

# Groundwork South Trust – Getting Back to Nature at Goblin Combe



Groundwork aimed to increase engagement and volunteering at Goblin Combe Environment Centre and its surrounding woodland. They provided outdoor activities to school groups and to adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), as well as delivering volunteer sessions helping to protect, improve, and champion the site for the community's benefit.

7 volunteering days, 5 SEND sessions, 3 school sessions, 2 cubs/beavers sessions, and 1 inset day forest school were held, engaging 383 people.

## UKSPF Achievements

**18** local events and activities supported

**546** increased footfall compared to the previous year

**383** people engaged by the project

## Wider impact

The project gave more young people and SEND adults an opportunity to get out in nature, feel pride in place, and for the young people to experience learning outside of the classroom.

Running alongside the forest school session in February, older teens on inset day from a local secondary school joined in with Groundworks' volunteering day activities. This provided them with the experience of spending time in nature whilst also giving back to the community and gave adult volunteers an opportunity to share skills.

A previously active volunteer group sadly lost momentum after COVID, but this has now been reinvigorated thanks to the UKSPF grant funding and Groundworks intend to continue to grow this group with monthly sessions in the woodland and lodge site

throughout the spring and summer. New recruits and interest in this work have been generated from engaging with VANS (Voluntary Action North Somerset), local Facebook community groups, local parish council noticeboards and local employers.

Feedback from one session included:

*“From start to finish...the children were engaged and occupied. [It was] a thoroughly enjoyable day for all involved.”*