

# The Groundwork South Trust Limited

## Regenerating Goblin Combe – A Cleeve Countryside Community Centre



The Goblin Combe Environment Centre provides outdoor and nature-based educational activities to a wide range of groups. Since reopening in 2022 they have attracted a wide range of hirers, from schools and holiday clubs to private events. Whilst Groundwork South, who run the site, host activities at the centre, the lodge and kitchen facilities were not of a sufficient standard to serve larger groups. The catering capabilities and overnight accommodation needed improvement. The rural nature of the site means there are limited shops, takeaways and restaurants nearby and therefore site users rely on being able to cater for themselves. As a result, Groundwork applied to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to make kitchen improvements, improve their waste and recycling measures, and make improvements to the lodge.

The rural location of the site means it cannot be serviced by waste collectors. There are high costs for disposal of on-site waste. The project will involve purchasing larger bins as well as signage to encourage hirers to recycle more and take home what waste they can, reducing the amount of general landfill waste that needs to be collected and disposed of, thus reducing bills whilst protecting the environment.

In terms of kitchen improvements, cooking capacity will be increased by replacing the old commercial oven with a more energy-efficient one as well as by installing a larger energy-efficient dishwasher. These will benefit visitors and larger groups who stay for extended periods. The project has also involved upgrading the kitchen units, increasing storage, and the overall aesthetic of the kitchen space to make it easier for items to be stored. Also inside the lodge, the mattresses were showing signs of wear and tear so 38 new eco-mattresses will be purchased to replace these along with mattress protectors to help prolong their life.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/south/>