to new friendships, skills and aspirations, the programme has provided enlightening experiences to thousands of children and young people who would otherwise have missed out.



We know there is greater need, and far greater potential, than we have yet been able to meet. Despite reaching more than 26,000 young people across England, those in many areas of the country remain cut off from these experiences and opportunities. In some of the most disadvantaged communities, no young people were reached. That is not because there is a lack of demand, but because the scale and duration of the programme were limited.

With more time and funding, future programmes in the spirit of Generation Green could go further. They could deepen engagement in areas already reached and extend opportunity to thousands more young people across the country. They could support longer-term outcomes through ongoing engagement, youth leadership pathways and embedded community partnerships. And they could reach new groups, including those furthest from opportunity in the most underrepresented and under-served communities, and with the most challenging lives.

We must build on the success of Generation Green to ensure that its principles are embedded into strategies which seek to improve outcomes for young people.

- A clear and ambitious commitment to young people's connection with nature must be placed at the heart of the Government's Access to Nature strategy and National Youth Strategy, and outdoor learning integrated into the school curriculum.
- Long-term funding should support inclusive outdoor programmes, recognising that access to nature is about education, health and social justice as well as about the environment.
- A collaborative delivery model is invaluable, bringing together organisations across civil society, protected landscapes and government, which can effect the interventions needed, just as Generation Green has done so effectively.



If we are serious that access to nature is not a privilege, but a right for every young person, and about creating a generation of environmentally connected citizens with healthy wellbeing for life, we must learn from Generation Green. The next step is to capitalise on the progress we have made here to build long-lasting change.

# Acknowledgements

## Project partners

Generation Green 2 has been delivered by Access Unlimited, a unique coalition of not-for-profit youth organisations, school residential outdoor providers and organisations managing protected landscapes.



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The project supports key recommendations in the 2019 Landscapes Review, addressing the need for a wider range of first-time visitors to engage with protected landscapes in order to help make them fit for the future.



## Local delivery partners

We also want to extend a thanks to the huge network of local delivery partners and to the schools, community groups and young people across the length and breadth of England who delivered and participated in Generation Green 2 courses.

## University of Derby

Many thanks to the University of Derby's Nature Connectedness Research Group for their evaluation of the impact of Generation Green 2 on the young people attending, delivering essential insight into the success of the project and key findings to take into future nature-connection initiatives.