

Broughton Sanctuary

Our nature recovery journey

# The story so far

DECEMBER 2025

*This project is supported by the White Rose Forest through the  
Trees for Climate Programme, funded by UK Government*



White  
Rose  
Forest



Funded by  
UK Government

## Executive summary

Broughton Sanctuary is rewriting the story of nature recovery through one of the UK's most ambitious and holistic rewilding projects. Since 2021, we have been transforming this historic 1030 ha (app. 2500 acres) landscape - once intensively managed farmland—into a thriving mosaic of woodlands, meadows, and wetlands.

Across 80% of the land, we have reintroduced beavers, rare breed livestock, and hundreds of thousands of native trees, while continuing to produce food in ways that support soil health, biodiversity, and long-term ecological resilience. As wildlife returns and communities reconnect with the land, we are guided by science, collaboration, and care. This report showcases bold interventions, measurable impact, and a vision where people and nature flourish together.



# 2021–2025 Summary in Numbers



13

Kestrel chicks ringed (2024)

80%

Land under restoration



200

Local volunteers (2025)



330,000

Trees & shrubs planted



7 (up from 2)

Full-time nature recovery roles



1,700+

Recorded species



17 km

Fencing removed



2 adults + 1 kit

Beavers



30 km

Odyssey nature trail



3

Iron Age Pigs



72 ha

Wildflower meadow sown



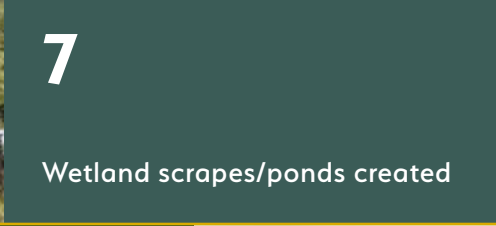
57

Riggitt Galloway Cattle



7

Wetland scrapes/ponds created



3

Dales Ponies



76 specimen oaks

Planted in the registered parkland



15

Roe Deer



7,331

Public engagement participants in 2025



33

Barn Owl chicks ringed in 2024



1500

Children from school visits



## Looking ahead: 2026–2036 goals

- Expand beaver wetlands.
- Continue to establish self sustaining herds of rare breed cattle and pigs and introduce Dales pony herds.
- Remove more fences to create free-roaming, connected landscapes.
- Enhance moorland; planting gullies and creating ponds and pools.
- Rejuvenating existing woodlands; phased removal of non-native trees, Rhododendron and Laurel.
- Restore and sow meadows; use green hay and aftermath grazing.
- Rewet floodplain; hold more water on the floodplain by creating scrapes, ponds, pools and reversing historic drainage.
- Introduce missing native species e.g Harvest Mouse (in 2026).
- Embed a long-term monitoring framework with partners and citizen scientists.

This journey is not just ecological — it is cultural and spiritual. It's about rediscovering what it means to belong to the land.

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## A heritage of stewardship

For over 900 years, the Broughton Hall Estate has been under the careful stewardship of the Tempest family, a lineage that has shaped and been shaped by this landscape for centuries. The rhythms of traditional farming have long guided life here, connecting people and place.

While that heritage remains at the heart of who we are, we are now finding new ways to honour and nurture our evolving relationship with the land.



Building on this legacy of care, the Estate — now known as Broughton Sanctuary — stands at the heart of one of the UK's most ambitious nature recovery journeys. This transformation marks not merely a change in how the land is managed, but a deep renewal of purpose: a commitment to restoring balance, biodiversity, and the essential bond between people and nature.

Broughton Sanctuary is evolving from a place of production to one of regeneration and reflection — a living landscape where ecological restoration and human wellbeing are deeply intertwined. What was once monoculture pastureland is now awakening into a rich mosaic of young woodlands, flowering meadows, shimmering wetlands, and quiet spaces where the wild is finding its way home again.



Over 330,000 native trees have already been planted, wetlands are being revived, and the return of wildlife is gathering pace. This is the alchemy of the land — a process of transformation in which every living thing, human and non-human alike, has a part to play.



## Healing the Outer and Inner Landscapes

We understand that the health of the land shapes our own wellbeing, just as our inner state influences how we care for the Earth. The outer and inner landscapes are mirrors of one another. As the natural world suffers — wounded by loss and disconnection — so too does the human spirit grow restless and fragile. But when we rewild the land, allowing it to breathe, grow, and thrive, we open a path to rewild ourselves — to rediscover balance, belonging, and hope.

To walk through Broughton Sanctuary today is to witness renewal in motion — a living story of the land's return to balance.



# Part 1

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## Restoring the land: our nature recovery actions

- Woodlands: planting for the future

- Phase of the beasts

*Iron age pigs*

*Riggit Galloway cattle*

*Grasslands: bringing colour back*

*Roe Deer*

*Dales Ponies*

*Beavers*

- Restoring water

- Slow the flow

- Removing fences

## Woodlands: planting for the future

Over the past five years, we have planted more than 330,000 trees and shrubs of 19 native broadleaf species. These new woodlands now stretch across 400 ha, creating young, living corridors that allow life to move freely once again.

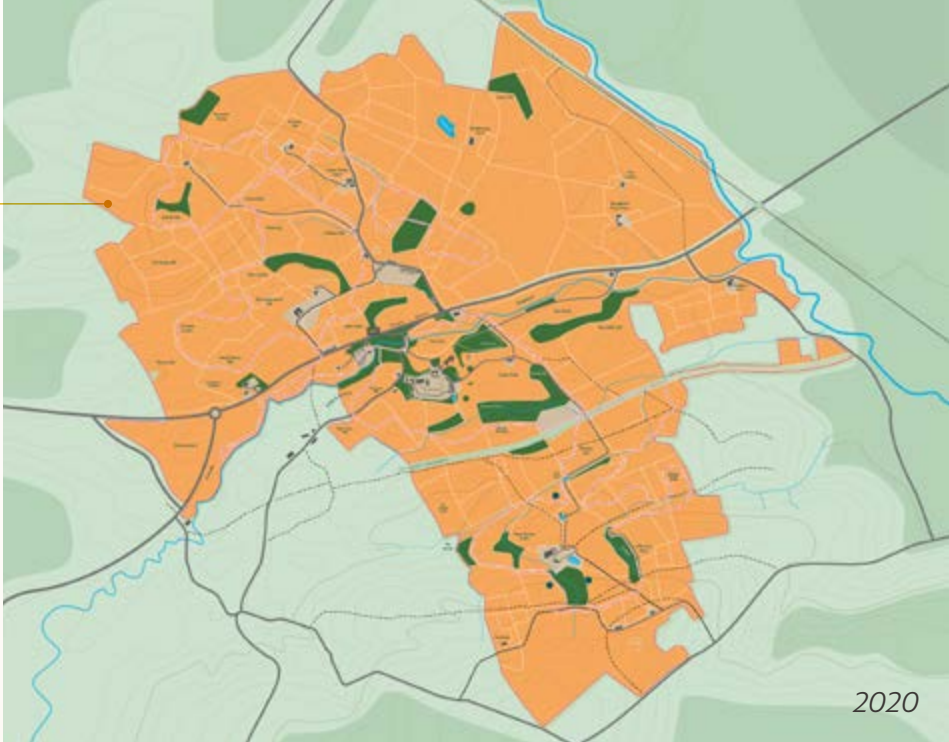


Launched in 2021 and supported by the White Rose Forest, our tree-planting initiative has already increased tree cover from less than 5% to over 35% – a remarkable step toward restoring ecological balance.

# 5%

Transitioning from this in 2020

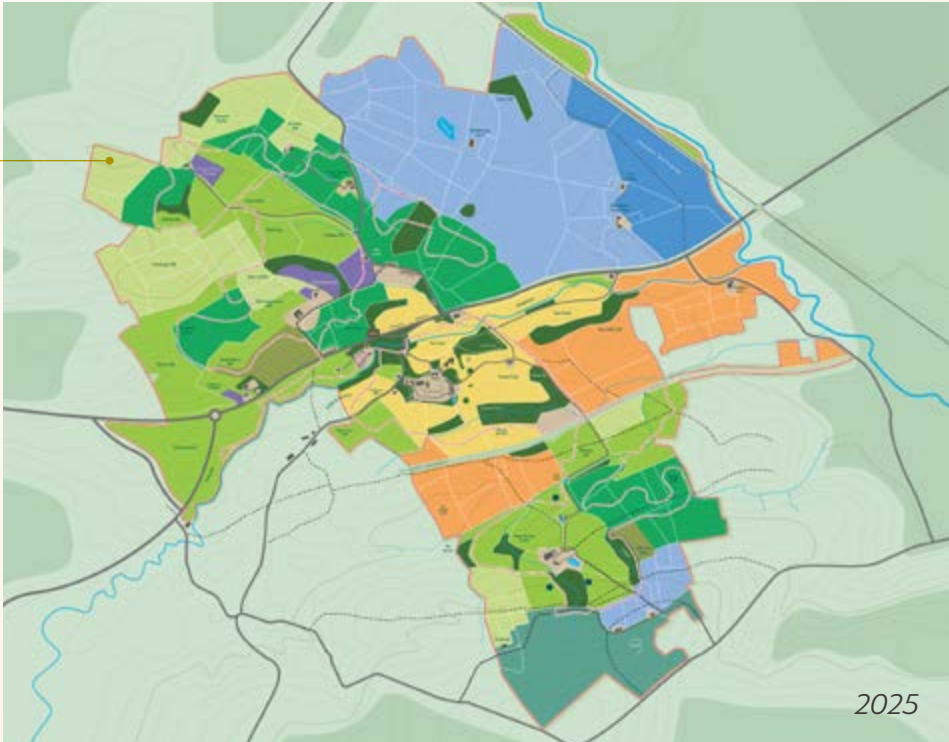
- Existing woodland
- Intensive agriculture



# 35%

...to this in 2025

- Rewilding
- Nature-friendly farming
- Registered parkland
- Intensive agriculture



These young woodlands are rebuilding soil health, capturing carbon, reducing flooding naturally, and providing vital habitats for countless species. Beyond their ecological benefits, they offer something deeper still – a sense of reconnection and renewal. Tree planting not only heals the land; it’s also a quiet act of renewal for us. With every tree planted, we return life to the soil and, in a small way, rewild ourselves.



# Wildlife returns

It is here, beneath these young canopies, that the Sanctuary's wildlife is beginning to thrive once more.

BEFORE



Green Tongue from Banner Hill  
*November 2020*

AFTER



Green Tongue from Banner Hill  
*November 2025*

BEFORE



Moorland pond from track  
*September 2019*

AFTER



Moorland pond from track  
*November 2025*

BEFORE



Natural regen field from Micklethorn Hill  
*November 2020*

AFTER



Natural regen field from Micklethorn Hill  
*November 2025*

Since grazing was paused across much of the rewilding area, insect and small mammal populations have flourished. The long grasses are alive with movement, supporting a growing community of raptors. Barn owls, buzzards and kestrels, once only occasional sights, are now far more common.





*The trees are beginning to encourage many more passerine birds*



*Small mammals in abundance*



*Kestrel*

*...and then the birds of prey follow.*



*Barn Owl*



*Buzzard*

*More barn owls, buzzards and kestrels than ever before!*

All five native British owl species – Barn, Tawny, Little, Long-eared, and Short-eared – now call Broughton home, and for the first time in decades, Short-eared Owls are almost certainly breeding here.



*Tawny Owl*



*Long-eared Owl*



*Short-eared Owl*



*Little Owl*



*Barn Owl*

Sparrowhawks, Red Kites, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and even Hen Harriers are also returning to the landscape.



*Red Kite*



*Peregrine*



*Sparrowhawk*



*Hen Harrier*

## Nest boxes and raptors: supporting Barn Owls and Kestrels

Across Broughton Sanctuary, we have installed 13 Barn Owl boxes and 13 Kestrel boxes, purchased from Colin Shawyer, to provide secure nesting sites for these iconic raptors. Working with Stephen Downing, from Northern England Raptor Forum, we have been closely monitoring their use. In 2024, 33 Barn Owl chicks and 13 Kestrel chicks were ringed, reflecting a successful breeding season. In 2025, early spring counts were initially encouraging, but a prolonged drought affected vole populations, and raptor activity declined sharply as the season progressed. By late summer, conditions improved, allowing a later brood to flourish, with six Barn Owl chicks ringed and Kestrel numbers beginning to recover.



*Ringling Owlets*

*Kestrel and chick*



## Planting the Future Veterans: Restoring the Parklands

As part of our commitment to restoring the historic registered parkland at Broughton Sanctuary, we are planting the future veteran trees that will shape the landscape for centuries to come.

Working with Benedict Pollard of Mighty Fine Oaks, we have planted 76 oaks grown from acorns collected from some of the UK's most remarkable and historic trees. These future veterans preserve precious genetic diversity and will one day provide enduring habitat for wildlife. Alongside the oaks, we are planting a variety of other native tree species to increase structural and ecological diversity, ensuring the parklands remain resilient, biodiverse, and alive for generations of both people and wildlife to enjoy.



# Phase of the beasts

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Broughton Sanctuary's approach to rewilding is guided by the animals themselves. Each species we have introduced plays a unique role in restoring ecological balance, from shaping vegetation to creating habitats for other wildlife.

In this phase of our journey:

- **Iron Age Pigs: 3**
- **Riggitt Galloway Cattle: 57**
- **Dales Ponies: 3**
- **Beavers: 2 + 1**

These animals are co-creators of the Sanctuary — each shaping the landscape in its own way, driving the ongoing recovery of habitats and biodiversity. Together, they set the stage for a dynamic, self-regulating ecosystem — a living experiment in nature's ability to restore itself.



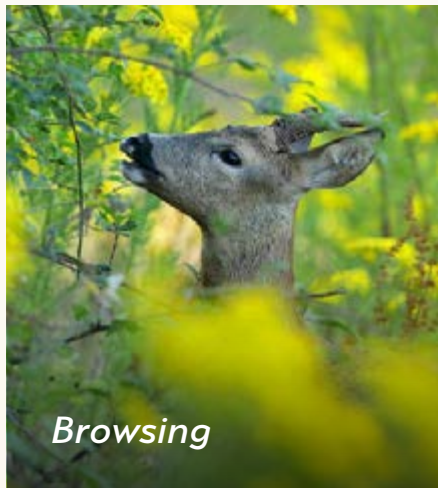
## The architects of change: beavers and large herbivores

Together, these species shape the land through a variety of natural behaviours – grazing, browsing, rubbing, rootling, dunging, trampling, and, in the case of beavers, engineering watercourses.

Their combined activity creates a constantly shifting mosaic of habitats: bare patches, tussocky grass, young scrub, and open glades. This living complexity allows plants, insects, birds, and mammals to find niches across the landscape. Rather than managing the land for uniformity, we allow these animals to act as architects of structure and ecological diversity, driving natural processes that keep the Sanctuary vibrant and resilient.



*Grazing*



*Browsing*



*Rubbing*



*Rootling*



*Dunging*



*Trampling*

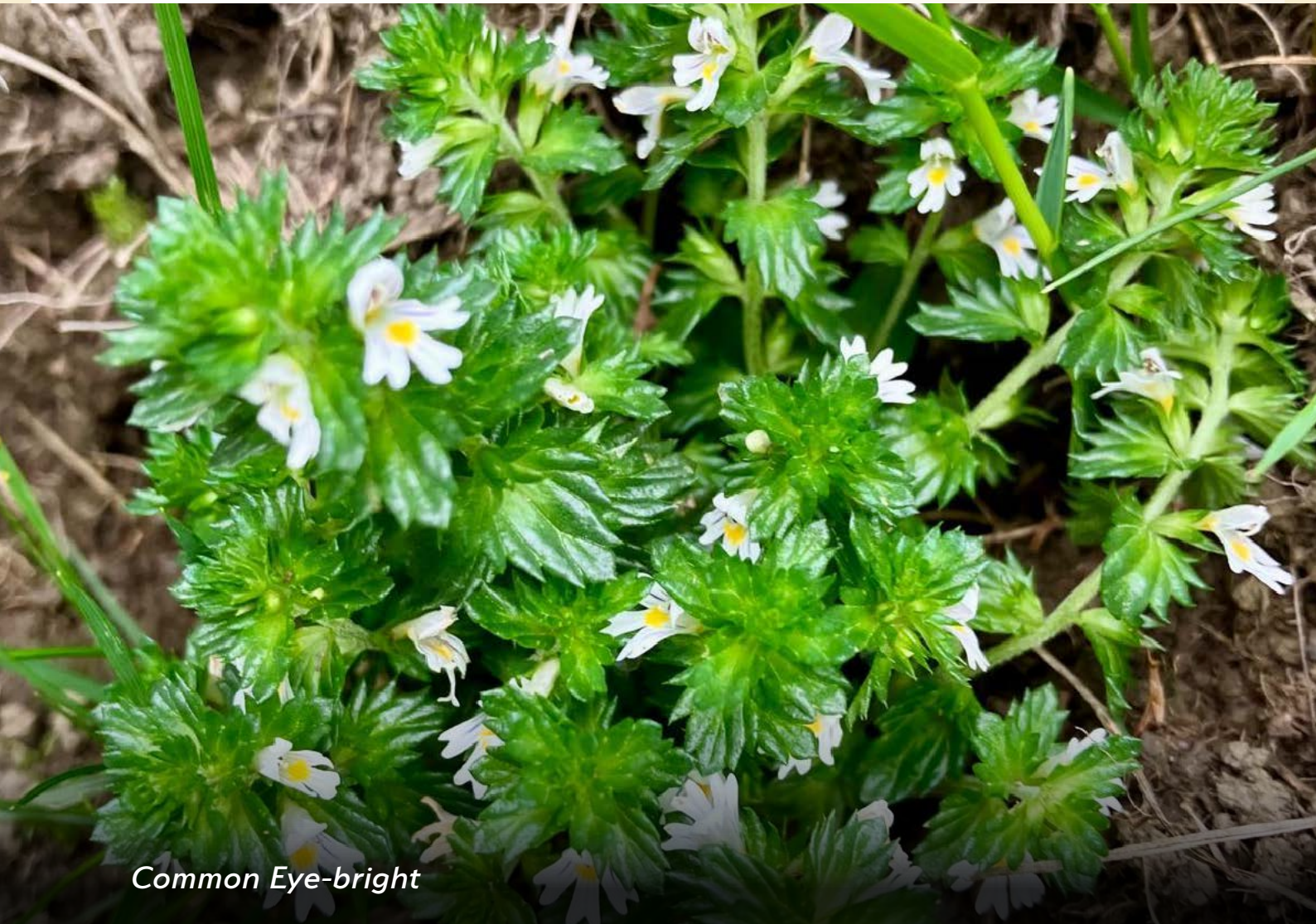
## The Iron Age Pigs: Nature's Engineers

In August 2024, three Iron Age pigs — a rare cross between Tamworth and European Wild Boar — arrived at Broughton. With their powerful snouts and quiet intelligence, they are natural engineers of change.

As they root and dig through the soil, they break up compacted ground, create bare patches for wildflowers, and awaken dormant seeds. Their work invites diversity back into the earth, encouraging insects, plants, and birds to flourish once more.



Already, their disturbance has brought a quiet transformation. We are now seeing Common Eyebright, Sneezewort, Creeping Cinquefoil, Bird's-foot Trefoil, and Mouse-ear Hawkweed, along with young trees beginning to emerge – cherry suckers spreading where new light allows, and birch, oak, and ash saplings appearing in their wake.



*Common Eye-bright*



*Creeping Cinquefoil*



*Sneezewort*



*Mouse-ear  
Hawkweed*

In some of these freshly exposed areas, pioneering thistles have taken hold — their deep roots loosening the soil and drawing up minerals from below, their purple blooms offering vital nectar to bees and butterflies late into the season. These thistle patches have, in turn, drawn great numbers of Goldfinches back to the land, feeding on the abundant seed heads and bringing both life and natural balance to the evolving landscape.



Their presence is as symbolic as it is practical. Reintroducing Iron Age pigs is more than an ecological intervention — it is an act of remembrance. These ancient creatures stir something dormant within us: a wilder rhythm, a deeper knowing that pre-dates language.

## Riggitt Galloway Cattle: shaping the landscape

Alongside the pigs, roam Riggitt Galloway cattle – an ancient, resilient breed shaping a dynamic landscape. They live outdoors year-round, moving with the rhythm of the land, and thrive without chemicals, routine medications, or intensive feeding systems like silage, which can harm wildlife.



By grazing a wide variety of plants and lightly browsing young trees and shrubs, they prevent any single species from dominating and encourage diverse woodland regrowth.

Their hooves gently disturb the soil, creating space for new growth, while their nutrient-rich dung nourishes insects and microbes, sustaining the wider food web.



Together with local farmer Neil Heseltine of Hill Top Farm, Malham, we are building a model of regenerative farming that honours tradition while restoring ecological health. The results are clear: wading birds such as Curlew and Lapwing are successfully breeding once again among the longer grasses, while Oystercatcher and Snipe now thrive in the renewed mosaic of wetlands and meadows.



*Curlew at Smallhouse*



*Juvenile Curlew Summer 2025*

## Grasslands: Bringing Colour Back

Broughton's grassland restoration programme aims to transform former agricultural fields into vibrant wildflower meadows, alive with colour and sound. Grazing by Riggitt Galloway cattle plays a key role in this process. As the cattle move through the open meadows between young woodlands, they create a varied sward that supports both plant diversity and wildlife habitats.



With the cessation of fertilisers and pesticides, soils are gradually regaining structure and vitality. Alongside naturally emerging flowers, a native wildflower mix has been sown across 72 ha to accelerate the recovery of diverse plant communities. Over time, as soil fertility declines following decades of intensive agriculture, carpets of native flowers are beginning to reappear in lighter, less nutrient-rich areas. Harebell, Betony, Devils-bit Scabious, Lady's Bedstraw, Zigzag Clover, Black Knapweed, Oxeye Daisy and Bird's-foot Trefoil are returning, bringing colour, structure and nectar back to the land.



*Pasture House valley 2020*



*Pasture House valley 2025*

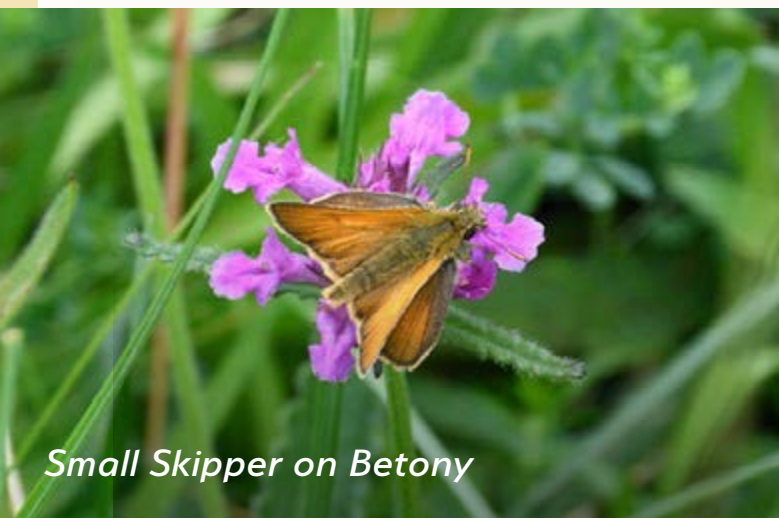
Bees, butterflies, and grasshoppers hum across the meadows, while Skylarks and Meadow Pipits rise and fall through the air. These restored grasslands are not only stunning, they also serve as vital carbon stores, natural sponges for rainwater, and crucial feeding grounds for wildlife.



*Lady's Bedstraw*



*Harebell*



*Small Skipper on Betony*



*Zigzag Clover*



*Devils-bit Scabious*

## Roe Deer: grazers of the woodland

At Broughton Sanctuary, a small population of around 15 Roe Deer quietly contributes to the ongoing recovery of the land.

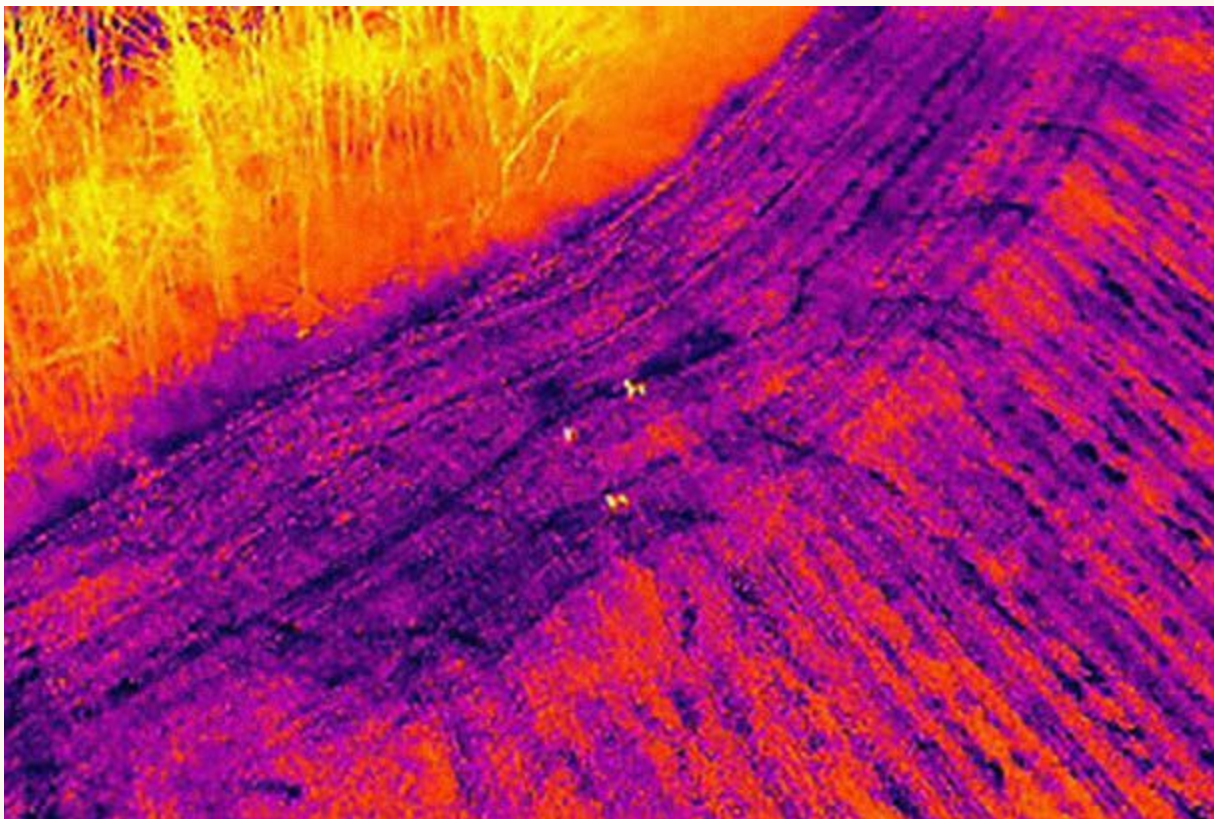
Their selective browsing helps maintain a varied understorey, allowing young trees and shrubs to grow in some areas while opening spaces in others, creating habitats for insects, birds, and small mammals.



In this way, the deer act as subtle sculptors of the woodland, shaping structure and promoting biodiversity. Without natural predators to keep numbers in check, however, careful monitoring and adaptive management are essential to ensure that their grazing remains beneficial rather than excessive.

Thoughtful stewardship allows the Roe Deer to play their ecological role while protecting the wider health and resilience of the Sanctuary's habitats.

*Thermal image of Roe Deer*



## Dales Ponies: browsers and landscape shapers

Broughton Sanctuary is now home to three Dales ponies, whose selective grazing and browsing create structural diversity in grasslands and young woodlands, supporting plant diversity and habitats for insects and ground-nesting birds.

We aim to breed this small group into a self-sustaining herd, ready to roam freely once the landscape has developed the resilience and scale to support them. In doing so, they will help shape mosaic habitats and reconnect the land with the rhythms of wild herbivores.

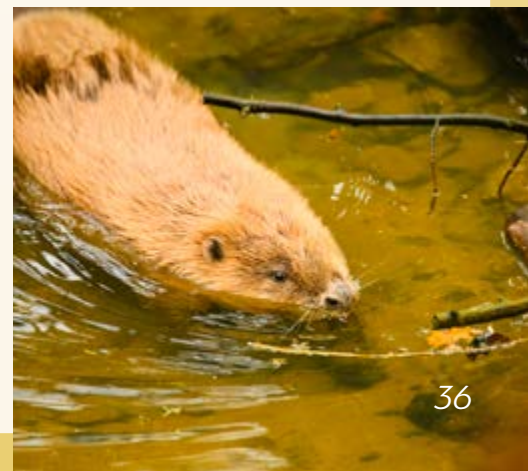


## Beavers: engineers of abundance

One of the most striking signs of ecological recovery is the arrival of two Eurasian Beavers, introduced to a woodland enclosure with a stream running through it in March 2025.



*Beaver with kit*



Within months, the pair had transformed their surroundings — building four dams, raising water levels well upstream, and creating a network of ponds and marshy edges that teem with life.



*Denbers stream before, January 2025*



*Beaver dam in Denbers stream, August 2025*

Two lodges have been constructed at the upstream end of the enclosure, with two kits born in late June using one of the lodges. Sadly, one kit died in August 2025, probably due to drowning following a flash flood event. The surviving young beaver is thriving.



*Beaver lodge September 2025*



*Beaver kit July 2025*

Trailcam footage captures the beavers felling Sycamore, Wych Elm, Grey Poplar, Silver Birch, Alder, and Goat Willow – using branches, mud, and stones to build dams and lodges that are already transforming habitats for other species.



Badgers, Otters, Polecats, and Stoats are all recorded around the enclosure, while dragonflies, pond skaters, and froglets are now thriving in areas that were previously lifeless.



*Badger*



*Stoat*



*Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly*



*Otter*

## Restoring Water: wetlands and streams

To restore the land is also to restore water — the source from which all life flows. Across the valley, a network of ponds, streams, and wetlands is being revived, allowing water to move naturally through the landscape once more.



*Test scrape at Inghey, Small House*

For centuries, these lands were drained to make way for pasture; now, through careful rewetting, they are being allowed to breathe again.



*Pond creation at Higher Scarcliffe, January 2025*



*Deculverting at Skinner Ground, January 2022*

## Slow the flow

At Broughton, we sit within the Aire Valley catchment, upstream of towns and cities like Leeds that face significant flood risk. Our tree planting forms part of a wider natural flood management strategy, supported by deculverting, pond creation, leaky dams, and ground aeration – all helping to slow the flow, retain more water, and reduce downstream peak flooding.



*Soil aeration funded by the Environment Agency*



*Leaky dams funded by the Environment Agency*

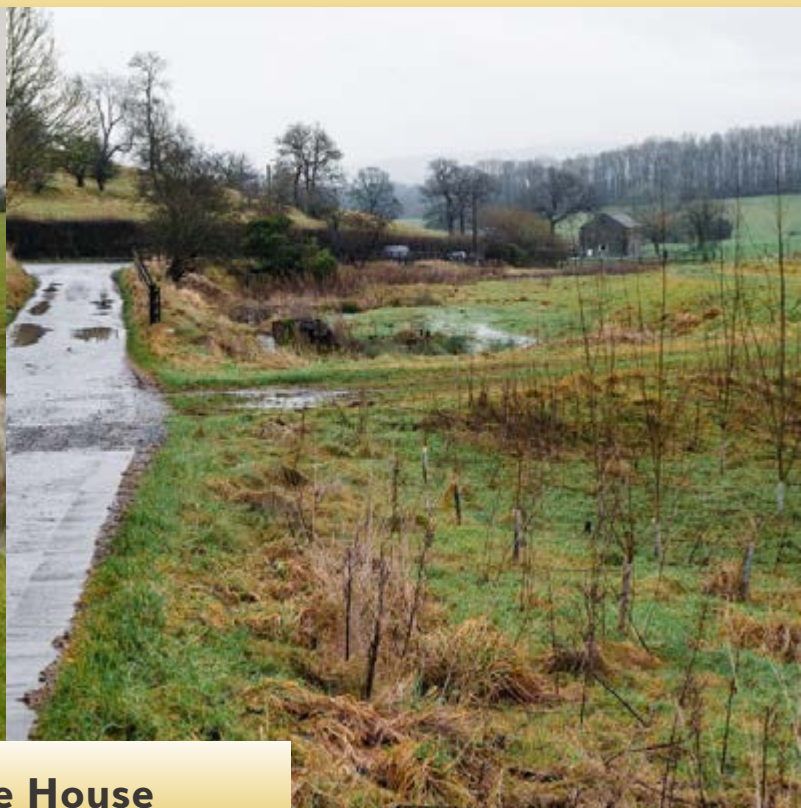
# Natural flood management

Comparison photos taken at the same time of year, under similar rainfall conditions, clearly show reduced surface run-off on slopes and fewer flooded areas.

**December 2020**



**December 2023**



**Pasture House**

As the water returns, we also welcome back a tapestry of wet-loving wildflowers and plants long absent from this landscape, in particular Sneezewort and Round-leaved Crowfoot are now thriving where once the ground was dry.



*Wetland developing in deculverting area*



*Sneezewort*



*Round-leaved  
Crowfoot*

Along damp margins, Spring Sedge and Star Sedge shimmer in the light.

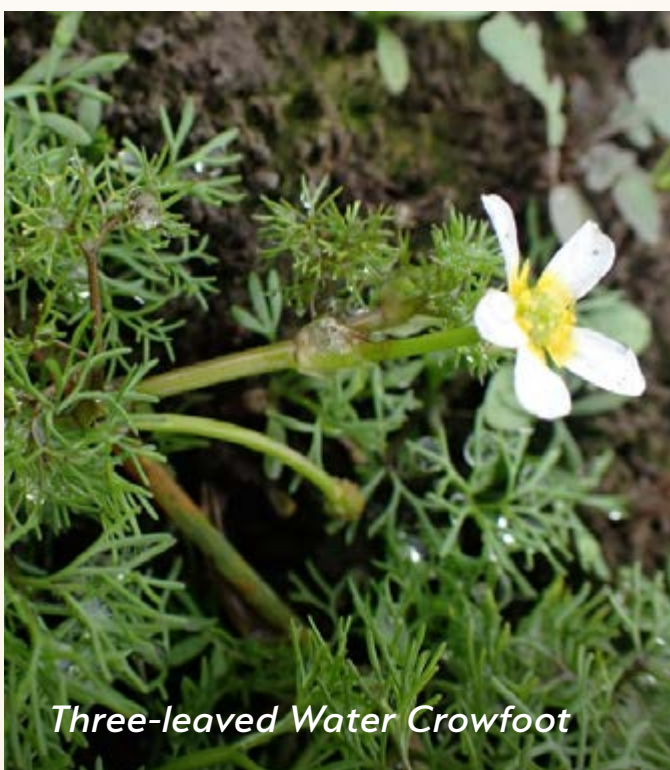


*Spring Sedge*



*Star Sedge*

While rare species such as Three-leaved Water Crowfoot and Wood Club-rush signal the quiet recovery of ecological memory.



*Three-leaved Water Crowfoot*



*Wood Club-rush*

These restored wetlands filter pollutants, slow floodwaters, and provide vital refuge for amphibians, insects, and birds.

Their reawakening has already brought back frogs, dragonflies, damselflies, Snipe, and Heron. The returning water carries a sense of the life that once thrived here. Rewetting the land and restoring the natural flow of water is not only an act of ecological healing, but also a reminder of the land's deep, enduring rhythms.

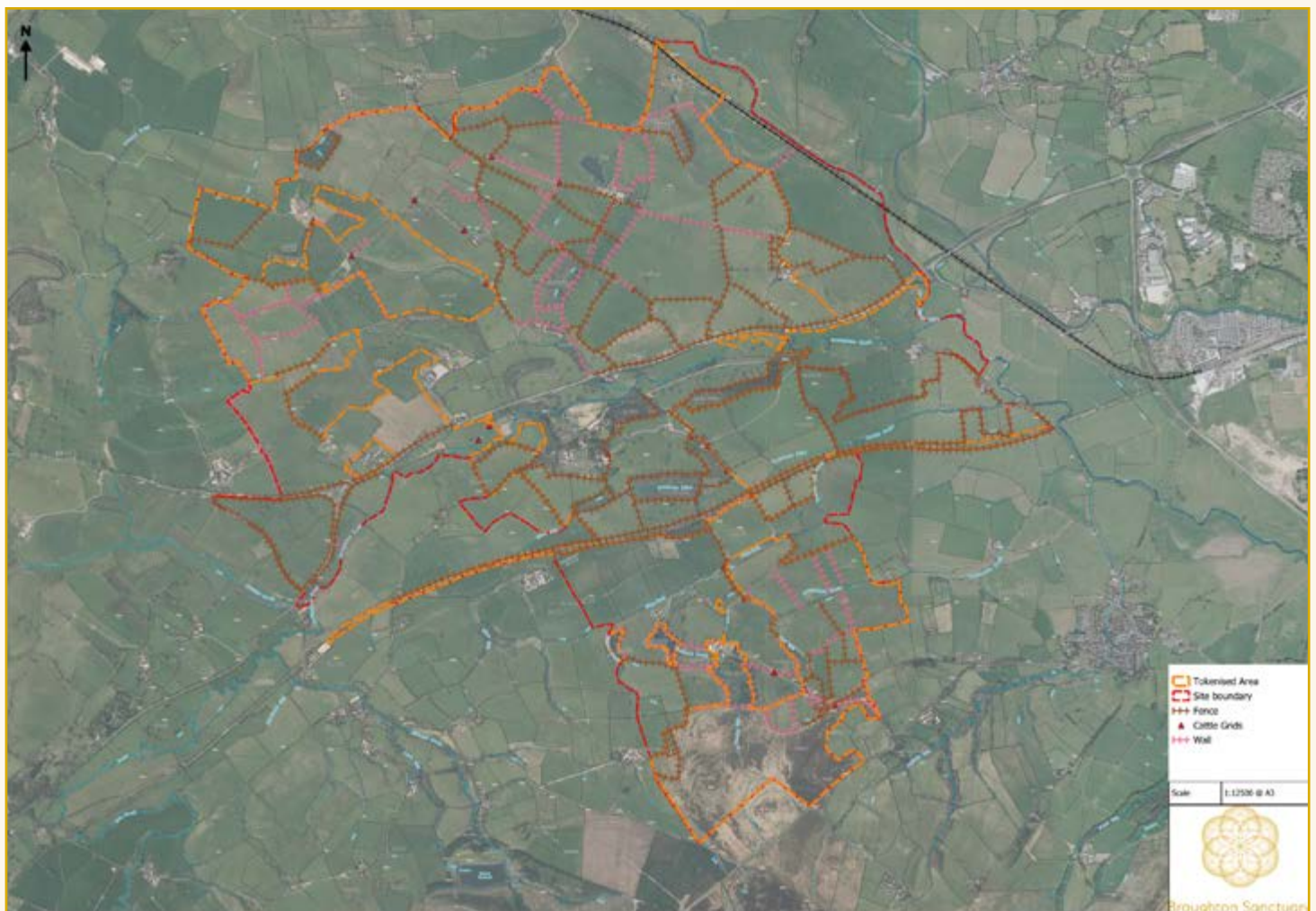


*Snipe at Pasture House 2025*

## Removing fences: reconnecting the landscape

At Broughton Sanctuary, removing unnecessary fencing restores the natural flow of the landscape. Opening up previously compartmentalised fields and woodlands allows animals to move freely, following natural grazing, browsing, and migratory patterns.

Fewer barriers mean a freer, wilder landscape where nature can reclaim its rhythm. It also engenders a great sense of wildness for the visitor.



*17km of fencing removed between 2021 - 25*

# Part 2

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## Looking forward

- Floodplain restoration
- Moorland regeneration
- Existing forest wilding



# Floodplain Restoration: Reconnecting Water and Wildlife

Broughton Sanctuary is undertaking a targeted floodplain restoration plan to re-establish natural features that were lost when the river was straightened to accommodate the Settle-Carlisle Railway.



Within the floodplain, we aim to restore a mosaic of wetlands by breaking up a network of underground drains and selectively over-deepening areas to hold water for longer periods.



So far, we have completed a couple of test scrapes which have held water successfully — an encouraging start that demonstrates the potential for this approach.



These interventions will slow water flow, encourage sediment deposition, and create a mosaic of wet habitats — ideal for breeding wader birds such as Curlew, Lapwing, and Oystercatcher. By restoring the floodplain’s natural hydrology, we not only improve conditions for wildlife but also enhance the resilience of the landscape to seasonal flooding, supporting a more dynamic and biodiverse wetland ecosystem.



## Moorland regeneration: enhancing hydrology and vegetation

Broughton Sanctuary is regenerating 48 ha of moorland to make it wetter, wilder, and ecologically diverse. Building on lessons from EA-funded bunds in 2023/24 we are rewetting parts of the moor by creating a series of small pools and using the spoil to block old drainage channels.



*The Moor*



*Moorland bund*

Light touch gully planting of Alder, Aspen and willow species will add structural diversity and support a greater variety of invertebrates and breeding birds. Restoration will continue alongside the remaining 40 sheep under a tenant's AHA agreement, with fencing adjusted and hydrological and vegetation changes monitored. Once conditions allow, wild herbivores will be introduced to maintain a varied sward and mosaic habitats.

This phased, adaptive approach is designed to transform the moorland into a complex, resilient ecosystem – wetter, wilder, and rich in biodiversity.

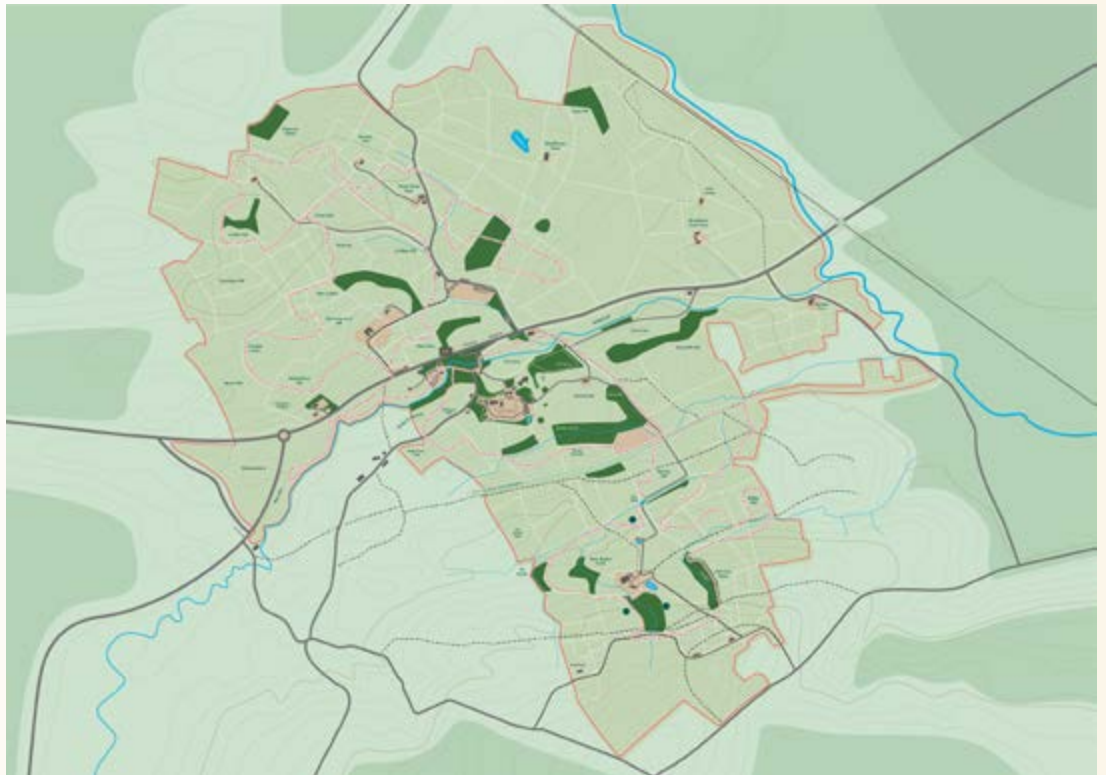


*Photo showing impact of grazing (left) and no grazing (right)*

## Existing forest wilding

In 2026, we will start to focus on improving our existing woodlands by thinning to create more light and space. We will also start removing non-native conifers and invasive species such as Rhododendron and Laurel, encouraging the natural regeneration of native trees and ground flora.

*Existing woodland shown in dark green*



*Yellison plantation*

# Part 3

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## The human role in nature recovery

- Humans as co-creators
- Care in action: monitoring and stewardship
- Community engagement: bringing people into the heart of nature's recovery



## Humans as co-creators

Broughton Sanctuary's nature recovery journey is still unfolding — a living, evolving story. It's a story of how humans, often seen as destroyers of nature, can also be healers and keystone species. Whereas as wolves shape river corridors and beavers create amazing wetland mosaics instinctively, we have the power to restore balance through conscious regenerative action.

We bring tools, knowledge, creativity, and community — and with them, the ability to plant forests, clean rivers, and nurture life. The transformation taking place here shows that when care replaces control, and reverence replaces extraction, landscapes can recover — and so can we.

In tending the land, we tend the wild within ourselves.



## Care in action: monitoring & stewardship

All of these efforts – the planting, the grazing, the rewetting – are guided by ongoing observation and care. Monitoring is central to how we learn from the land and adapt as it heals.

Across the Sanctuary, wildlife surveys, water tests, and soil samples help us understand what's working and where to focus next.



*Graeme Lyons invertebrate survey, 2025*

Trail cameras capture elusive mammals like Otter, Fox and Polecat; drones and satellite imagery reveal how habitats are changing; community volunteers contribute sightings and data that enrich our collective knowledge.



*Kingfisher*



*Heron*



*Brown Hare*



*Short-eared Owl*



*Fox*



*Little Egret*

*Stills from our multiple trail cams situated across the Sanctuary*

Already, the signs of success are abundant with an increase in birds, pollinators, and small mammals. Each season brings new discoveries — a froglet in a newly formed pond, a dragonfly emerging from the reeds, a juvenile Curlew taking flight.

These are not just ecological victories; they are moments of quiet joy, reminders of what becomes possible when we work in partnership with nature rather than against it.



*Elephant Hawk-moth*

## Monitoring examples

- UKHab Surveying *River Six*
- Soil Sampling *River Six*
- Water Quality Testing *River Six*
- Wildlife Monitoring *Team of volunteers led by David Cockburn*
- Breeding Bird Surveying *Cathy Shaw*
- Veteran Trees Surveying *Tim Quantrill*
- Dung Beetle Surveying *Tim Quantrill*
- Bat surveying *Megan Richmond*
- Trail Camera Monitoring *Adrian Lee*
- River Fly Surveying *Joe Morgan*
- Dragonfly Surveying *Alexandra Smith*
- Moth Trapping *Prof Alastair Driver*
- Invertebrate Survey *Graeme Lyons*
- Dead Wood Beetle Surveying *Benedict Pollard*
- Deer Monitoring *Bernard Clement*
- Barn Owl, Tawny Owl and Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring and Ringing *Stephen Downing and Joel Batchelor*

## Community engagement: bringing people into the heart of nature's recovery

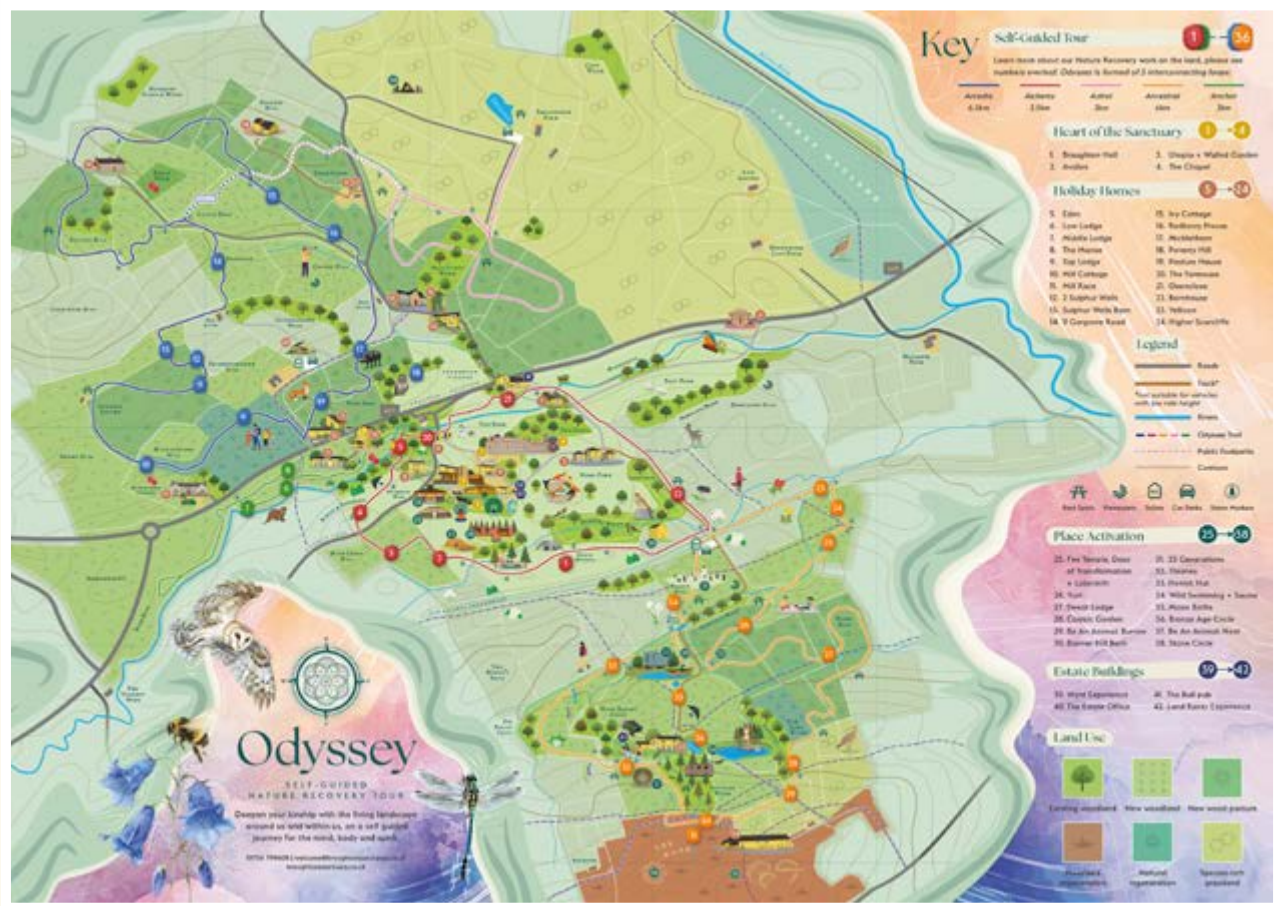
Community engagement lies at the heart of Broughton Sanctuary's vision. Our community programmes are designed to nurture a subtle but powerful shift — reawakening our relationship with the living world. Each experience reminds us of something almost forgotten: that we are a part of nature, not apart from it. Broughton Sanctuary shows what is possible when we work with nature, not against it. It reminds us that humans are a keystone species, capable of restoring balance and helping all life thrive. Here, you can see that in action — trees planted, wetlands restored, and people reconnecting with the land, with each other, and with themselves.

When we experience ourselves once more within the story of the Earth, we rediscover our greatest gift: the power to make a difference — for the planet and for our own wellbeing. It shows us what is possible when we remember who we are, and what we can do for the world.

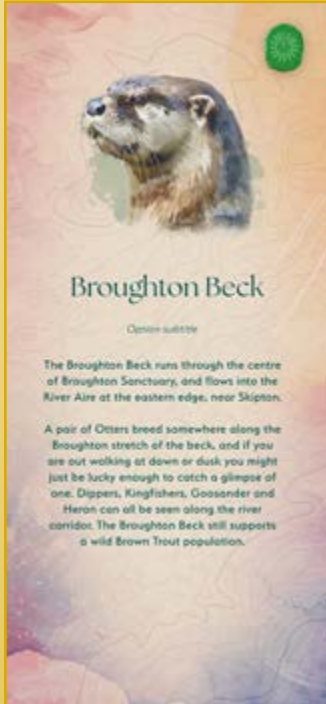
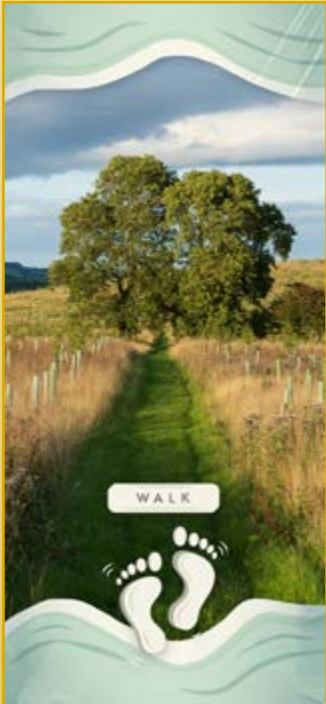
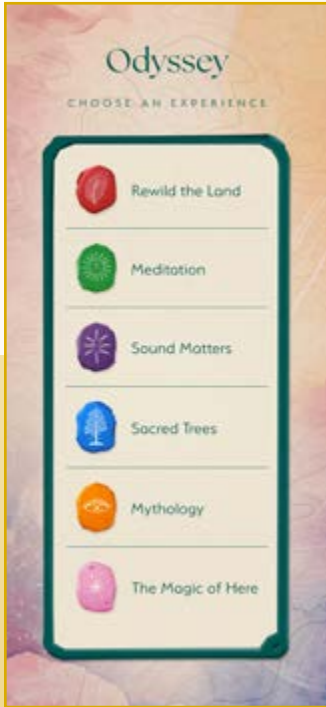
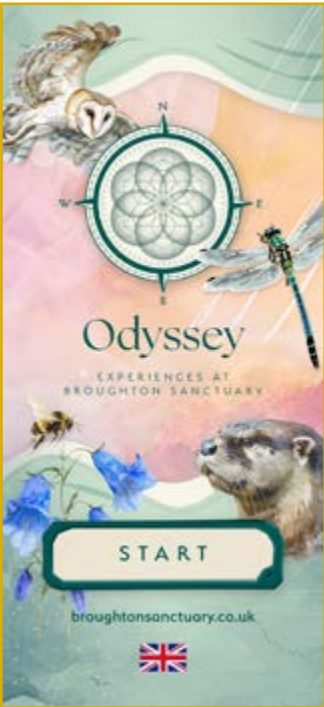


# Odyssey

A 30 km permissive route – the Odyssey Trail – invites visitors to explore the evolving landscape, connecting woodlands, meadows, and wetlands through a journey of restoration and reflection.



To deepen this experience, we have launched the Odyssey Experiences App in collaboration with Wildermage Games, featuring the first self-guided Nature Recovery Tour. Through the app, visitors can access interpretation points along the trail and discover the stories of restoration in progress – seeing, hearing, and feeling the land’s transformation as they walk.



## Programme of events

Alongside this, our nature recovery journey is shared widely through a growing calendar of public engagement. Our year-round programme of free events, guided walks, and volunteer days encourages people of all ages to experience the land's transformation first-hand. In 2025 alone, over 7,000 people took part in these activities – from forest therapy and volunteering days to community events and nature recovery tours.



## Social Prescribing

We also work closely with organisations involved in social prescribing programmes, such as Keighley Creative and Get Out More, offering experiences that support wellbeing and provide opportunities for disadvantaged groups to connect with nature.

## Free events

Event Type	Total 2024	Total 2025	Estimated 2026
Nature Recovery Tours	352	481	600
School Visits - Wild Explorers	1500	1500	1500
Forest Therapy	174	450	600
Odyssey - Self Guided	4200	4200	6250
Community Events	305	400	600
Volunteering	240	300	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>6771</b>	<b>7331</b>	<b>9950</b>

Through these initiatives, humans act as both participants and amplifiers of ecological recovery, helping the Sanctuary thrive while reconnecting people with the natural world.



## Epilogue — The Alchemy of the Land

Nature recovery at Broughton Sanctuary is not about turning back time, but moving forward — with wisdom, humility, and care. It is about learning to live once more in relationship with the land: to listen, to act when needed, and then to let nature lead.

Across this evolving landscape, transformation is visible everywhere — trees rooting in once-barren fields, water reclaiming its old paths, wildlife returning home. Yet the deepest change may be within us. In rewilding the land, we have begun to rewild ourselves.

Each tree planted, pond rewetted, and barrier removed is both a gift to the future and a reminder of our shared responsibility — to act as good ancestors, shaping a world we may never fully see.



This work will never be finished. It is a living conversation between people and place — renewed with every seed, every bird, every act of care. In giving ourselves back to the land, we find something far greater in return — belonging, connection, and hope.

Broughton Sanctuary shows that when humans act not as owners, but as participants in the web of life, we do more than restore nature — we help restore harmony between people and planet. And somewhere in that balance, quietly and almost imperceptibly, the alchemy happens: the land heals, the wild returns, and we find ourselves once more within the story of life.



## Our Partners and Supporters

This report has been made possible through the dedication, expertise, and generosity of many individuals and organisations who have supported Broughton Sanctuary's nature recovery journey.

White Rose Forest ◦ Environment Agency ◦ Natural England ◦  
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust ◦ Forest Research ◦ Forestry Commission ◦  
Derek Gow ◦ UK Beaver Trust ◦ Scurrah Associates ◦ Graham Bradley  
◦ Colin Shawyer ◦ Get Out More ◦ Keighley Creative ◦ Wild Explorers ◦  
Mighty Fine Oaks ◦ Jericca Cleland ◦ Richard Preston Garden Design

We extend our thanks to the many ecologists, volunteers, and citizen scientists whose dedication and data underpin this report.

## Broughton Sanctuary Nature Recovery Team

Thank you to the team on the ground at Broughton who have made this transformation possible:

Joel Bachelor *Woodland Management and Volunteer Guide*

Prof Alastair Driver *Specialist Advisor*

Neil Heseltine *Farming Contractor*

Kelly Hollick *Nature Recovery Lead*

Sarah Kinloch *Digital Content Creator*

Adrian Lee *Photography and Trail Camera Specialist*

Richard Lowther *Nature Recovery Gardener*

Mark Oulsen-Jenkins *Director of Film and Media*

Jessica Penrose *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Richard Preston *Landscape Designer*

River Six *Ecologist and Lead Tour Guide*

Roger Tempest *Custodian*

Paris Tempest *Custodian*

Gemma Tetley *Herbalist and Forager*

Richard Toothill *Landscape and Grounds Manager*

## Special thanks

We are grateful to White Rose Forest for funding the tree planting at Broughton Sanctuary, which has been a cornerstone of the site's nature recovery journey. They are also supporting the wider communication of this work through the creation of this report, ensuring that the story of ecological restoration – from trees and wildlife to community engagement – is shared widely and accurately.

Their continued backing, including investment in data collection, monitoring, communications and photography, strengthens our ability to demonstrate the full impact of this transformative project.

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Follow our dedicated rewilding channel on Youtube:  
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