

Wilder Horsham District

Nature Recovery Award

Application Guidance Notes

Nature Recovery Award

The Nature Recovery Award is a fund to support practical schemes that improve and connect habitats for wildlife in the Horsham District.

Landowners and community groups can apply for funding for projects of any size up to a maximum of £5,000. There is £30,000 available annually, which will be awarded on a competitive basis.

We offer site visits to help support and develop your project ideas. We strongly encourage a site visit, or at the very least a phone call with project staff, as this tends to lead to stronger proposals that are more likely to be funded.

If you wish to receive in-person advice from project staff to help develop your project idea and support your application, please contact the project prior to submission at wilderhorshamdistrict@sussexwt.org.uk. There tends to be a waiting list for site visits, so please get in touch as early as possible.

Assessment Criteria

All applications will be considered against the following four criteria:

1. Contribution to the creation and improvement of habitats

A habitat is the environment as a natural home for a plant animal or other organism. Many habitats degrade due to lack of management. For example, hedgerows become tall and leggy if not managed and heathlands can be degraded if deer are not excluded. Projects that restore habitat quality or create lost habitats will score highly.

2. Contribution to improving habitat connectivity

It is not just the quality of habitats that is important for wildlife; it is equally important that such habitats are connected. Connecting (or re-connecting) habitats is key to restoring a rich natural world, because it allows species to move around their environment more easily (functional connectivity) and builds a much wider landscape of areas that they can access (structural connectivity).

Projects should demonstrate how they will connect habitats within the property and/or the wider landscape. Connectivity can look very different depending on the habitat and species in question.

3. Value for money

Projects must demonstrate good value for money in terms of **impact** and **cost-effectiveness** of each pound spent. Value for money is *not* about achieving the lowest initial price but **getting the desired quality at a competitive price**, and your budgets should be realistic and justifiable.

4. Informed design and management of the works

The panel will consider whether your project design is the **strongest and most appropriate way to achieve your desired outcomes for the benefit of wildlife**.

For example, if you wish to plant a hedgerow to create a habitat corridor between two woodlands, appropriate design will include factors such as the planting of a suitable variety of native trees and shrubs, at the right time of year, on appropriate habitat. We also, where possible, prefer to support projects that utilise [natural processes](#) as a mean of delivery.

Project proposals that best reflect the factors in our assessment criteria will be more likely to be successful. We strongly advise you to contact the project prior to submission to discuss your project idea and/or arrange a site visit, so we can help guide you.

To see what types of projects have been successfully funded already, you can find all the details on the 'Nature Recovery Award' page in our [End of Year reports](#).

Any proposals submitted that fall outside of our funding remit will not be funded.

Examples of what we do NOT fund include:

- Education and outreach (including projects focused on conservation and environment).
- Improving access to outdoor spaces for people.
- Building infrastructure in outdoor spaces/habitats where its primary function benefits people, not wildlife (e.g. bird hides, pathways, benches, pond dipping platforms).

Application Process

Application rounds are run quarterly. Please see the [Nature Recovery Award webpage](#) for the application round opening and closing dates for the current funding year.

If you wish to apply, please **complete the application form** on our website **and email to WilderHorshamDistrict@sussexwt.org.uk** or post to Wilder Horsham District, Sussex Wildlife Trust, First Floor, The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP. Please use the checklist to ensure you have submitted the required supplementary information.

Following submission, we will mail or email confirming receipt of your application. If we feel your submission requires further information to be considered for the award, we will be in touch prior to the deadline to support your application, which may involve requesting a site visit.

A panel of Sussex Wildlife Trust and Horsham District Council staff will review all submitted applications at quarterly panel meetings, selecting to award funding to project proposals that best reflect the assessment criteria issued above.

All applicants will be contacted whether successful or not. If applications exceed the funding allocation for the given period, you may be invited to resubmit your application during the next funding round. Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback on why their proposal was rejected and are welcome to reapply with a modified or new proposal.

Conditions of Funding

If you are successful in your application, we will issue you a formal offer of funding and set out the terms and conditions attached to the award.

Successful projects will receive funding following completion of project. Monies will be paid upon receipt of invoice for materials or work done and supporting evidence of project completion. This includes the supply of digital images and or video clips for use in project reports and on our website and social media.

By accepting the offer of funding, you are accepting these invoicing procedures. If you are unable to pay for project costs upfront, it may be possible to make alternative arrangements, but please discuss this with us before submitting an application.

Wilder Horsham District requests that recipients acknowledge the funder in any materials or spoken presentations that refer to the project, and that such acknowledgements (where appropriate) include the project name and logo, using templates provided.

Project Monitoring

Award recipients will be monitored and supported to ensure the Agreement is being adhered to and that the project aims and objectives are being met. **Wilder Horsham District reserves the right to withdraw funding if the funding agreement is not adhered to.** Further monitoring arrangements will be included within the funding agreement, which is issued to successful applicants before they accept a funding contract.

If you have any questions or require further support throughout the application process, please email WilderHorshamDistrict@sussexwt.org.uk.