

Annual Impact Report 2023

Cooper King Distillery & Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust



COOPER KING
DISTILLERY



**YORKSHIRE DALES
MILLENNIUM TRUST**

Registered Charity, No: 1061687 Company Limited by guarantee,
Registered in England, No. 3236813
www.ydmt.org



With the help of your generous donations in 2023 totalling

£6,053

you have supported the planting of

527 trees

across 5,278m² in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas, offsetting an estimated 88 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the next 50 years.

You've also helped to restore

1,937 m²

of wildflower meadows, increasing biodiversity in this vital habitat.

It is with thanks to donations from Cooper King Distillery totalling **£29,374.69** over the past five years that we have been able to achieve so much for our people, landscape and wildlife, including supporting the planting of a total of **2,705 trees**, restoring wildflower meadows and creating opportunities for disadvantaged people in the area.



Woodland Creation Update

With the support of Cooper King Distillery, trees and woodlands remain at the heart of YDMT and thread through many areas of our work. We've helped to plant 1.6 million broadleaf trees, creating native woodlands that provide diverse habitats and are vital for the people, landscape and wildlife within the Dales.

The climate emergency requires an unprecedented step-change to increase sequestration through better land management. Trees and woodlands can significantly contribute to increasing carbon storage as well as providing a multitude of other benefits including enhancing people's health and well-being, increasing biodiversity and improving habitat connectivity.

In 2022/23, our woodlands team managed to:

- Plant 38,717 new native broadleaf trees in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding areas, creating 22 hectares of habitat for people and wildlife to enjoy.
- Create 2,167 metres of hedgerow, increasing this vital habitat for our most vulnerable and precious wildlife.
- Recycle 20,700 redundant plastic tree shelters from 17 sites across the Dales and Nidderdale, removing plastic pollution from our woodlands and water courses.



Longridge Wood



Longridge Wood is one of the woodlands planted with the support of Cooper King Distillery. The woodland is set in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park between Cray and West Burton.

Longridge is Yorkshire's very own Hundred Acre Wood covering an area of approximately 100 acres (41 hectares). 39,600 native broadleaf trees were planted here, with species including Alder, Downy Birch, Rowan, Hazel, and Field Maple.

All the saplings have been planted with individual tree guards to protect them from harsh weather conditions and damage caused by rabbits, and the site has been fenced to prevent damage from livestock.



Our new Woodland Management Strategy

Just 9% of England's native woodlands are in good ecological condition, primarily due to inappropriate management, and one third of all woodland species are in decline.

With support from our partners, we plan to change all that. By helping young woodlands become richer in wildlife, we will do more to tackle the biodiversity crisis and develop ecosystems that are more resilient to climate change.



After 25 years of creating woodlands we are passionate about becoming a catalyst for better woodland management within the sector and trialling innovative techniques to measure and rapidly boost biodiversity. Funding for this work in smaller woodlands is largely absent but, with our help, it can ensure widespread nature recovery through active conservation management. In the next 3 years we aim to:

- Develop a simple to use Woodland Management Plan template for woodlands smaller than three hectares (where funding is the most scarce).
- Deliver 15 training and awareness events to inspire community groups and landowners into action.
- Provide expert advice and support to landowners and community groups to prepare Woodland Management Plans.
- Enhance 50 small woodlands for nature through practical conservation activities and the funding of vital capital works.
- Involve 600 volunteers in woodland management including Cooper King volunteers and vulnerable groups from urban areas such as Leeds & Bradford.



Miles More Meadows

Traditionally managed, wildflower-rich hay meadows are not only an iconic landscape feature of the Yorkshire Dales and Forest of Bowland but a high priority habitat in the UK. .

Sadly, some 98% of meadows have disappeared and the pollinators they support are facing an uncertain future. However, with your support, we are working together with landowners, farmers and communities to create and better manage our meadows and wildflower patches, providing crucial habitat for pollinators, addressing both the climate and biodiversity crises.

We really appreciate Cooper King Distillery expanding your support of our work by choosing to donate profits from the sales of your Gin and Vodka products. Your donation through the Aviva Save Our Wild Isles Fund helped us reach our target, with a total of £38,000 raised across 2 campaigns for our meadow restoration work. This will help with the delivery of our meadows and pollinator strategy between now and 2025:

- 60ha of meadows will be restored in the Dales and Forest of Bowland, increasing biodiversity over the next couple of years.
- 500 people will take part in activities that raise awareness of species-rich meadows at community level.
- 200 volunteers take part in plug planting sessions (this could include your staff).
- 40 farmers will receive meadow management training.
- 20 community wildlife patches created across the Dales and surrounding towns.
- 5 community meadows created on sites carefully chosen for their conservation significance and accessibility.
- 15 training courses on pollinator identification and meadow management skills for communities.



Since 2006 we have enabled the restoration of more than 850 hectares of wildflower meadows and supported communities across the region to enhance ecosystem health by planting their own wildflower patches and meadows.



A wildflower meadow is estimated to store up to 3 tonnes of carbon per hectare per year and can provide natural flood management with wet grasslands holding up to 10 times more water than intensively managed fields.

2023 Partnership Activities

It has been excellent to continue working with you and your team to complete even more practical work in the Dales. This year we were thrilled to have you join us to plant saplings at The Hawes Woodland near Settle as part of our 2022-23 planting season.



We also really enjoyed connecting the Cooper King team with our Rural Apprentices to restore peat bogs above Embsay. Together we planted sphagnum moss to increase the habitat and enable the wildlife to thrive.



Social Media and Press

Our partnership continues to attract attention in the local and National news, mainly down to the hard work and commitment from Cooper King to ensure awareness of your excellent products and the positive impact your business has on the environment in the Dales.



We are looking forward to expanding our partnership even further in 2024 with the launch of the Whisky which will support our current cohort of Rural Apprentices throughout the year. By investing in this project you are helping to empower and enthuse young people in rural communities and helping to grow the green economy. We are excited about connecting more people with nature, enhancing wellbeing and delivering positive social and environmental impacts.

Your donations across all of our projects have a huge impact on what we can deliver as a small charity, and we are so grateful for everything we have achieved together in the last 12 months. Our sincere thanks for your donations to date - it's a pleasure working with you and a huge boost to have Cooper King Distillery as a valued partner of YDMT supporting people, landscape and wildlife.



**THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO TO ENABLE OUR
SMALL CHARITY TO DELIVER BIG THINGS!**