



2024

2025

# ANNUAL REPORT



Helping people understand, value and care for their local environment

## Executive Summary

The past year has been one of challenge and opportunity for the Steel Valley Project. The ongoing debt restructuring at Liberty Steel, our long-standing partner, has brought funding uncertainties. However, thanks to the resilience of our team, volunteers and partners, we've continued to deliver fantastic projects for our landscapes and communities.

We completed our Natural Flood Management project, using nature-based solutions to reduce flood risks and boost biodiversity. Our 'Farming in Protected Landscapes – Bradfield Ancient Ways' work improved access to the countryside around Bradfield. Landscaping at Oxley Park's All Wheels Park has created a wildlife –friendly and inviting recreation facility. Community events like our Big Bike Revival bike events, brought people together to enjoy and learn about our wonderful local environment.

This year we said goodbye to Richard Saunders, our long-serving Environmental Project Officer, who moved on to new opportunities. We thank him for his huge contribution. We're excited to soon welcome Ryan Harrison to the team, who will bring fresh energy to our environmental projects.

Despite the challenges, we're entering the year ahead with real optimism. New projects are on the horizon that will strengthen our conservation, education, and community work. We remain committed to making a lasting, positive impact on the people and places we serve.

We're also thrilled to welcome Ecclesfield Parish Council as a new project partner and look forward to working closely with them in the coming year.

Thank you to our amazing staff, volunteers, trustees, and partners, your support and passion continue to drive everything we do. We're excited for the future and all we can achieve together.



Tom Newman  
General Manager



# THIS YEAR IN STATS

Here's what we've done



**2,786**

Volunteer hours



**6 KM**

Paths improved



**4 HA**

Land improved





## Main Achievements

- Oxley Park All Wheels Park Landscaping– planted wildflower turf and trees, enhancing the area around the new all wheels park for people and wildlife. Funded by the Stocksbridge Town Council's Participatory Budgeting fund.
- Bitholmes Wood– Programme of works, including meadow cutting and invasive non-native species management. Working for the Woodland Trust.
- Leaky dam training course– Sharing best practice with Sheffield City Council staff and volunteers on the creation of leaky dams in small watercourses.
- Steel Valley Walk– Planting woodland bulbs to enhance floral diversity and a programme of maintenance. Made possible with funding from National Grid's Community Grant Programme.
- Parsonage Farm Wildflower Meadow Creation– buffering the newly planted woodland areas with native wildflower seeding, creating a habitat for insects and birds. Made possible with funding from Stocksbridge Town Council & JG Graves Charitable Trust.

## Case Studies

10

New access  
structures  
installed

548

Volunteer  
hours

### Bradfield Ancient Ways

Our Bradfield Ancient Ways project has been restoring historic paths in the Peak District's Bradfield area. Funded by Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes, it improves access for walkers and riders through access point improvements and dry stone wall conservation. The project enhances public access, supports biodiversity, and preserves the area's cultural heritage.

We have worked with The Ramblers, the Peak District National Park Rangers and Sheffield City Council's Rights of Way team, as well as private landowners to complete the project.

2500

Trees  
planted

7

Ponds

88

Leaky  
dams

### Stocksbridge & Bradfield Natural Flood Management

We have implemented a natural flood management initiative in the Upper Don catchment, focusing on Stocksbridge and Bradfield. Collaborating with Sheffield City Council, the Woodland Trust and the Environment Agency, the project installed numerous NFM measures across 12 sites. These nature-based solutions aimed to mitigate flood risks, enhance biodiversity, and improve water quality, while also engaging local communities and volunteers in environmental stewardship.

## Our Partners



### Sheffield City Council

Continued relationships with the Woodland, Public Rights of Way and Ecology Departments have allowed SVP to develop projects across our operational areas in a variety of sectors.



### Stocksbridge Town Council

A founder member of SVP, the Town Council continue to work closely with the charity. Leading the consultation on a new Neighbourhood Development Strategy, they are at the forefront of the evolution of Stocksbridge's townscape.

## Find Out More



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[www.steelvalleyproject.org](http://www.steelvalleyproject.org)



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