

End of Grant Report to the Nineveh Charitable Trust



Overview:

Bolstered by funding from the Nineveh Charitable Trust, Northern Roots has continued to lay the foundations for opening our Phase 2 Farm, showcasing urban and regenerative farming techniques with a focus on providing healthy, locally grown food.

We have:

- Continued to expand the cultivation of phase 1 farm growing fruit trees and seasonal fresh crops. We are launching our third season of farm and plant sales, making high quality, organically grown food available at affordable prices. In May 2025, we sold over 340 products to 150 members of the local community.
- Continued development of phase 2 farm, bringing four acres into cultivation including sowing green manures to improve soil fertility and planting our agroforestry area, starting with 25 trees including hazels, medlars, sea buckthorn, plums and Asian pears.
- Planted a further 70 trees across phase 2 farm, comprising over 40 species. The forest area has been improved including a further path laid out through the woodland and bug hotels built. We have installed five large polytunnels and procured orchard trees.
- Leveraged the farm to support our volunteering, education and health activities. We have recruited a new cohort of Environmental Volunteers to get involved in sowing, harvesting, composting, weeding, mulching and creating no dig beds in our Urban Farm.
- Expanded the Natural Health Service at Northern Roots, our social prescribing programme and supported 216 programme participants with a 66.48% average increase in overall wellbeing per person. The service has been commissioned by Oldham Integrated Care Board, a national first.
- Extended and expanded our educational work with local children and young people, including Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) young people and supported four young people into paid work.

Across the wider landscape:

- We have launched our second co-designed, community champion-led programme, recruiting and training 12 new heritage champions, citizen rangers and citizen researchers and delivered a programme of Arts, Culture and Heritage activities.
- We have improved 18,000 m² of habitat against biodiversity baseline.

Over the next 12 months, Northern Roots will:

- Seek to secure further revenue funding to bridge the transition to operating as a visitor destination, sustaining our existing operation, and adding several new offers including catering, retail, learning and events when our new Visitor Centre and Forestry Skills Centre open in Summer 2026.
- Continue food production in phase 1 of the Northern Roots Farm and complete development of phase 2 of the Urban Farm.
- Support Citizen Rangers to conduct baseline species surveys for a range of flora and fauna.
- Deliver a 10-month programme of community lead activities and events and plan an opening season of events.
- Pilot a range of learning partnerships and programmes and develop a learning programme for opening.
- Embed the Natural Health Service as a core element of Oldham's health and care infrastructure.
- Solicit interest from further businesses that believe they could prosper at Northern Roots.



Thanks to support from Nineveh Charitable Trust, we have continued to successfully run the Northern Roots Charity and have developed activities, partnerships, and our growing community.

Thankyou

Anna da Silva and the Northern Roots team

Northern Roots: A catalyst for economic and environmental regeneration, creativity, entrepreneurship, health and wellbeing, and communal pride.