



## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 2024

### **Burley pupils get green-fingered with tree planting**

Burnley school children have been out planting trees as part of a wider project to connect people with nature.

The tree planting sessions were organised by Alison Cross, Outdoor Learning Officer with UK education charity The Ernest Cook Trust, in partnership with Burnley Borough Council.

The Trust, together with the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, is delivering a three-year Connecting People & Nature project supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. The Project's focus is on promoting nature, wellbeing and Outdoor Learning in and around the Forest of Bowland.

The schools taking part in the tree planting were Barden Primary, Holly Grove Primary, Broadfield Specialist School and Shuttleworth College – all located near Burnley's Beat the Street's tree-planting sites.

In Burnley's recent Beat the Street game, players of all ages took part to see how far they could walk, run, cycle, skate and scoot across the borough, and were awarded points for the distance they covered, with every 2,000 points earning a tree. As a result, 7,500 trees were funded through Trees for Cities and planted across the borough.

In total, the children helped to plant more than 1,000 trees in the areas of Disraeli Street, Barclay Hill, Linear Park and Bedford Park. The mix of oak, silver birch, hazel, hawthorn, holly, crab apple, field maple, lime, bird cherry and rowan will help reduce carbon and provide new wildlife habitats.

Alison said: "I really enjoyed co-delivering the tree planting sessions with the Burnley Green Spaces team and the Outdoor Activity team at Burnley Leisure and Culture. Partnership work enables more schools to get involved in tree planting, as I can coordinate and adapt the sessions to suit each school's need and Outdoor Learning focus. Watching a child plant their first tree is a special moment, especially when they learn about the importance of trees, and the new habitat they have created."

*(continues...)*

Alexis Turner, Outdoor Activity Connector for Burnley Leisure and Culture and Beat the Street Engagement Coordinator, said: “There is already so much fantastic work happening and through collaboration with organisations like The Ernest Cook Trust we are able to reach a wider audience, engage more schools and participants, and collectively have a bigger impact. The thousands of trees planted will create a legacy for years to come and it has been a fabulous opportunity to get people outside, moving more, and connecting with nature in their local green space.”

Connor Moffatt, Inclusion Manager at Holly Grove School, said it was a fantastic experience for the children.

“There were plenty of wow moments. It was great to have a team ethic in the activity and watch our children work collaboratively with such confidence.”

Marie Townend, Forest School Leader and Teaching Assistant at Barden Primary School, added: “It was great to see all children getting stuck into the task, from using the tools to handling mud and worms.”

The tree planting initiative comes under Burnley’s #OutdoorTown vision, where neighbourhoods are encouraged to develop ownership and pride in local green spaces, and residents recognise the value in accessing nature and the benefits it brings for them and the environment. It also supports the Connecting People & Nature team to support children and families in taking steps towards exploring and connecting with nature in the National Landscape.

### **Notes to editors**

#### **The Ernest Cook Trust**

[The Ernest Cook Trust](#) offers children and young people, their families and communities, the chance to learn from the land through hands-on Outdoor Learning activities.

The Ernest Cook Trust is a charity limited by guarantee with the sole charitable objective of education.

The Trust places education at its very heart by offering children and young people a chance to connect with nature and to take action on the environment in a meaningful and positive way.

The Trust awards around £3m per year in grants based on relevance and impact against organisational objectives. Grants are given to schools or charitable organisations for activities in the UK with a particular focus on areas where there are fewer opportunities to experience the outdoors.

For more information about The Ernest Cook Trust visit [www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk](http://www.ernestcooktrust.org.uk) or contact press officer Jo Smyth – email [media@ernestcooktrust.org.uk](mailto:media@ernestcooktrust.org.uk).

*(continues...)*

## **The Forest of Bowland National Landscape**

The Forest of Bowland National Landscape is one of 46 National Landscapes in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. <https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/>

The Forest of Bowland was designated as an AONB in 1964. The AONB legislation (National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) was designed to protect areas of unspoiled natural beauty for future generations.

13% of the AONB is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its extensive habitats of wet and dry heathland, particularly heather moor and blanket bog. A major part of the AONB's fells is designated as a Special Protection Area under the European Birds Directive.

The Connecting People & Nature project is one of the ways in which the AONB Partnership enables people to enjoy, learn, and give back to the outstanding landscape and heritage on their doorstep.

For more information, please contact [cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk) or visit [www.forestofbowland.com](http://www.forestofbowland.com).

## **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, we aim to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

We help protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

We are passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)



[www.forestofbowland.com/connecting-people-nature](http://www.forestofbowland.com/connecting-people-nature)