



Sheffield
Stewardship
Partnership

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Sheffield Stewardship Partnership

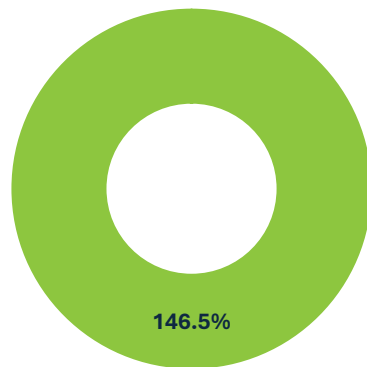
2025-26 Quarter 4 Report



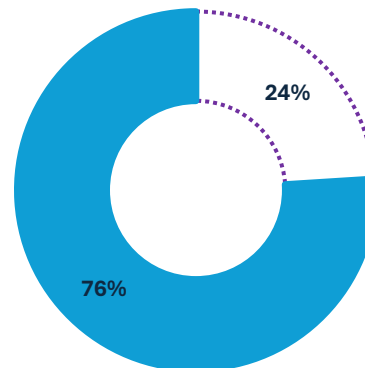
Snapshot of Quarter 4

The financial year has come to a close, marking the end of Quarter 4 and giving us a chance to reflect on the year's work. While we didn't meet all our goals, we're pleased with the progress we made and especially proud to have exceeded on two of our other KPIs. We're now looking ahead to the new financial year, ready to achieve and hopefully surpass our targets.

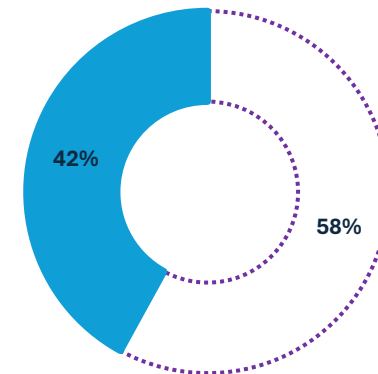
Training Hours



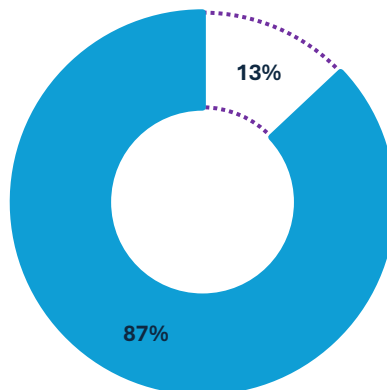
Invasive Species managed (m²)



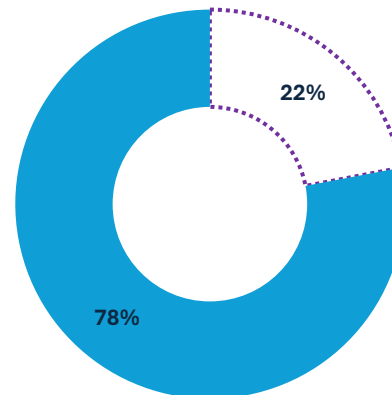
Volunteer Hours



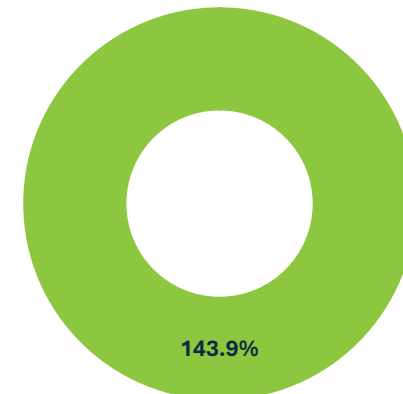
Litter and Debris (tonnes)



Riverbank Coppiced (m²)



Social Impact (£)

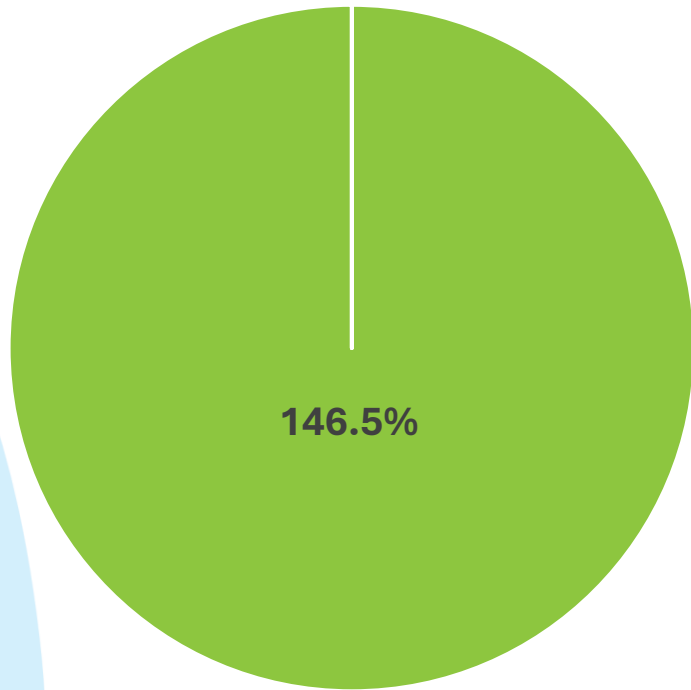


Training Hours

Training hours have been in full flow this quarter! We're pleased to share we've exceeded our goal for this financial year, reaching **3663** hours!

This quarter, the Stewardship Skills Schemes and ASF (Adult Skills Fund) SEND Skills Scheme have delivered a wide range of activities from felling non-native pines at Burbage Plantation (picture below), to visits to Breedon's Hope Valley Cement Works focusing on leaky dams and their importance, as well as hedge-laying and tree planting at Broomhill Flash and more.

We're proud of the training we provide and are keen to expand access to these opportunities further.



Year-end Total = 3663 hrs

Year-end goal = 2,500 hrs

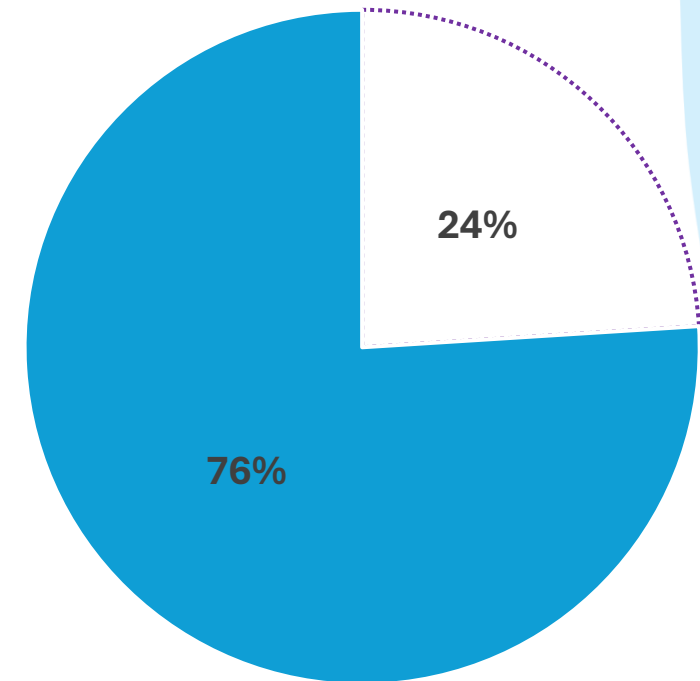


Invasive Species managed (m²)

By the end of the financial year, we reached **190,781m²** of invasive species managed. While winter isn't suitable for controlling most non-native plants due to dormancy, it provides a valuable opportunity to support native species and biodiversity.

In March, the stewardship skills scheme planted a new wildflower meadow at the RSC unit to benefit local wildlife, and at Bloomhill Flash, native trees were planted to strengthen hedgerows and improve habitat.

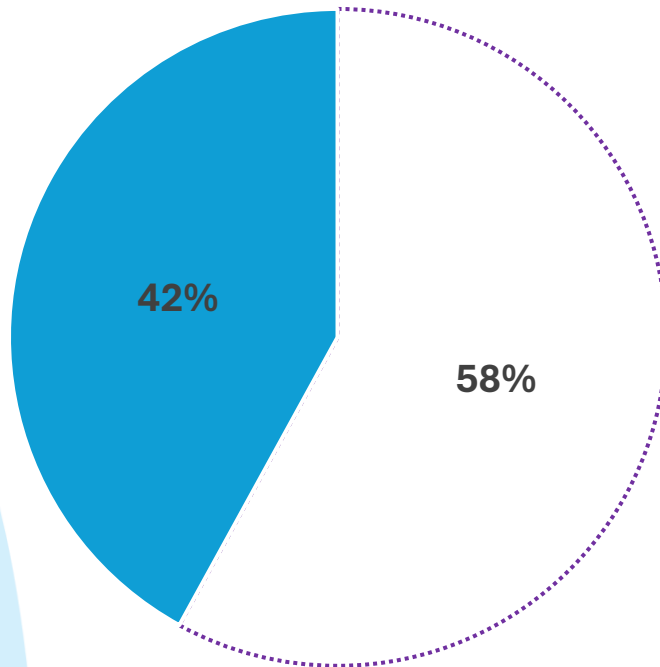
Although we report on invasive species removal, we place equal emphasis on actions that help native species thrive.



Year-end total = 190,781m²

Year-end goal = 250,000m²

Volunteer Hours



Year-end total = 1886 hrs

Year-end goal = 4,500 hrs

Volunteer hours were lower this quarter due to a very wet winter and high river levels, which caused some rescheduling. Despite this, engagement remained strong.

We welcomed five volunteers from Sheffield Universities Conservation Society on two occasions, along with support from Gripple, focusing on litter removal and habitat improvements at Sandersons Weir on the River Don.

After correcting previously unrecorded hours, our total reached **1,886** volunteer hours by the end of March. We're looking forward to building on this in the coming year.

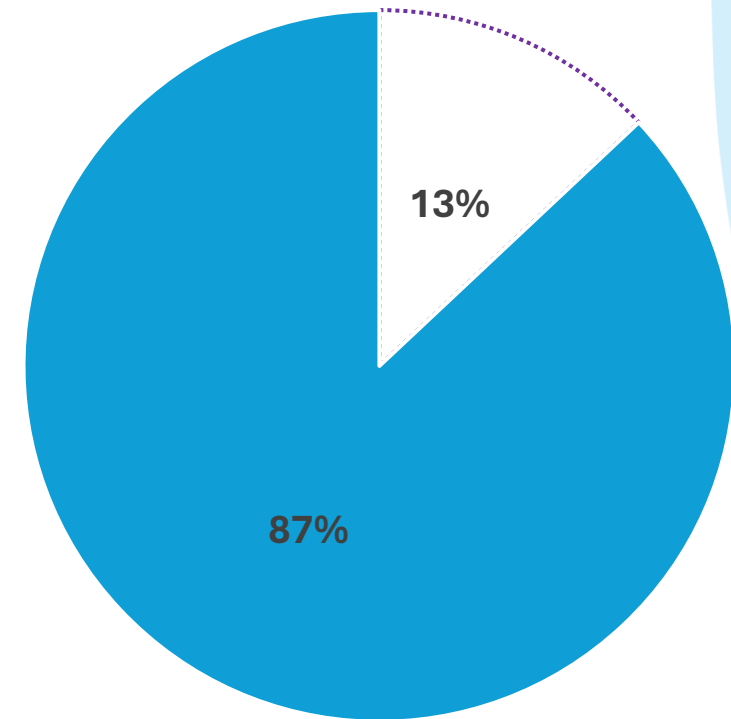
We're always keen to host more volunteer days, if you're interested in corporate volunteering, we'd love to hear from you.



Litter and Debris removed (tonnes)

This quarter, we were pleased to host two work experience students for a three-day placement, giving them the opportunity to learn more about the nature and impact of our work. During one of their placement days, they contributed to our annual litter and debris removal efforts by supporting a clean-up at the Bagley Dyke area. In a single visit, they collected an impressive 21 bags of rubbish.

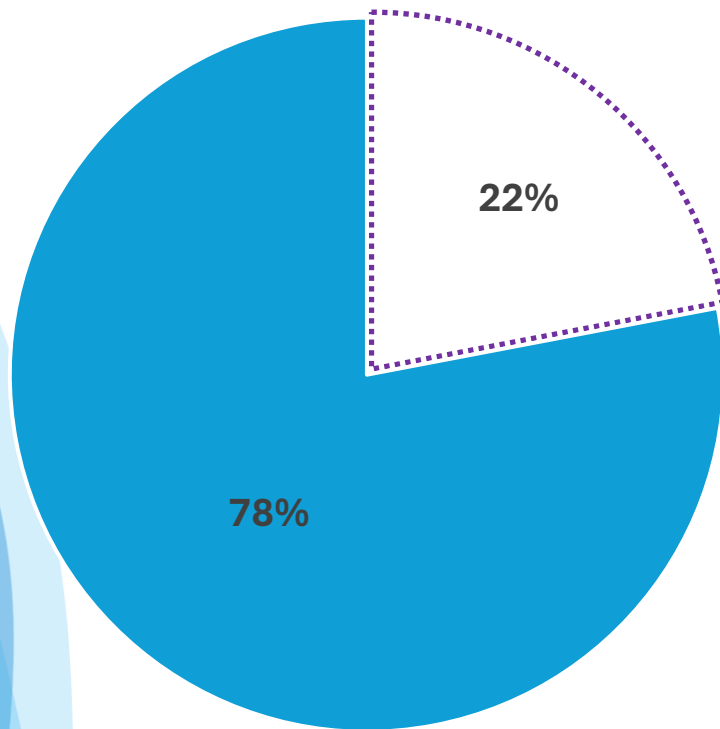
In addition to targeted clean-up activities, ongoing efforts during volunteer days and routine site operations have brought us close to achieving our annual target. Overall, this represents a significant accomplishment, with nearly **104.81** tonnes of litter and debris removed from our waterways and surrounding green spaces.



Year-end total = 104.81 tonnes

Year-end goal = 120 tonnes

Riverbank Coppicing (m²)



Year-end total = 2339m²

Year-end goal = 3000m²

Continuing some of the activities our work experience students took part in during their time with us, we visited Humberhead Peatlands, where they helped coppice trees around the lake and used the cuttings to create a dead hedge.

Dead hedges are an excellent way to enhance and create additional habitats for local wildlife. Coppicing efforts remained strong this quarter, totalling 252m² and bringing our overall total to **2339m²** between April 2025 and March 2026. As coppicing can only be carried out during part of the year, it can be difficult to predict the level of work that will be required in the autumn and winter months. Nevertheless, we are pleased with what we have been able to achieve.

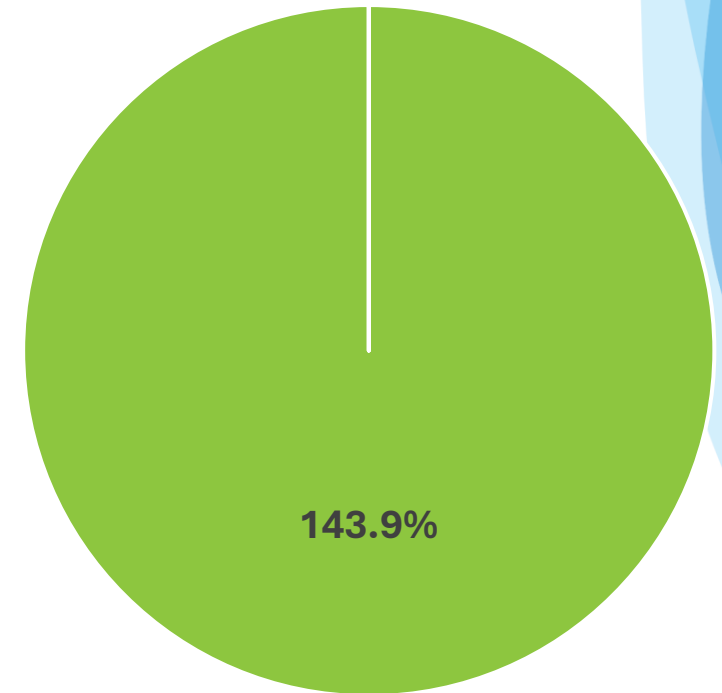


Social Impact (£)

Social Value remains a highly rewarding area to report on. While a lot of our activities are not captured within quarterly reporting, they collectively support our mission to improve river health, enhance flood resilience, and create pathways for young people into environmental careers.

This quarter's contributions included the seventh round of our core skills scheme, hosting work experience students, and supporting an intern from the University of Sheffield. A notable highlight was in February, when our apprentices installed a new gate for Friends of the Dearne, in collaboration with an apprentice from Denby Dale Council.

Overall, we are proud to have delivered a Social Impact of **£2,071,666.65** between April 2025 and March 2026, and we look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.



Running Total = £2,071,666.65

Year-end goal = £1,440,000



Meet Malcolm Johnston



Apprenticeships are a huge part of what we do in our aim to help develop opportunities for people to get into career paths that are otherwise not always commonly known about or easily available. It's exciting to be able to say welcome to Malcolm Johnston who, this quarter has joined us as our new WEW apprentice.

Malcolm is a member of the River Stewardship Company's Leeds team and was a graduate of the very first Stewardship Skill's Scheme in Leeds.

This quarter Malcom and the team of apprentices have been working alongside the RSC on wracking. Wracking is the term used to describe the debris that's left behind after there have been floods or high-water levels. Together with RSC the apprentices have been combing along the riverbanks in Sheffield to remove any organic and non-organic litter and debris left behind after the high-water levels that we've had over winter. Doing this helps with flood mitigation, habitat maintenance and environmental protection.

Ringinglow

This quarter, we're highlighting Ringinglow on Lady Cannings Plantation as our place case study. In March, Round 7 of the Stewardship Skills Scheme cleared silt traps that had built up and were no longer working effectively.

This work helps retain rainwater on higher ground during heavy rainfall, reducing flood risk in the Sheaf and Don Valley.

Silt traps are a key Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS), preventing debris from clogging downstream pipes, reducing soil erosion, and slowing and storing water to control its flow into watercourses. This was a great effort by participants, delivering real benefits.





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Other News!

There are several additional things that we're excited to be able to report on this quarter to finish of the financial year...

- We want to say a warm welcome and thank you to Jewel Blade, who have joined as our newest member of the Sheffield Stewardship Partnership! It's great to have a new business on board supporting the work that we do.



- Shortlisted for the SEYH environmental award 2026 - Social Enterprise Yorkshire and the Humber (SEYH) Finalist. We found out this month that we are a finalist for the SEYH Environmental Award! The SEYH awards celebrate the impact, innovation, and resilience of social enterprises, entrepreneurs, and leaders across the region. It's wonderful to be recognised for this!



- And finally, Riverlution and its partners, were shortlisted earlier this year for the highly prestigious Ashden Nature Based Climate Resilience Award, which will be presented at the National Gallery in London in June. We have now learned that we are a finalist! The credit for this goes to everyone involved. Your contributions made this possible, so a massive thank you!





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Announcement!

Over the last year Riverlution has started to deliver more and more training and practical work outside of Sheffield, our Humber partnership has now been running for a year based on the successful model we've established in Sheffield, but we have also started delivering training in Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley as well as doing small practical projects.

As we enter the new financial year, we have yet more training to deliver as well as an expansive programme of Invasive Species management work in partnership with River Stewardship Company along the length of the River Don. With these developments in mind, we will be adding new team members to the Sheffield Partnership team and expanding to become the **South Yorkshire Stewardship Partnership**.

All the work you have come to expect in Sheffield will still be completed over the course of the year and we look forward to involving you in goal setting for that shortly, but our expanded team will also be working further afield and moving us closer to a true landscape or catchment scale approach.

The Sheffield Stewardship Skills Scheme has been a key catalyst in establishing the wider South Yorkshire Partnership. Over the past quarter alone, 483 hours of training have been delivered beyond Sheffield, across South Yorkshire. We're excited to see how this partnership continues to develop and look forward to sharing further updates and details soon!





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Humber Stewardship Partnership

2025-26 Quarter 4 Report

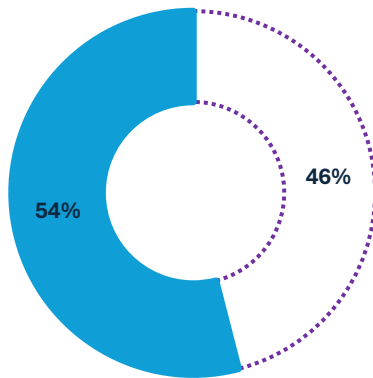




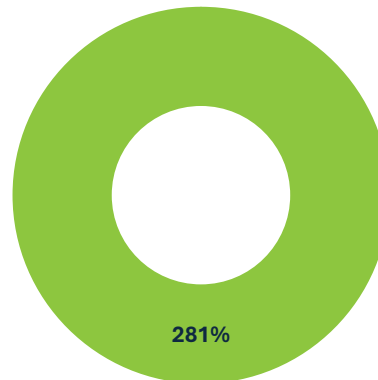
Snapshot of Quarter 4

The financial year has ended, bringing Quarter 4 and a chance to reflect on the year's work. The Humber Stewardship Partnership benefits from having a proven model in the Sheffield Stewardship Partnership that we can adapt to meet the Humber's specific needs. Although we didn't fully meet our goals, we're pleased with the progress made and look forward to the new financial year to achieve and exceed them.

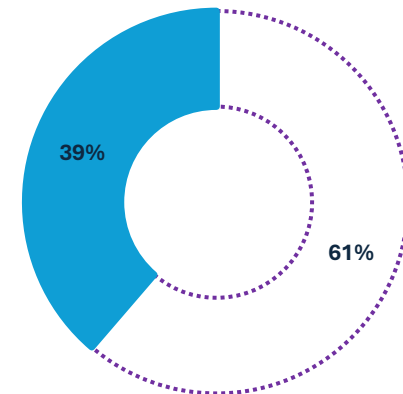
School Visits Delivered



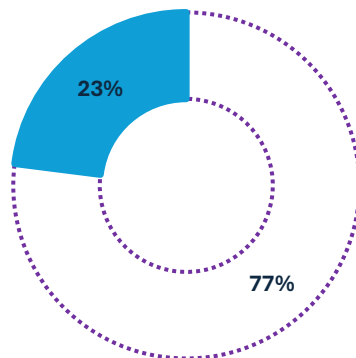
Waymarked Trail Maintained (km)



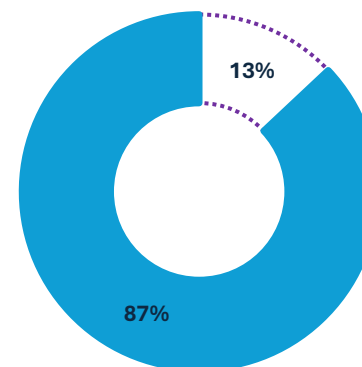
Litter & Debris (tonnes)



Volunteer Hours

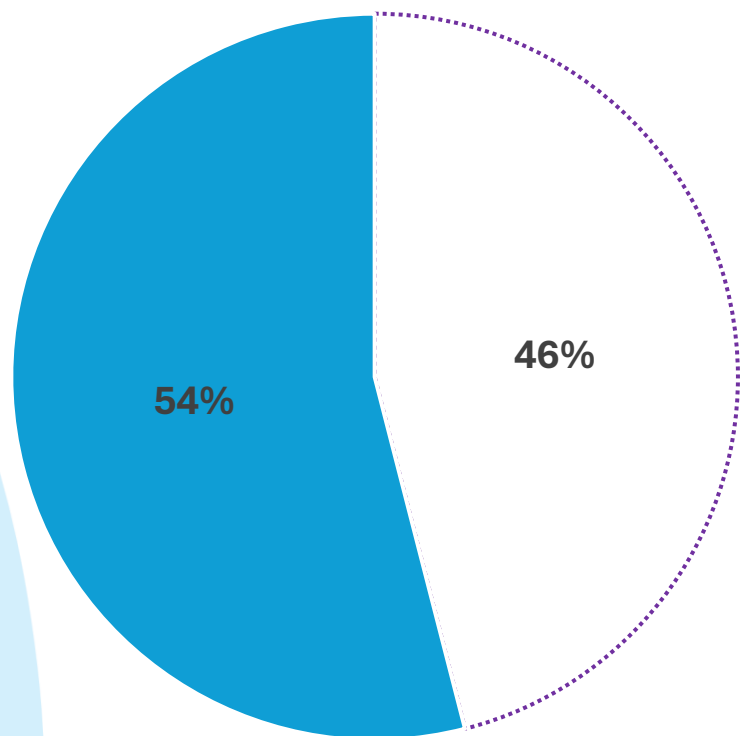


Social Impact (£)





School Visits Delivered



Year-end Total = 13 visits

Year-end goal = 24 visits

In January, Riverlution partnered with the Environment Agency and the Dynamic Drains project to visit Thorpepark Academy in Hull. Over several days, we worked with pupils to plant trees along Thorpe Park Road and install protective guards to support their growth.

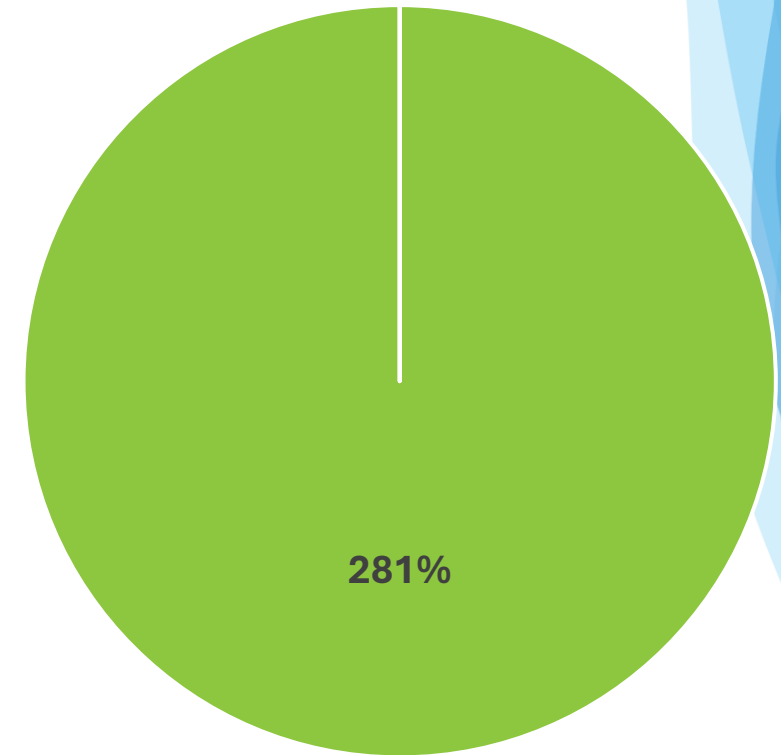
Though we didn't reach our target of visiting 24 schools during 2025–2026, we created meaningful impact in many other areas of our work. We are now exploring ways to expand our school visits and deliver more workshops that inspire children and young people to take stewardship of their local rivers and green spaces. We're confident that school engagement will not only meet but exceed our targets next year, having already scheduled in 5 full days of school visits for the first quarter of the new financial year.



Waymarked Trail Maintained (km)

This quarter saw a range of activities carried out along waymarked trails, including graffiti removal from signage, vegetation management along routes and at Oppy Woods for the Environment Agency, and installing new fishing signs across Hull.

While routine, this work plays an important role in keeping walking routes attractive, safe, and accessible for local communities. We will continue this into the new financial year, refining our targets after significantly exceeding expectations, delivering nearly three times our original goal.



Running Total = 22.5

Year-end goal = 8

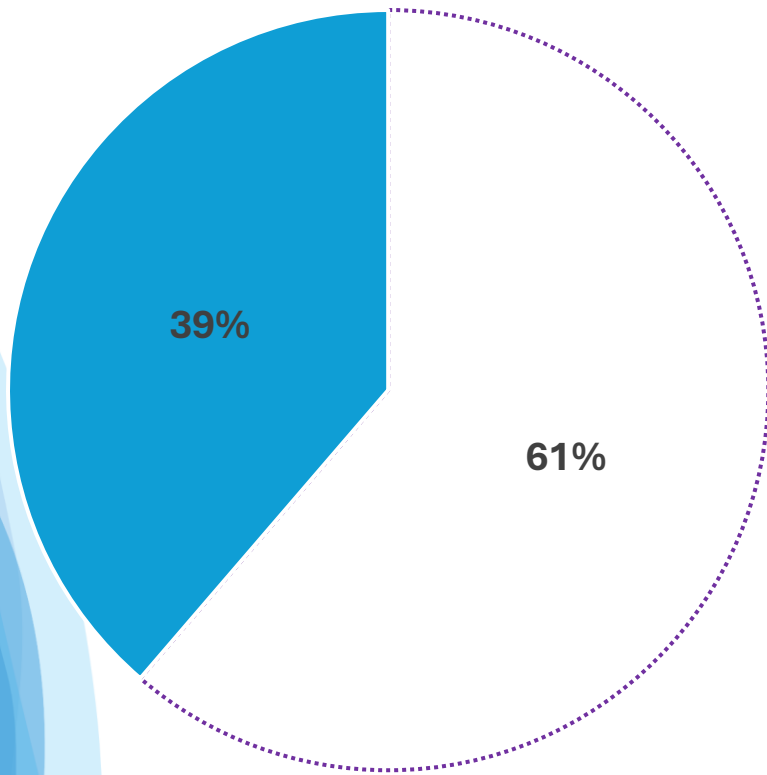


Litter and Debris Removed (tonnes)

Litter and debris removal has been lower this quarter, largely due to our efforts being distributed across a broader range of activities. In recent months, we have been working in partnership with the River Stewardship Company to clear 'wacking' in Sheffield, on the river Don, Aire and Calder. This term refers to both organic and non-organic debris deposited following periods of high water.

As part of this initiative, apprentices from the Sheffield and Humber partnership have been actively engaged in clearing riverbanks and riparian areas, helping to remove accumulated debris and improve the overall condition of these waterways and have a positive impact on the downstream environment including the Humber Estuary and its surrounding areas.

In actuality, we have gone above our goal for the year-end, however because the majority of this has been carried out outside of the geographical area of the Humber partnership, it unfortunately doesn't count towards the KPI's, but a huge amount has been done in the background.



Running Total = 7.7

Year-end goal = 20

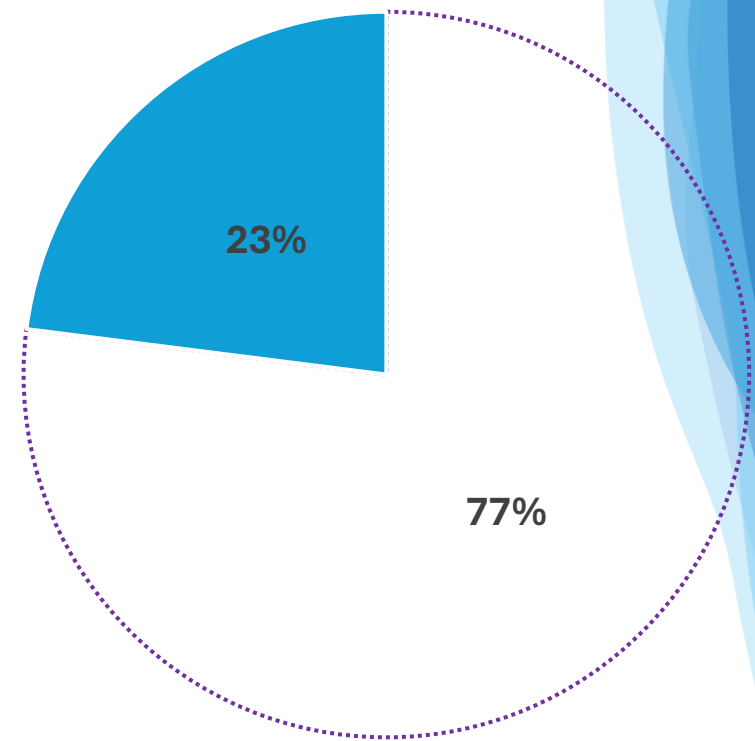




Volunteer Hours

Although only a small number of volunteer hours were recorded between January and March, their impact was the start of something significant. In February, members of the local fishing club helped strim around Oppy Woods, greatly improving the area's appearance and accessibility.

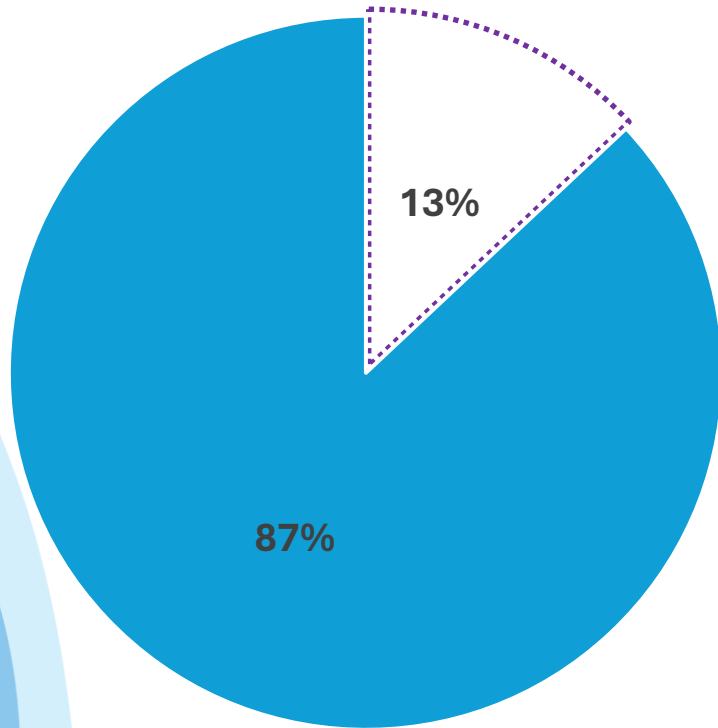
This initial work also enabled our apprentices to carry out further clearance, making the site suitable for the Environment Agency to conduct a ground-penetrating radar survey of the lake. It's a great example of how even a modest contribution can create a meaningful ripple effect.



Running Total = 71
Year-end goal = 300



Social Impact (£)



Running Total = £424,000

Year-end goal = £485,000

When it comes to Social Value, we need to look closer at how our impact is positive for people, though we are an environmental based company, one of our key focusses is on the people we engage with, the opportunities we give to people for training and upskilling for possible future careers.

It's a pleasure to see the impact that this makes, from the children we visit with at schools, to our incredible apprentices, like Adam in the Humber Partnership.

This means our total impact for April 2025 to March 2026 is **£424,000!** We're excited to see what we can achieve in the next year.





Meet Adam Holt



Adam is our Humber-based Level 2 Countryside Worker apprentice. Now approaching the end of his apprenticeship, he has become a key member of the team.

With only limited prior experience in countryside management, aside from some brief volunteering, Adam has shown exceptional willingness to learn, develop new skills, and take on responsibility across a wide range of activities. From the outset, he embraced opportunities to work with different internal teams, quickly proving himself adaptable and dependable in a variety of environments.

Most importantly, Adam has demonstrated that an apprenticeship is about more than gaining practical skills, it's about becoming part of a profession. Through his hard work, curiosity, and genuine commitment, he has grown from a newcomer into a valued team member and a strong example of what a countryside apprenticeship can achieve.

We very much look forward to having Adam onboard to progress further with Riverlution as he moves onto his Level 3 Water Environment Worker Apprenticeship.

Oppy Woods

This quarter our apprentices worked hard at Oppy Woods to lay a hedge during one of the practical tasks during one of their block weeks. As you will have seen in previous reports, Riverlution do a lot of work at Oppy woods throughout the year, from volunteer days, school visits, vegetation management and more. But this specific activity was to lay a hedge along the edge of Oppy woods car park.

Hedgelaying is a very traditional form of habitat creation. It consists of partially cutting and splitting the trunk of young trees and then laying them over each other to form a new hedge. The trees then continue to grow, filling out and forming a fuller hedge over time. Hedge laying is an excellent way to create additional habitats and protection for local wildlife, giving a variety of species homes during all seasons of the year.





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Other News!

There are several additional things that we're excited to be able to report on this quarter to finish off the financial year...

- Congratulations to Adam Holt! Adam has been shortlisted for Apprentice of the year at the Humber Renewables Award 2026. The Humber Renewables Awards are a well-established award aimed at recognising organisations large and small, along with the inspiring individuals that shape the industry. So, congratulations to Adam for being shortlisted for such a well-deserved award!
- Riverlution were Shortlisted for the SEYH environmental award 2026 - Social Enterprise Yorkshire and the Humber (SEYH) Finalist. We found out this month that we are a finalist for the SEYH Environmental Award! The SEYH awards celebrate the impact, innovation, and resilience of social enterprises, entrepreneurs, and leaders across the region. It's wonderful to be recognised for this!
- And finally, Riverlution and its partners, were shortlisted earlier this year for the highly prestigious Ashden Nature Based Climate Resilience Award, which will be presented at the National Gallery in London in June. We have now learned that we are a finalist!
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SHORTLIST





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