



Nature Recovery
Shropshire and
Telford & Wrekin

Helping nature to recover...

Young Rangers are taking action for nature

Making a positive change for nature

Since 2020, Young Rangers has actively engaged over 100 young people and has delivered 200 activities. Of these, practical conservation and nature restoration projects account for approximately one quarter, representing around 200 hours on-site, practical involvement in nature restoration and/or habitat management.

This work has involved woodland management and restoring areas of neglected coppice, managing invading scrub and maintaining and improving grassland habitats. Some of these include conserving the area's historic mining remains dating back to the mid 19th Century which contain niche habitats supporting specialist wildlife.

Exposing areas of mine spoil and rock, Young Rangers have helped to conserve UK BAP priority habitats which are scarce in Shropshire, including *Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land* which support the rare Grayling butterfly.



Shropshire Hills Young Rangers

Connecting young people with nature is a key action in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Management Plan.

Young Rangers offers young people (aged 12-16) opportunities for conservation, learning and adventure in the great outdoors.

Engaging young people is crucial as they are both the present and the future champions, ambassadors and agents of change.

The Young Rangers are actively involved in practical conservation and habitat management tasks, mostly on nature reserves in the north-west area of the Shropshire Hills.



"The benefits of Young Rangers for participants are numerous but notably include an awareness of nature conservation, experiencing the results of positive action for nature, and learning heritage skills."

Joe Penfold, Shropshire Hills Engagement Ranger



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"I feel proud to have been part of today and feel like I've made a positive contribution to my local area and the wildlife in it."

"I loved learning how to tell if it was a dormouse that had eaten the hazelnut by the tooth marks." Young Rangers

Impact - taking ownership

To encourage ownership of Young Rangers, young people are given a voice in the sort of projects they want to get involved with. Working on a variety of different project sites is appealing as is familiarisation of one 'base camp' project site.

Base camp sites, like Poles Coppice near Pontesbury, could become a focus for more ongoing nature recovery projects, involving both practical conservation and recording of impact on target species.

When asked whether they feel as though they have done something beneficial for the environment, 71% Agreed.

The Young Rangers programme is recognised as a centre provider for the AQA Unit Award Scheme to delivers short courses for young people. To date, 176 certificates have been awarded on nature-themed topics including species identification, tree planting, coppicing, hedgelaying and grassland management.



Pied-flycatchers

The Young Rangers are involved in a nest box project on Resting Hill in Snailbeach. They have installed nest boxes and monitored the local population of Pied Flycatchers (a BTO amber-listed bird of conservation concern) within SSSI woodland. This is a partnership project with local volunteers, members of the Rea Valley Community Wildlife Group and landowners Natural England.

Direct impact on species and their potential recovery is difficult to report however the groups' activities have made a positive contribution. Following the BTO nest box monitoring methodology and with the involvement of local ornithologists, the site has been shown to support a healthy population of Pied Flycatchers and this can be attributed, at least in part, to the groups' involvement.

2025 saw the joint highest record for nests (14 of 56 nest boxes occupied), the lowest being only five when the project started in 2015.

For more information...

- Watch the Young Rangers film on [YouTube](#)
- Visit [Young Rangers webpage](#)
- Contact Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team, email: shropshirehills-nl@shropshire.gov.uk