

Connecting Children and Young People to Nature and Landscapes

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Never before have young people's views on climate, nature, landscape and the environment been so important.

16 year old climate activist, Greta Thunberg has paved the way for young people to demonstrate how passionately they feel about the future of the planet and the environmental crisis during the successful youth climate strikes.

This sentiment is in stark contrast to the reality. New population measures of nature connectedness reveal a sharp decline in nature connection from 10 years of age, through teenage years and into young adulthood and this failure to connect with nature reduces pro-environmental behaviours (Richardson et al, 2019). By encouraging children and young people to engage and connect with nature and landscapes we will enable them to build a more sustainable future and become better global citizens.

Landscape organisations can play a key role in empowering children and young people in this way.



The Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by the National Lottery aims to unlock and reveal the hidden heritage of the Westmorland Dales, enabling more people to connect with, enjoy and benefit from this inspirational landscape.

Partner organisations have come together with landowners, volunteers, community groups and others to deliver a programme of 21 projects with complementary community engagement activities underpinning the entire scheme. The scheme can be divided into three main areas of delivery; natural heritage, cultural heritage and connecting heritage.



Training

Provide apprenticeships and work placements in environmental management and heritage conservation. Work with colleges to deliver vocational qualifications.

Practical Action

Provide opportunities for children and young people to make a difference, have a say and take part in practical action such as litter picking, tree planting and gardening in school grounds.

Education

Deliver classroom and outdoor learning in wild places that inspires and informs children, young people and teachers.

Celebration

Provide accessible events and activities including arts based projects for a diverse audience to celebrate natural heritage.

Nature connectedness

Describes an individuals relationship with nature - how much they enjoy and respect nature, appreciate its beauty, understand its importance and feel part of nature. This will be one of the key objectives of the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership in connecting children and young people to Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage to build a more sustainable future.

