IMPACT REPORT

A DECADE OF PROGRESS
A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES



ACCESS ADVENTURES

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2025 marked **10 years of Access Adventures** — a milestone worth celebrating and an opportunity to reflect on the life-changing impact we've made over the past decade.

This report first looks back at our journey since 2015, recognising the incredible community that has shaped Access Adventures, and the achievements we have made together.

We then turn our attention to **2025/26**, highlighting the impact of our most recent financial year and plans for the future.

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THE STORY OF ACCESS ADVENTURES

Access Adventures started with 3 friends, a shared love of outdoor adventure sport, and a refusal to accept that people with disabilities might be excluded.

Jane and Tim had both experienced the life-changing power of adaptive sport after sustaining spinal cord injuries. Clare had seen that same transformation through her work as a physio, championing the role outdoor adventure can play in physical and mental wellbeing.

They saw the barriers preventing people from taking part - and decided to do something about it.

Access Adventures was born.

10 years later, those same 3 friends are still leading the charity, supported by an incredible team of volunteers. Together, they have introduced thousands of people to adaptive adventure sports on water, snow and dirt.

But Access Adventures has never been just about sport. It's about finding your people. It's about being part of a community that celebrates progress, independence, friendship and achievement. It's about those moments when someone realises: "I *can* do this."

Welcome to Access Adventures.

LET'S GO!

ACCESS ADVENTURES



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



When we founded Access Adventures in 2015, we had a simple but powerful belief: people with disabilities should have equal access to the benefits of adventure sport.

For me, that belief is personal. Adaptive sport helped me rediscover a sense of freedom I thought I'd lost, and opened up new possibilities. I wanted others to experience that same life-changing impact.

Over 10 years later, I'm so proud of what Access Adventures has become. What started with 3 friends and a shared passion has grown into a thriving community of participants, volunteers, families, partners and supporters.

Together, we've addressed the barriers to participation by investing in specialist equipment, accessible facilities and training opportunities. Most importantly, we've created a place where people feel welcomed, understood and encouraged to challenge expectations.

Access Adventures is about connection and community. It's about meeting people who understand your journey. It's about families sharing experiences. It's about participants discovering new skills and building self-belief.

None of this would be possible without our awesome team of volunteers and supporters. Every person who gives their time, energy, expertise or generosity helps us remove barriers and create opportunities that can genuinely change lives. We are incredibly grateful to all of you.

This report celebrates the impact of the last decade, but it is also a reminder of why our work matters so much. Equal access to adventure sport still does not exist for many disabled people, and there is still much more to do.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for being part of the Access Adventures story so far. I hope you'll continue this epic journey with us!

Jane ♡

ACCESS ADVENTURES

VISION

A world where people with disabilities have equal access to the benefits of adventure sports

MISSION

To deliver life-changing adaptive adventure sports

CORE VALUES

CHALLENGE EXPECTATIONS

We inspire people to break boundaries



INCREASE CONFIDENCE

We provide opportunities to empower and motivate



ENCOURAGE PROGRESSION

In a supportive environment



PROMOTE COMMUNITY

We offer a welcoming space for a long-lasting impact



BARRIERS PREVENTING EQUAL ACCESS TO ADVENTURE SPORTS

Access Adventures exists because equal access to adventure sport is still not a reality.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the physical, mental and social benefits of outdoor adventure sport. Yet many disabled people still face significant barriers that prevent safe, successful and inclusive participation.



STAFF SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Activity providers often lack the specialist knowledge, experience or confidence to support disabled participants safely and effectively, limiting opportunities to take part.



SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT

Many clubs simply don't have the equipment needed to accommodate disabled participants. Even when equipment is available, staff may lack the training to use it effectively.



INACCESSIBLE FACILITIES

Finding genuinely accessible venues remains a major challenge. Inadequate facilities and physical access barriers can make participation difficult or impossible.



ADDITIONAL COSTS

Specialist equipment, staff training and accessible facilities all come at a cost. Without additional financial support, these expenses can be prohibitive for participants.

THESE BARRIERS CAN BE OVERCOME...

HOW ACCESS ADVENTURES IS ADDRESSING THE BARRIERS



CREW

A strong training programme, formalised processes and a clear volunteer progression pathway help ensure staff and volunteers have the knowledge, confidence and skills to support participants effectively.

This gives participants reassurance that their needs will be understood and safely accommodated.



EQUIPMENT

A wide range of adaptive equipment is available and carefully maintained.

Training includes individual assessment and appropriate equipment set-up, ensuring each participant has the best possible chance of a safe, positive and successful experience.



ACCESS

Significant investment has gone into refurbishing the facilities at Heron Lake.

Access, facilities and practical logistics are assessed comprehensively at every new location, to ensure sports can be delivered safely and appropriately.



FINANCIAL

All services are significantly subsidised to absorb the additional costs associated with specialist coaching, adaptive equipment and accessibility requirements.

This helps reduce financial barriers and makes participation more affordable.

TO PROVIDE A SAFE & SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE

CHALLENGING EXPECTATIONS





"The weekend really was life-changing! Waterskiing made me feel like myself again.

I feel so much more confident taking risks & trying to be independent now.

It showed me what's possible & not to limit myself.

Thank you so much for the opportunity!"

Beth

"It showed me what's possible & not to limit myself"

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK



"By far the most amazing experience I've ever had. Thank you for giving me the support throughout to enjoy and push myself



"Access Adventures has made me realise that anything is possible if you have the confidence to push your own boundaries



"I have always struggled to get out socially - Access Adventures gave me that opportunity. This has been one of the best years of my life thanks to them!

WE ARE FAMILY










“It’s almost impossible to find fun activities we can do together as a family. Thank you for creating something so inclusive - it’s our favourite day of the summer!”





WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

None of this would be possible without you!

Access Adventures was founded by volunteers

Our dedicated team of volunteers remains at the heart of everything we do

Volunteering with us is a chance to make a real difference while being part of a welcoming, supportive community

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK







"Your training was excellent, and much better than any disability training I've received as a GP in the NHS. You have changed the way I'll approach my patients in future

"Volunteering gives me purpose & positivity. I love bringing joy and happiness into people's lives. Access gives them a tribe to belong to, where they feel safe and supported

"The moment someone comes back to the jetty saying they want to go again is addictive because you've had a small part to play in that

LONG-LASTING IMPACT

FROM PARTICIPANT TO VOLUNTEER





"My world infinitely sparkles more because of being at the lake"

"Learning to waterski, meeting other wheelchair users, and becoming a part of the community at the lake has genuinely changed my life. It's helping me accept my new life more & challenge the beliefs I had about being a wheelchair user.

My world infinitely sparkles more because of being at the lake, and I'd love to help others discover that same magic of possibility."

Maiya

TIMELINE - OVER A DECADE OF IMPACT

2015 — Access Adventures is founded and officially registered with the Charity Commission!

2016 — We host kitesurf, kayak, bike, land-kite, waterski & wakeboard camps



2017 — Our winter programme launches with an alpine ski camp in Val Thorens, France



2018 — Cable wakeboarding is introduced, alongside expanded opportunities for under 18s & families



2019 — Access Adventures merges with the BDWWA & takes on management of Heron Lake

2020 — During Covid, we keep our community connected through online yoga, fitness and cycle sessions



2021 — Adaptive opportunities at the lake grow significantly, creating more sessions for more people



2022 — Major refurb at Access Adventures HQ begins, made possible through generous fundraising support



2023 — Our adaptive athletes smash it at the World Champs in California



2024 — Adaptive mountain biking becomes an important focus for service delivery



2025 — Access Adventures celebrates 10 years! There are big plans for the decade ahead...

OVER A DECADE OF ADAPTIVE SPORTS



SKI & SNOWBOARD



WATERSKI & WAKEBOARD



WAKESURF



KITE



CABLE WAKEBOARD



KITESURF



BIKE



PADDLE



SURF

INCREASE IN ADAPTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

2015/16

800

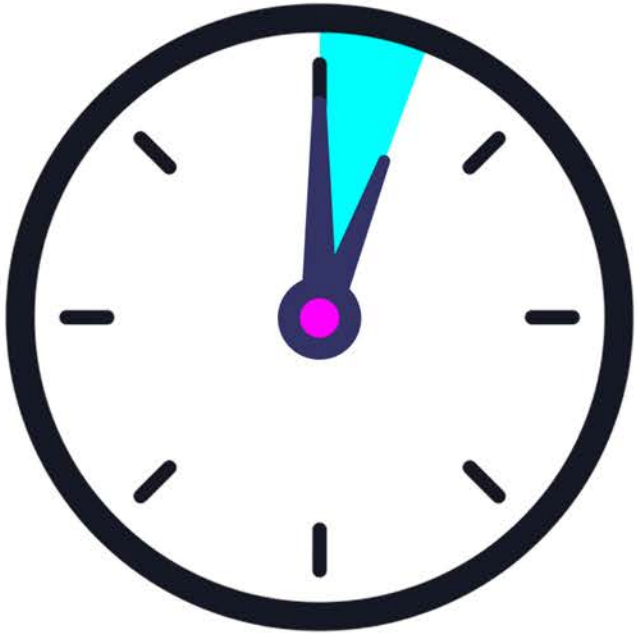
HOURS DELIVERED

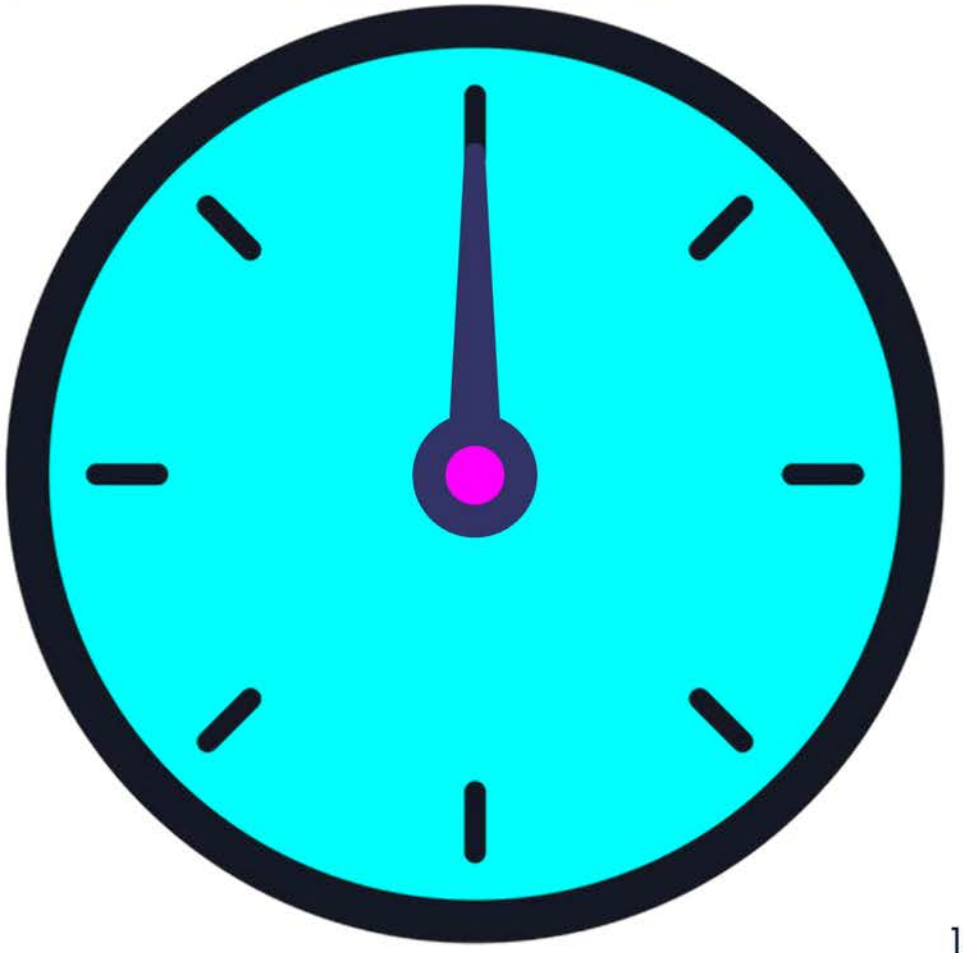
1400%

2025/26

12,000

HOURS DELIVERED





GROWTH IN STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

2015/16

0
STAFF MEMBERS

25
VOLUNTEERS



2025/26

5
STAFF MEMBERS



93
VOLUNTEERS



* Staff members in 2025/26 include 3 x full-time and 2 x part-time/ seasonal



OVER A DECADE OF COMMUNITY



OVER A DECADE OF FUNDRAISING CHALLENGES

A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON
BRITISH DISABLED WATERSKI & WAKEBOARD ASSOCIATION

Access Adventures wouldn't exist without the British Disabled Waterski & Wakeboard Association (BDWWA). We want to celebrate its incredible legacy and recognise the pioneering individuals who have changed so many lives along the way.

The story began in the 1970s, when Robin Nichols met Tony Edge, who lost a leg during the war but had found a way to waterski again. They founded the BDWWA in 1978, determined to make waterskiing accessible to more disabled people. What began with a donated caravan grew into a permanent home at Heron Lake, transforming a former gravel extraction site into a centre with specialist facilities and accommodation.

The BDWWA expanded its reach through regional programmes, creating life-changing opportunities for hundreds of people. In 2015, Robin was awarded an MBE in recognition of his remarkable contribution.

Our own story is deeply rooted in the BDWWA. Jane, Clare and Tim each became involved in 2005/06, forming friendships and volunteering regularly. Their shared passion led them to establish Access Adventures in 2015, initially delivering residential adaptive waterski camps at Heron Lake.

In 2019, the two organisations merged, recognising that we would be stronger together.



Heron Lake

The merger transformed Access Adventures, providing a permanent base from which to grow, expand our team and secure investment to improve facilities and accessibility. Many experienced BDWWA volunteers continued the journey with us, bringing invaluable skills, knowledge and passion.

The BDWWA's legacy is much more than a lake, a building or an organisation. It lives on through the friendships formed, the confidence gained, the barriers broken and the countless lives changed.



Robin Nichols

REGIONAL DELIVERY
YORKSHIRE & CENTRAL



A dedicated, experienced regional team





One boat, one trailer, one van, & a huge amount of adaptive equipment!

Access Adventures Yorkshire & Central takes adaptive waterskiing on the road. A mobile team and partner lakes create more opportunities in different locations.



The generosity of our partner clubs across the region





Delivering an average of 14 days of adaptive waterskiing & wakeboarding annually

Thanks to Calmwater Bay, South Yorkshire Boat & Ski Club, White Rose Waterski Club, Church Wilne Watersports Club, and Llyn Geirionydd Waterski Club



REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL YEAR

2025/26

2025/26 IN NUMBERS



468 Unique participants



92% of participants reported an increase in confidence



8 Different adaptive sports



Hours scheduled for families **51**

Access Adventures celebrated **10** years!

93 Volunteers helped with our mission



98% of participants rated us 5 star





20,000 laps around Heron Lake (approximately!)



SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES IN 2025/26

Our 10th anniversary year was another busy and rewarding one, creating more opportunities for disabled people to experience adventure sports, while highlighting the challenges of building a sustainable future.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

People

We welcomed over 400 participants across 8 adaptive sports, delivering activities for individuals alongside both new and returning groups. We also dedicated several days specifically to families, creating opportunities to share experiences and enjoy adventure together.

Facilities

Previous refurbishment and continued investment at Heron Lake have enhanced the participant experience, while increased use of our on-site accommodation has created more residential opportunities.

Our Community

We hosted a fantastic 10th anniversary celebration in July, bringing together participants, volunteers and supporters to recognise a decade of achievements, friendships and life-changing adventures.

Our Team

We continued developing our staff and volunteer training, building the skills, confidence and expertise needed to deliver safe, high-quality activities.

Financial Support

Income from grants and trusts remained strong, alongside generous individual donations and fundraising challenges. Corporate team-building days also generated additional income.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Building capacity

Recruiting and retaining enough volunteers with the right skills remains a significant challenge, particularly as demand for our activities grows.

Financial sustainability

Securing sufficient funding continues to be a challenge. Diversifying our income and reducing reliance on grants and trusts will be essential. Corporate partnerships offer significant untapped potential, with opportunities to build stronger, long-term relationships.

Sports & Locations

Waterskiing and wakeboarding still account for the majority of our delivery. Expanding other adaptive sports and locations is a key priority, ensuring more people can access a wider range of adventures.





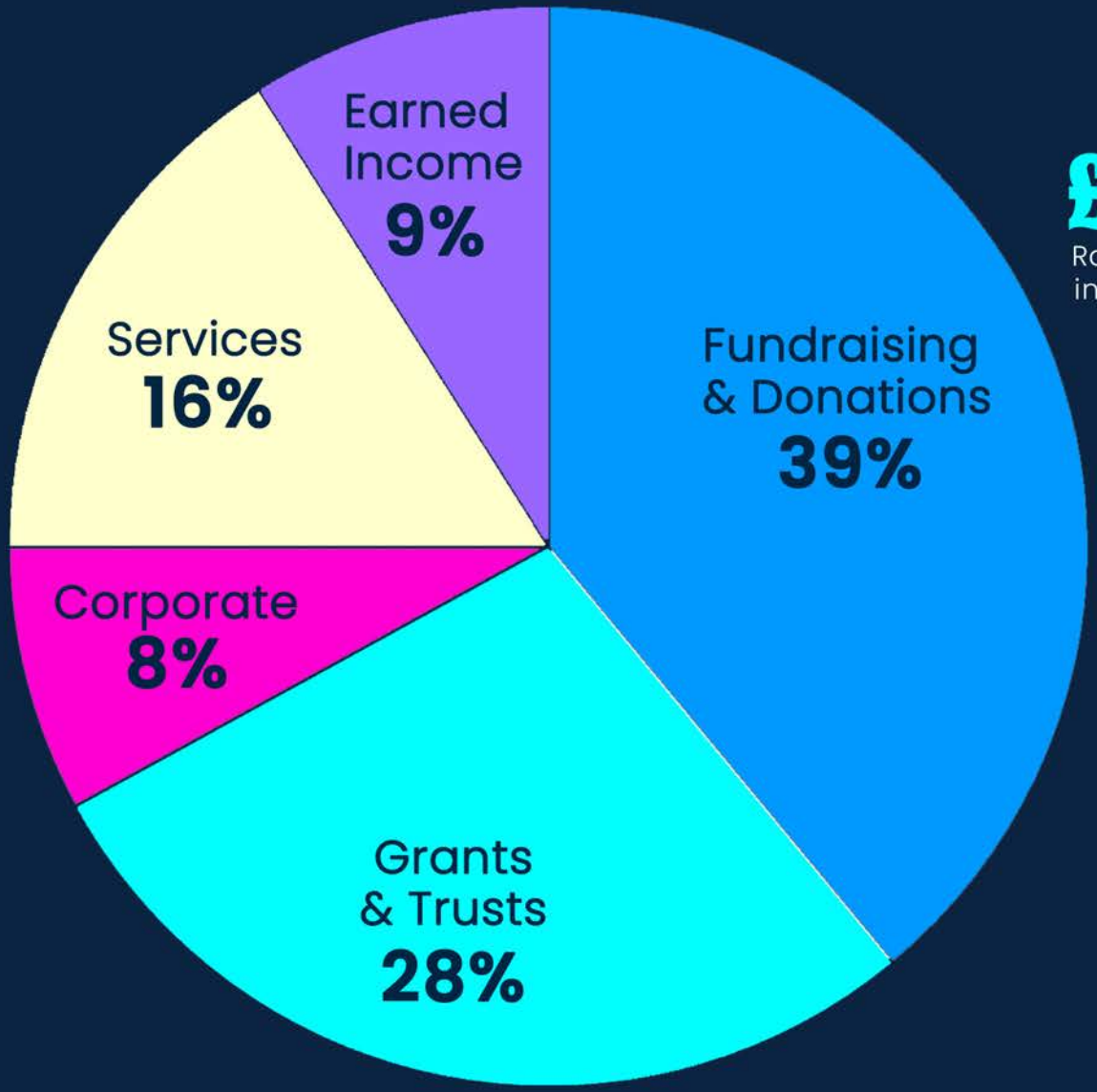
HOW WE WERE FUNDED IN 2025/26



£46,233
Generated towards service delivery



£21,203
Contributed by corporate sponsors



£108,162
Raised by our amazing individual supporters



£77,700
Awarded by Grants & Trust Foundations

Thank you to all the individuals, trusts, foundations, charities and businesses whose support made our work possible in 2025/26

* The pie chart excludes a generous legacy gift, with options being considered to maximise its long-term strategic impact

FUTURE PLANS

GROW OUR CREW

Recruit and retain skilled staff and volunteers, reaching new groups and communities

Strengthen & expand training to develop skills, confidence and expertise

Establish clear roles and development pathways, with defined competencies and opportunities to progress

Strengthen safeguarding, compliance and delivery standards to ensure safe, consistent participation

EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES

Explore new sports, venues and delivery partners, considering accessibility and practical logistics

Strengthen regional delivery, including Yorkshire & Central

Establish progression pathways, empowering experienced participants to mentor and inspire others

Develop partnerships and outreach consultancy to help other organisations improve access to adaptive sport

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY

Maintain a welcoming, supportive environment for participants, families and volunteers

Create more opportunities for family and friends to get involved

Expand social events to strengthen connections beyond sport

Improve communication and ongoing engagement with our community

Encourage participants and volunteers to share ideas and help shape future activities

BUILDING A STRONGER, MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

To achieve these ambitions, our fundraising strategy will focus on diversifying income, developing corporate partnerships and strengthening long-term financial sustainability

Continued support from donors, fundraisers, partners and sponsors will be vital to making this possible

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Whether you support us financially, take on a challenge or give your time, you can help break down barriers and create more life-changing opportunities for people with disabilities



DONATE

Every contribution makes a difference

Make a one-off donation

Become a regular giver

Support us when you shop

Give in memory of someone special or leave a gift in your will



FUNDRAISE

Take on a challenge. Change lives

Sign up to an organised fundraising event

Create your own challenge or fundraiser

Get friends, family or colleagues involved



CORPORATE

Make an impact together

Become a charity partner

Sponsor an event

Organise a team-building day at our lake

Support us through payroll giving or matched funding



VOLUNTEER

Be part of something extraordinary

Join our incredible community of volunteers and share your time, skills and enthusiasm

There are plenty of ways to get involved. No experience is necessary and there's a role for everyone!

You can find more ideas on our website

We appreciate any support you can give

ACCESS ADVENTURES

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Our sincere thanks to our Board of Trustees for their time, expertise and commitment to supporting Access Adventures and shaping its future

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