Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)
Annual summary of funded projects 2025-26

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) aims to support small-scale projects that result in positive benefits for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, its environment, its economy and its communities.

Over the last 12 months the SDF has committed over £111,000 to 16 worthy projects. The following pages provide a bit more information about the projects that received a grant offer in 2025-26.

For more information and to download our application form/guidance notes please visit –

https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/sustainable-development-fund/

Climate Change

- Installation of 25 dark sky friendly replacement LED bulbs for street lighting in Threshfield. The lighting, which is managed by Threshfield Parish Council, will help to reduce light pollution, carbon emissions and energy use in the village - £5,000



Image: Threshfield Parish Councillors inspect the new dark sky friendly streetlights
Credit: Threshfield Parish Council, 2026

- Installation of 12 solar panels to the rear roof slope of Austwick Parish Hall. This will enable the Parish Hall to harness energy from the sun which will help to provide heating for this important community meeting space - £8,772

- Installation of two electric vehicle charging points at Kirkby in Malhamdale Primary School's car park. The charging points will be available for school staff during term time and for public use during evenings and weekends - £2,558

- A one-year trial to monitor Sphagnum austinii plug plants at Kingsdale Head Farm. This will be undertaken by **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** and volunteers from the Yorkshire Peat Partnership. It will be supported by an arts-based engagement programme. If successful, the plant stock will be used in reintroduction projects as part of peatland restoration - £9,262

Visiting, learning and enjoying

- A series of themed walks and talks that will focus on the special qualities of the National Park, forming part of the programme for the **Swaledale Festival 2026** which takes place from 23 May- 6 June 2026 - £9,574

- A new extension to provide improved 'access for all' and toilet facilities, as well as a small meeting area aimed for a wide range of users visiting Sedbergh Bowling Club. The extension will incorporate improved insulation, LED lighting and solar panels - £10,000

- 1000 copies of a booklet, **Wild Wisdom: Songs of the Green Trails**, about the special qualities of the National Park, including soundtrack music that can be downloaded and live performances - £5,000

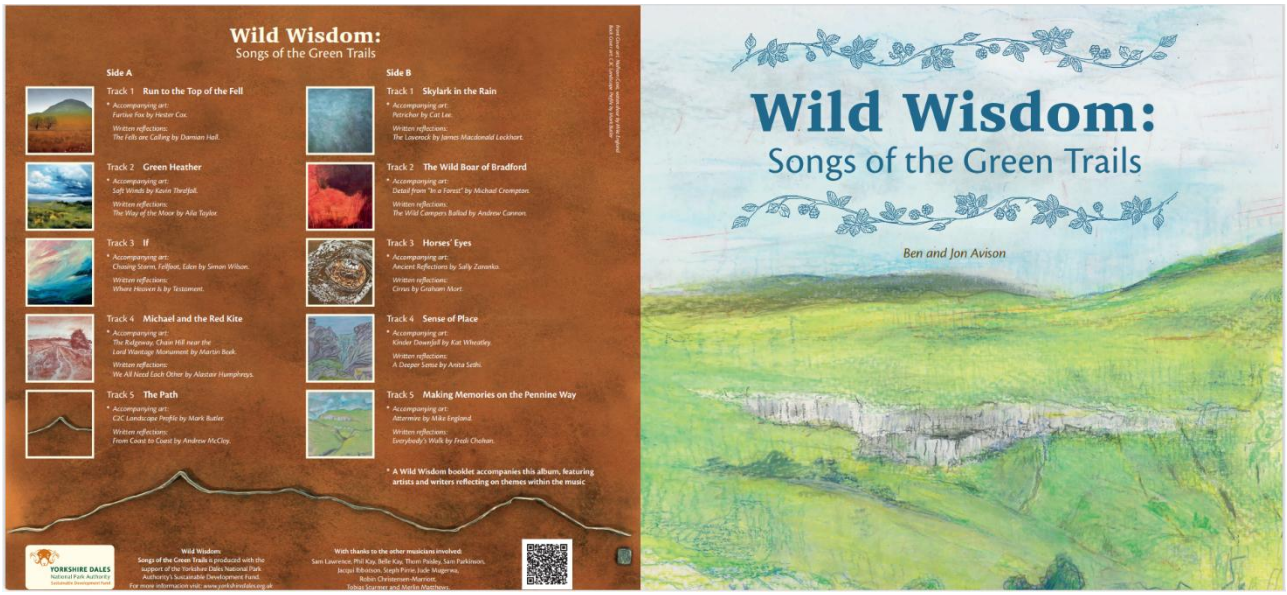


Image: Front cover & songs list from the Wild Wisdom: Songs of the Green Trails booklet, Credit: Ben Avison, 2025

- Installation of an outdoor 'trim trail' at Grassington Primary School. This has provided a safe and stimulating outdoor climbing trail that encourages outdoor learning and well-being as part of the curriculum for children attending the primary school - £5,000

- **Illuminate 2026 Festival** took place in February 2026. The festival engaged a wide range of people with the National Park landscape through a series of talks, guided walks and hands-on workshops. The activities this year included dark sky walks, talks and stargazing led by a local astronomer - £5,591

- Purchase of a new online show management platform for the popular **Kilnsey Show** run by the Upper Wharfedale Agricultural Society. This will enable the Society to streamline and centralise activities and administrative tasks to ensure this important annual show runs smoothly - £1,687

Community Facilities

- Installation of a new kitchen extension, replacement fire doors, creation of a paved outdoor space for events and alterations to the layout of **Amerdale Community Hall** in Arncliffe. This will create a separate small meeting room that will be available to hire - £7,500

- Replacement of a water pump for **Carlton community private water supply** managed by Carlton Parish Council. The existing system provides a water supply to 100 properties including residences and businesses in the village. The system will replace ageing infrastructure and secure a reliable clean water supply for the village while reducing environmental risks from leakages - £9,870



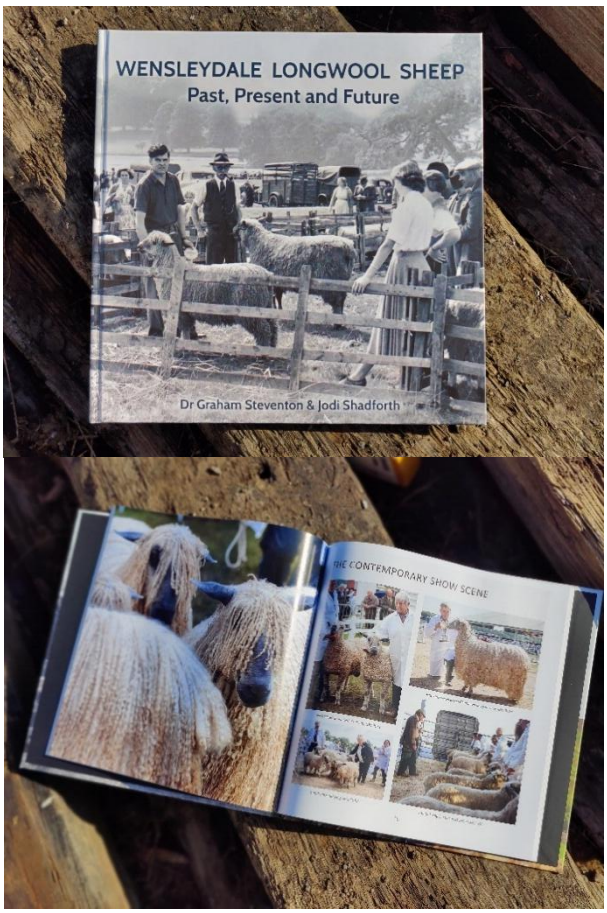
Image: Water pump house, Carlton village
Credit: YDNPA, 2025

- Renovation of a former public toilet block in Hebden to bring the facilities back into use following a long period of closure. The facilities, managed by Hebden Parish Council, will also incorporate a storeroom for use by the Hebden Environmental Action Team. A fixed credit card reader will encourage users to make donations to help with cleaning, power and upkeep of the facilities - £11,025

- Refurbishment of toilet facilities at Reeth and District Memorial Hall. The internal improvements will lead to an increased number of cubicles, added insulation, new sanitary ware, radiators and electrics. The changes should help to reduce energy costs and make the Hall more attractive for a range of users - £10,000

Cultural Heritage

- Printing costs for a new book that will allow a local breeders' association to celebrate **Wensleydale Longwool sheep**. The book, with an initial print run of 475 copies, explains the importance of rare breeds, the history of this breed and how it links with the landscape of the Dales - £4,999



Images: Front cover & extract from the Wensleydale Longwool Sheep,
Past Present and Future book
Credit: Jodi Shadforth, 2026

- Installation of a new storage facility at the showground for **Kilnsey Show**. The storage building will be used by the Upper Wharfedale Agricultural Society for storing the infrastructure required for this important annual show - £5,000

31 March 2026