

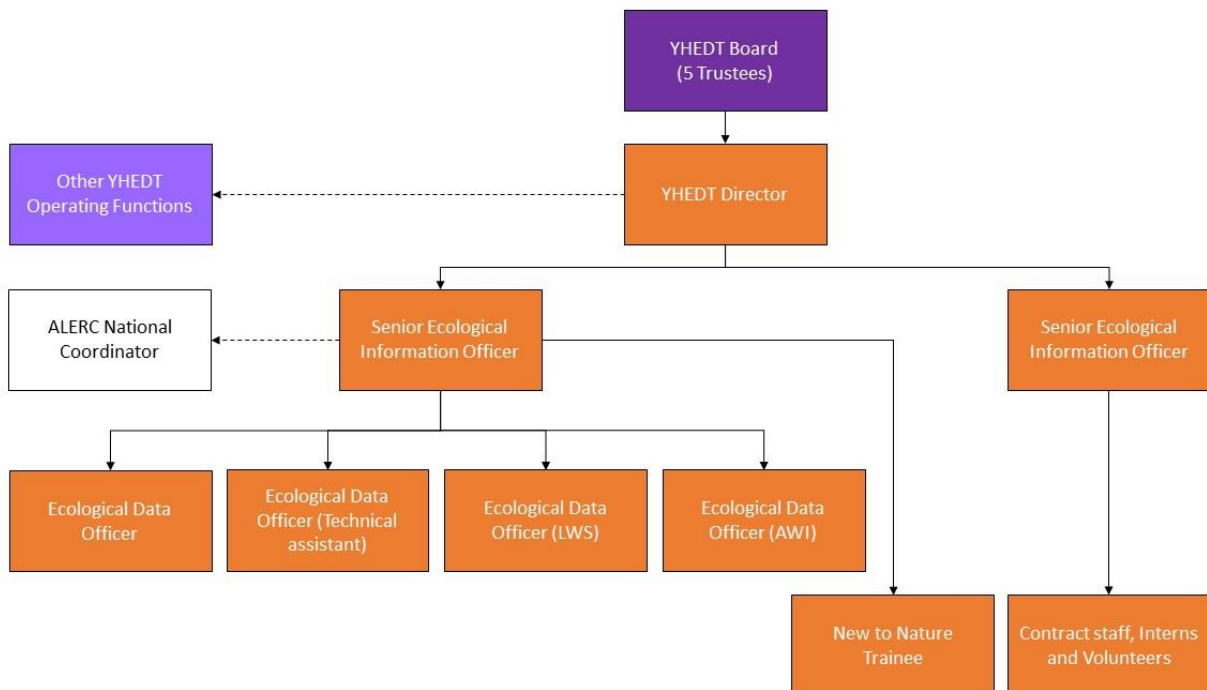
Yorkshire and Humber Ecological Data Trust (YHEDT)

Following a series of wide stakeholder consultation, the Yorkshire and Humber Ecological Data Trust was founded as a registered charity in 1998 with a view to establishing a Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) to cover the areas of North Yorkshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire and the cities of York and Hull. In 2000, the Trust established its primary operating function the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC).

NEYEDC undertakes all the functions and activities of a Local Environmental Records Centre, is a member of the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) and is accredited under their Defra recognised accreditation scheme.

NEYEDC has a mission to improve and inform conservation, land management and sustainable development through the collection, collation, management, analysis and dissemination of environmental information.

YHEDT Organisational Structure



The Work of NEYEDC

NEYEDC has three main strands of work; data management, decision support and data development / innovation. NEYEDC data management activities include the collection, collation, management and analysis of environmental data. NEYEDC works with both commercial and volunteer data providers to source environmental data and bring it into the digital data-sphere. Data and data products are disseminated to a wide range of users including environmental consultants, public bodies, research institutions, amateur experts and the general public.

NEYEDC works with partners, including local authorities, statutory bodies, commercial organisations and both professional and volunteer land managers to provide support and data products for decisions that may impact on the environment and in particular biodiversity. NEYEDC manages the data on which local authorities in North and East Yorkshire designate Local Wildlife Sites and provides information to support the development management process. NEYEDC also provides evidence to support the strategic planning process and preparation of Local Plans across North and East Yorkshire. Recent work has included natural capital mapping, identifying ecological networks to support local authority strategic planning and work to establish Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain policies.

NEYEDC seeks to promote the capacity to collect and use data in decision making through open innovation, knowledge transfer and engagement with technology development projects. In recent years, NEYEDC has worked with environmental consultancies on projects as diverse as hydrological modelling moorland river catchments to scoping the new national Priority Habitat Inventory. NEYEDC has worked with Nidderdale AONB and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology on habitat suitability modelling and high-resolution occupancy modelling respectively. We have run a National Lottery Heritage Fund knowledge transfer project called NatureHack and are currently undertaking a review of the Ancient Woodland Inventory and mapping fungi-rich grasslands across Yorkshire.

The projects undertaken by NEYEDC are carefully chosen to support strategic aims and charitable objectives of the Trust. For example, in 2015, NEYEDC undertook an innovation project funded by the North York Moors National Park Authority to explore the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) in collecting land management data. NEYEDC now operates both fixed-wing and multi-rotor drones, has two qualified pilots and a Civil Aviation Authority Operational Authorisation. We use the drones to collect data to support the decision-making activities of our partner organisations, including those of volunteer conservation managers at sites across Yorkshire.

As part of its charitable function, NEYEDC supports the work of amateur experts. We host the registered office and library of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union and provide administrative support. In addition, we participate in outreach activities and citizen science initiatives to promote the use of biodiversity data in conservation including organising the Hull City Nature Challenge in spring 2023.