

South Shropshire Youth Forum

Youth Forum Rangers project 2024/25



What we said we'd deliver in 2024/25

We will recruit up to 20 young people (aged 11-18) within the south east of the Shropshire Hills national Landscape area. Delivery of 6 natural heritage based activities that could include:

- Development of Knowle Wood (home of the Clee Hill Young Rangers for the last 3 years) or section of wood in the Novers. Potential for bushcraft, tree planting, coppicing and green wood working.
- Potential to successfully work with Shropshire Council Rights of Way team to identify areas that need better access or improvements and do practical work.
- Continue supporting the woodland restoration project at Westhope College.
- Work with Shropshire Wildlife Trust to do some conservation work on Catherton Common.
- Exploration of the landscape through walking.

- Offer fun activities, such as team building games, bushcraft, night walks, wild camping.

What happened?

An additional activity day was added so in total we delivered 7 full activity days including:

In 2024, 3 days in the Novers woodland managed by Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust (TCHT). Activities included a planning day which included a tour of the woodland, and two days preparing for a wild camp. The wild camp was funded through the Generation Green programme, in partnership with the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. During October half term we arranged an apple day at Mahorall farm. In 2025 we ran another day at the Novers, planting and coppicing trees. Also in February half term we did a survival and navigation day in Craven Arms and were given a series of challenges eventually reaching Hopesay Hill. A night walk was planned and led by young people in Mortimer Forest.

We were asked to move out of Knowle Wood by the Wildlife Trust, who we were told were going to sell the woodland. Thankfully we managed to make alternative arrangements at the neighbouring Novers woodland.

27 young people, aged between 9-17 participated on the project. 9 young people represented the Muslim community, and a total of 11 females participated (40% of the total).

Feedback from participants was positive. We have collected some audio recordings of feedback. Young people are keen to add their suggestions for future activities. Recently we have had requests for a summer wild camp and night walks. There is also an area designated for young people in the Novers and young people are keen to develop this area. The Muslim youth group are also keen to continue to be involved; especially as many of the young people do not get opportunities to participate in outdoor based activities.

Proposing a way forward

Giving young people opportunities to get actively involved and out into their surroundings is a fundamental part of the Youth Forums work. We have proven that if young people are given opportunities and the right kind of activities that they will get involved and thrive.

This last 12 months we have been able to continue our partnership work with the Shropshire Hills National Landscape team and have been able to work together to deliver the Generation Green programme. This has allowed us to deliver more sessions for young people and add to the Youth Rangers project.

We have also continued to develop our partnership approach with Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust and this has allowed us to deliver activities in the Novers woodland, and develop an area for young people to develop. Working in partnership is key to any future programme of activities.

Additional funding will be sought to add to the Youth Forum Rangers experience, we already have linked several programmes of activity with this group which incorporate art, media and history.

Pictures Top L to R

Mahorall Farm visit

Coppicing in the Novers woodland

Whittling and making walking sticks

Hill navigation and survival skills – testing out the emergency shelter

Hill navigation



