

Delivering Generation Green 2 in the Malvern Hills National Landscape

Introduction

In January and February 2025 [Boundless Outdoors Activity Centres | Home Page](#) worked with the Malvern Hills National Landscape Team to provide residential places for 240 children and day visits for a further 120 children studying at Worcestershire schools.

This work was funded by and delivered as part of Generation Green 2.0 – a national programme which aims to help address major inequalities in access to nature by cultivating a wider interest in green spaces among the next generation, fostering lifelong wellbeing benefits among participants and opening protected places to a wider demographic. Information on Generation Green 2 in England's National Landscapes can be found at:

<https://national-landscapes.org.uk/news/generation-green-2-national-landscapes-involved-in-4-5-million-project-to-help-englands-most-socially-disadvantaged-young-people-forge-closer-connections-with-nature>

Research shows that people who are more connected with nature are usually more likely to report feeling that their lives are worthwhile. Throughout the covid pandemic a survey found that 45% of people in the UK felt that visiting green spaces helped them to cope.¹ We also know that the 'quality' of our connection to nature also matters. The closer we feel to nature, the more we are willing to take action to help our wildlife and the environment. In the context of collapsing biodiversity and the climate crisis, closer relationships with nature are more vital than ever before.

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Worcestershire is a semi-rural county but in order to best meet the aims of Generation Green 2.0 we recruited young people from schools in the more urban areas. Further targeting took place to ensure that every young person who participated in the programme was on pupil premium² and was selected by the school as someone who had either never been to a National Landscape or does not regularly engage with outdoor activities.

At Boundless Outdoors we designed a high activity programme to ensure that participants not only developed an appreciation of natural beauty but also started to making physical connections with nature.

Based on the western side of the Malvern Hills we showed the young people the various different natural environments we have on hand in and around the outdoor centre as well as venturing further afield in the National Landscape. With activities ranging from night-time walks across the hills to zip wires through mature oak woodland we wanted to show the children there is much to experience in nature and different ways to develop a fun connection with the natural landscape. Each of the activities gave the young people a different experience and aimed to do something they might not normally do in life.

¹ <https://www.yha.org.uk/generationgreen>

² [Pupil premium: overview - GOV.UK](#)

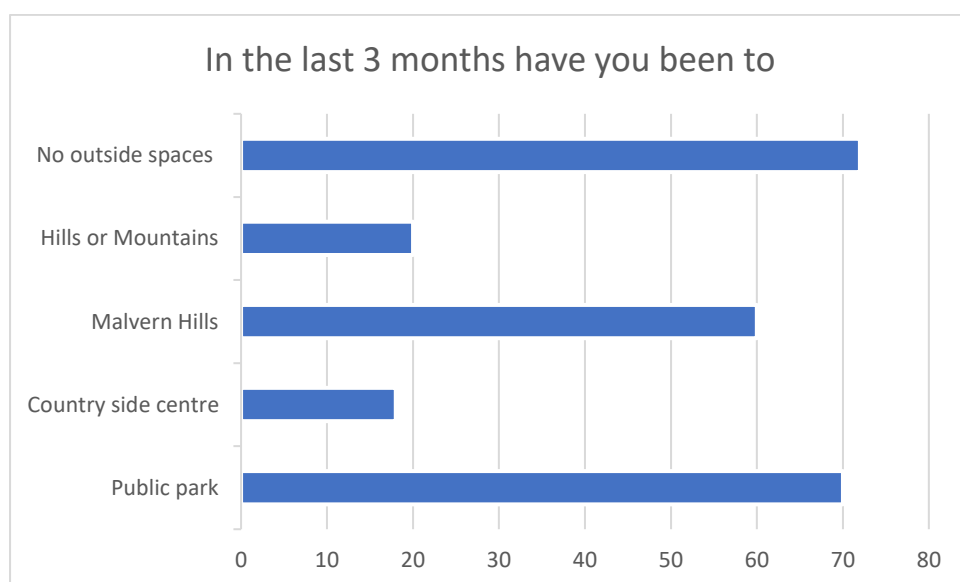
Our **120 day visits** were focused around young people at primary school and under the age of 10. The day started with an introduction to woodland habitats and an orienteering competition to developing team work and map skills. This was followed by a bush craft session looking at traditional fire lighting and eating/burning some tasty marshmallows. To give the children a different prospective on the woodland environment we then took them up into the tree canopy and climbed around our high bridges course.

The **residential programme** (240 places) was delivered to young people over 10 years old and consisted of 2 days and 1 night away at the centre. With the extra time available we were able to allow participants to experience a wider range of environments. Starting with team building activities and orienteering in the woodland the children then went for a walk on the Malvern Hills at night with no torches. This was a great and novel experience for most of the children and allowed them to experience the real effect of light pollution across the county. The second day of the programme was all about pushing the young people's limits with a challenging abseil in a local quarry and an adrenaline rush flying down the zip wire.

What we learnt and what the children learnt

We conducted a small-scale survey across all participants whilst the children were with us. Some of the findings are as follows.

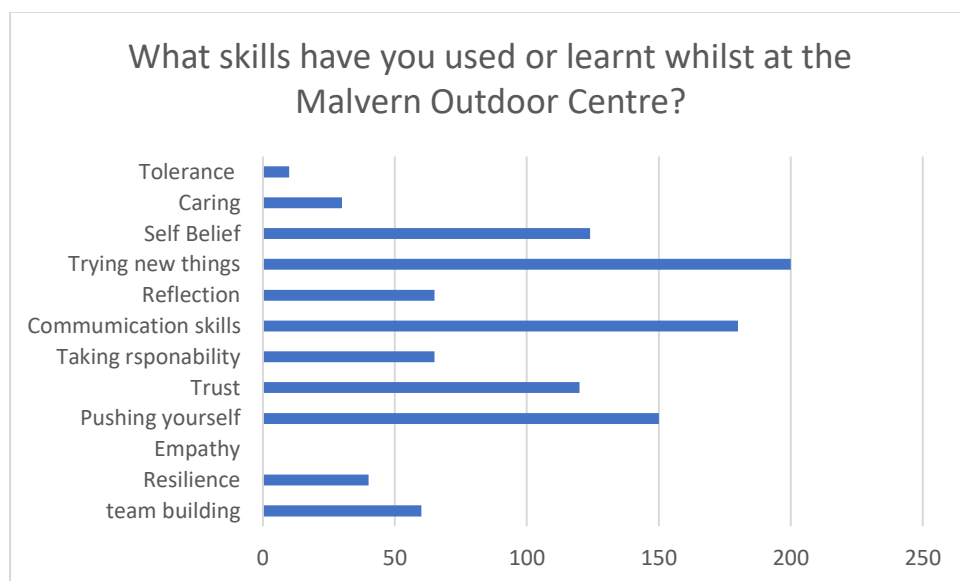
- 100% of students attending were on Pupil Premium
- +60% of students were on their first night away from home
- 52% Male / 48% Females



A large proportion of the young people had not been to any outdoor spaces in the last 3 months. This illustrates how disconnected many young people are from the outdoors.



We found almost all the young people (95%?) had never heard of a National Landscape.



Along with developing a greater connection with the natural environment we also tried to instil some life skills to make the whole experience positive. In doing this we believe that young people will be able to reflect later on the positive experience they had and will want to explore the natural environment more. A few quick statistics:

- The young people travelled 4.7km on the zip wire
- Over 1000 marshmallows were eaten on the camp-fire
- 720 meals were consumed

Quotes from the teachers/support staff

“The children have achieved so much in a short amount of time.
For some of our children this is the only trip they will do this year”.
Mr M Davis. Oasis Warndon

“ We need to do more of this, but we just cannot afford it”
Mrs C Duffell. Stourport High

“A great staff team that really supported our Students”.
Mrs L Everitt. Dyson Perrins

“I am surprised even with the hills being on our doorstep how many children have never been”.
Mrs G Lloyd-Davis. Droitwich High

End

Nick Hands, CEO Boundless Outdoors



Photos courtesy of Boundless Outdoors