



Sussex Air Quality Conference

Air-Mazing Journeys

Clare Dowling
09.10.2025

Our purpose

We make it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.

Because it changes everything. Our health. Our wellbeing. Our world. We're a UK-wide charity making it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle with an impressive history stretching back almost 50 years.

We call it people-powered movement

Walking, wheeling and cycling might sound like small actions. But they add up to something much, much bigger. They ripple out and change everything.



Photo: Jon Bewley

Project overview



Our role

- Engaging with schools and communities to raise awareness of air pollution
- Educating about causes and local/ small scale solutions
- Supporting individuals to reduce their exposure to poor air quality

Our partnership

We worked in partnership with with **Sussex Air**, Active Sussex, Community Rail Partnerships, Living Streets, Sussex Community Development Association and local community groups and schools.

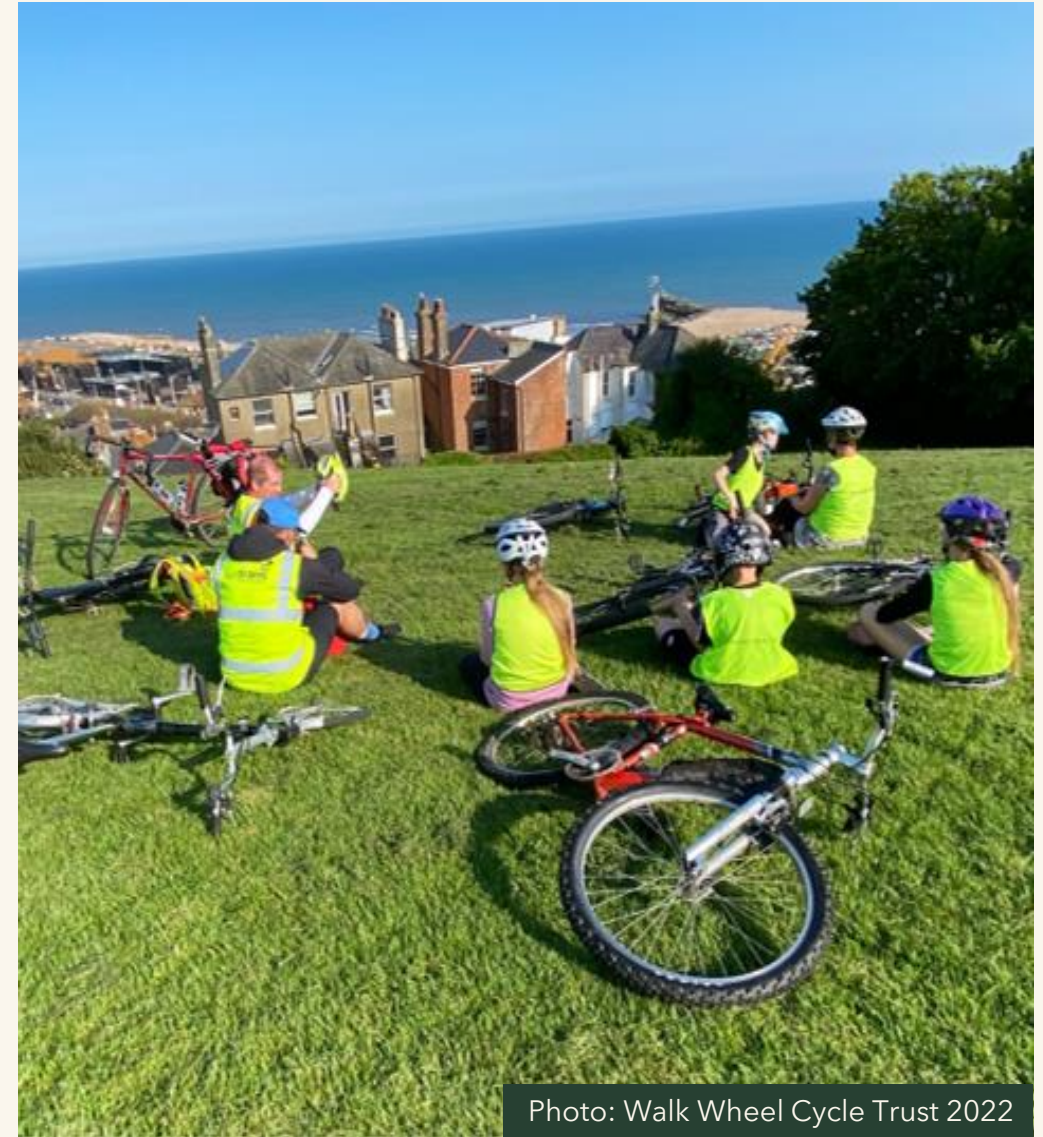
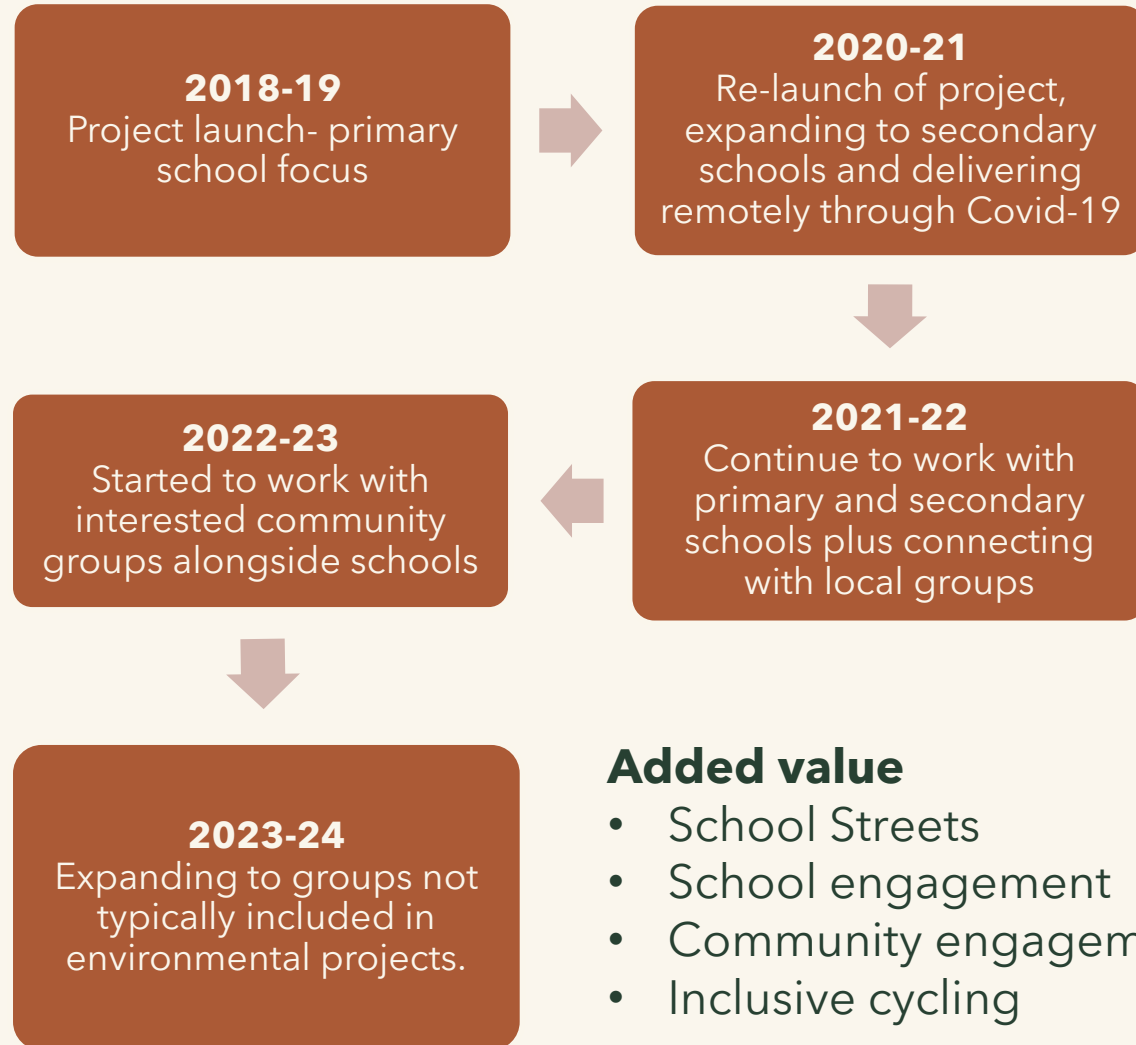


Photo: Walk Wheel Cycle Trust 2022

Project delivery



Added value

- School Streets
- School engagement
- Community engagement
- Inclusive cycling



Photo: Walk Wheel Cycle Trust 2022

Project outputs



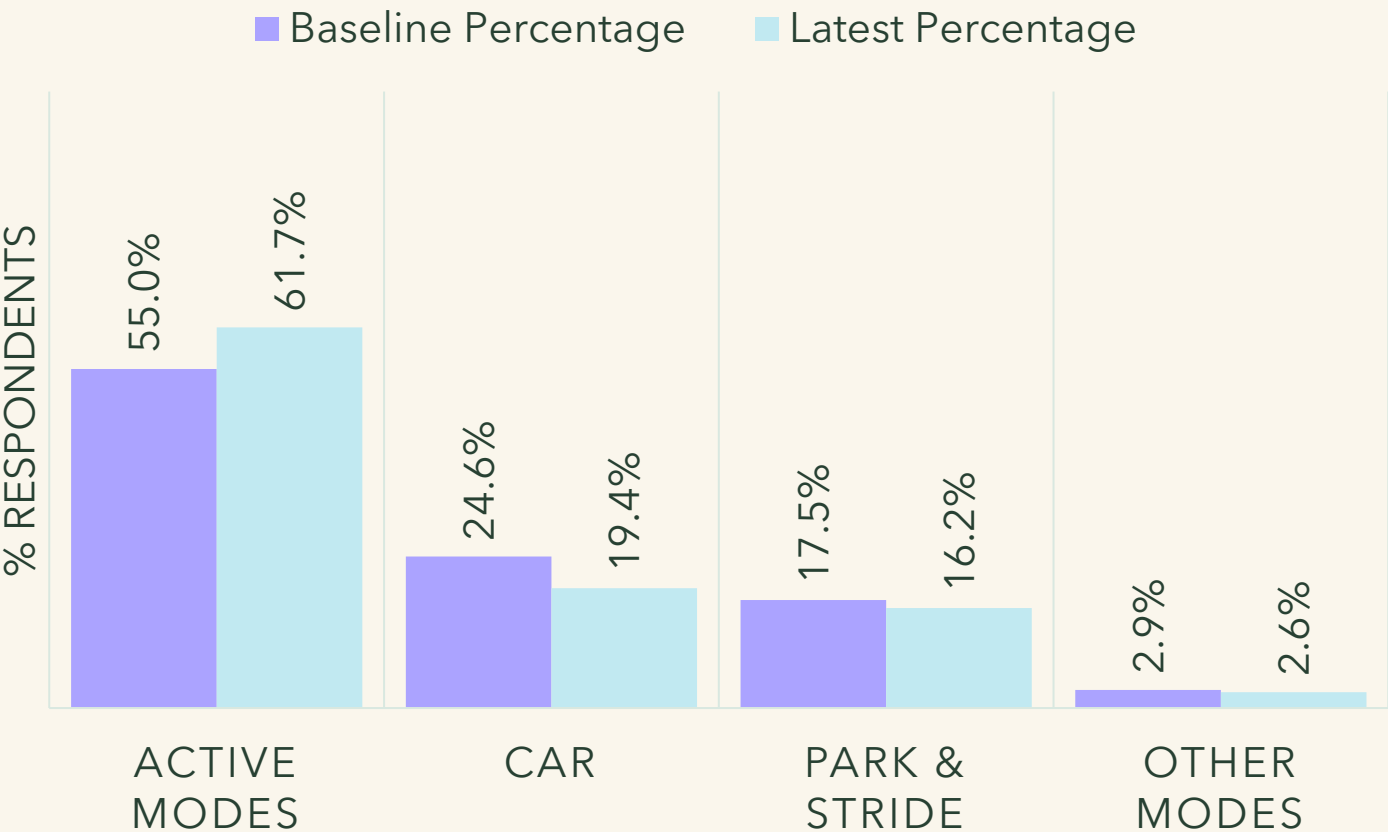
Main column	2018-19	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24**	Total
Number of primary schools	27	19	18	15	6	85
Number of secondary schools/ colleges	-	9	10	8	1	28
Number of school activities	172	360*	214*	80	46	872
Number of pupil engagements	4,621	35,000*	17909*	5000	4000	66,530
Number of community groups engaged with	-	-	-	12	3	15
Number of community activities	-	-	-	24	5	29
Number of community member engagements	-	-	-	450	100	550

*During covid- more online content with wider audience but less intensive engagement

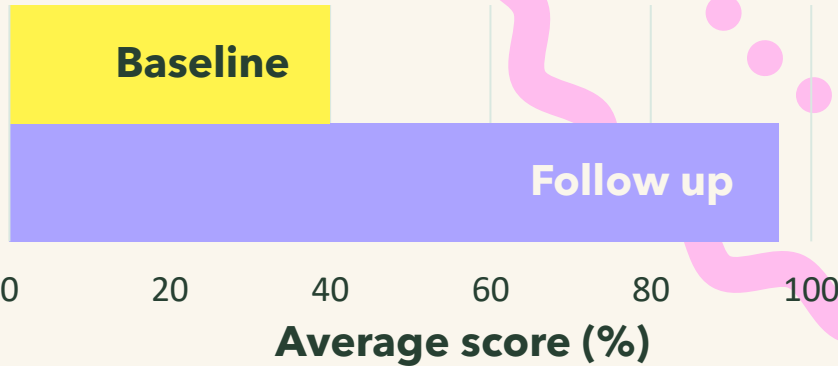
**Partial year

Project outcomes (2020-21)

HOW DO YOU USUALLY (OR MOST OFTEN) TRAVEL TO SCHOOL? - ACTIVE TRAVEL



KNOWLEDGE QUIZ RESULTS



Percentage point change in pupils “usually” being **driven** to school between baseline and follow up



Percentage point change in students “usually” travelling via **active modes** between baseline and follow up



Solutions

Improving local air quality

- Walking, wheeling or cycling journeys
- School Streets
- Car share/ use public transport
- “Park and Stride” to reduce air pollution around schools
- Reducing engine idling
- Reducing wood-burning in built-up areas/ clean burn fuel

Reducing exposure to poor air quality

- Using air quality maps and monitoring devices
- Identifying areas/ times of higher pollution levels
- “Clean Air Routes”



Case study

South Malling school

The challenge

- Located by busy road/ on bus route
- Near Lewes AQMA
- Highest NO₂ reading from 2018-19 project in green area

Our impact

- Increased knowledge around air quality with students, parents and staff
- Increased interest in finding solutions by school staff
- Cycling to school doubled
- New partnerships created- 70 saplings donated and funding secured for more planting and willow fencing for outdoor learning area



Case study

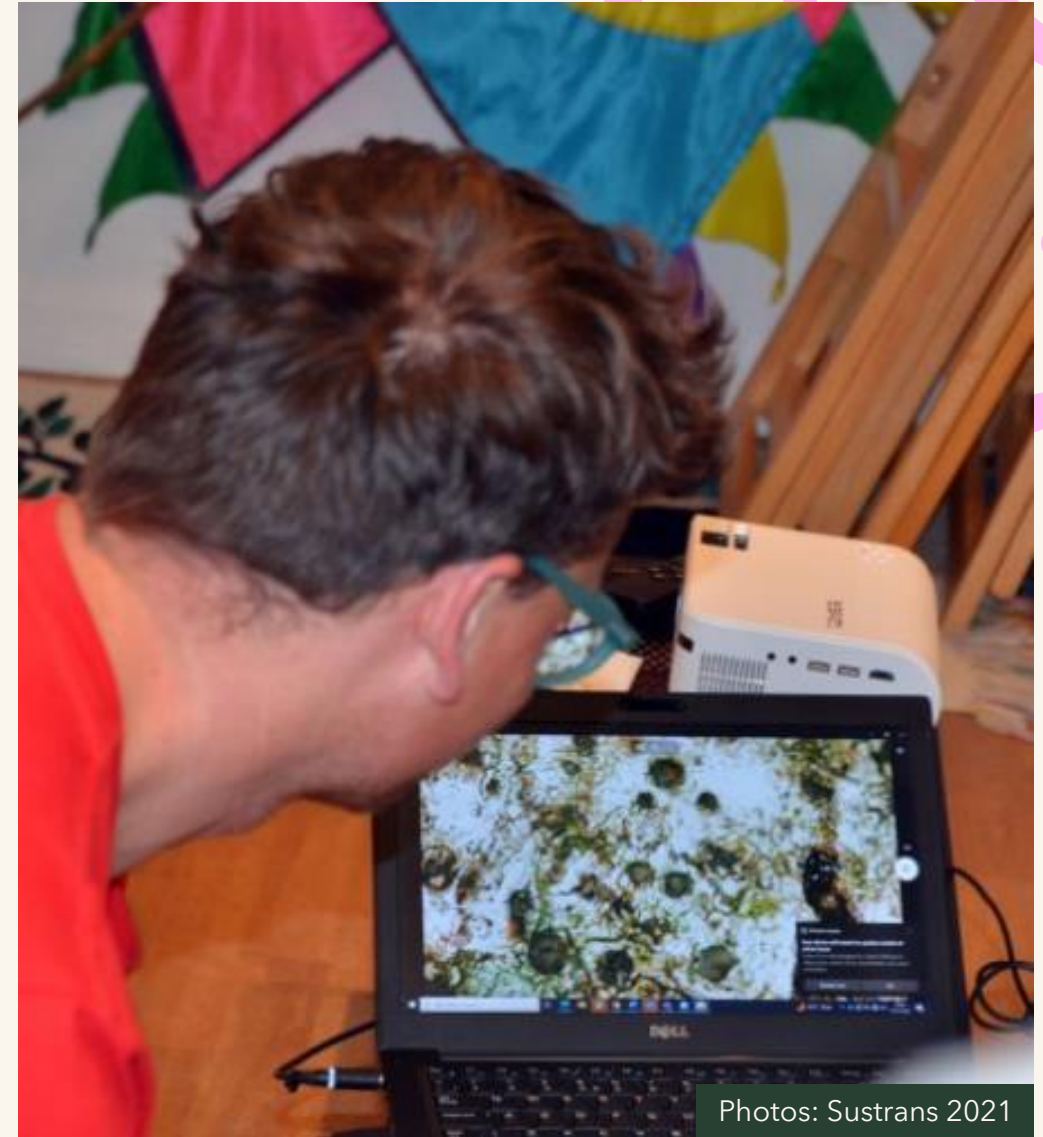
Secondary schools

The challenge

- Post- covid reduction in amount of fieldwork that students undertake

Our impact

- Increased knowledge around air quality with students, and staff
- Opportunities for high-quality fieldwork supporting schools to improve geography and environmental science offerings
- Legacy resources shared to continue with air quality related fieldwork in secondary schools and colleges across Sussex



Photos: Sustrans 2021

Case study

Community engagement



“

I feel so much more informed and properly understand the causes.

”

Local Councillor



“

The young people really enjoyed themselves and it sounds like it was perfectly pitched for them too so big thank you.

”

Project Manager
Nature Links Community Action Project



Photos: Sustrans 2021

“

The children enjoyed investigating the effects of traffic pollution by actively engaging in a fun activities using microscopes. This educated them on the environment around us to become aware of the benefits of active travel.”

”

Sarah - Active Hastings Link Worker



Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is the charity making it possible for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle.

We work directly with communities to make change happen. Then we evidence the impact to influence policies that push those changes further.

Because people powered movement changes everything. Our health. Our wellbeing. Our world.

Find out more at
www.walkwheelcycletrust.org.uk

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust is a registered charity in the UK no. 326550 (England and Cymru), SC039263 (Scotland) and 20206824 (Republic of Ireland)

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