

Removing Barriers to Access Fund

High Weald National Landscape Partnership Grant Awards

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2026



High Weald
National
Landscape

Organisation name	Items and activities supported	Grant award year	Grant award
West Sussex County Council	Upgrade to 160m of footpath surface at Buchan Country Park to enable multi-user access to the Park's promoted trails.	2022	£10,742
East Sussex County Council	Purchase and installation of metal gates, to replace some of the 2,000 stiles on the East Sussex High Weald public rights of way network and an enable less agile people (and dogs) to more easily use footpaths. Focus areas led by landowners and communities.	2022	£25,272
Kent County Council	Purchase and installation of kissing gates, to replace some of the stiles on the Kent High Weald public rights of way network and an enable less agile people (and dogs) to more easily use footpaths. Focus areas led by landowners and communities.	2022	£6,318
Ashdown Forest Conservators	Installation of a modular Changing Places toilet (with associated groundworks) and creation of a DDA compliant access path linking the Forest Centre car park to the information and education barns. The infrastructure will make the Centre more accessible to a wider range of people, allowing visits to, and a better experience of the Ashdown Forest, the largest area of open access in the Southeast, and a key countryside destination within the High Weald National Landscape.	2022	£89,073

Organisation name	Items and activities supported	Grant award year	Grant award
Kent High Weald Partnership	Installation of 60m of boardwalk through a waterlogged area to enable year-round access across Sherwood Lake and Woods from neighbouring housing estates. Small-scale access improvements by volunteers at Cinderhill Wood to enable horse riders to access paths and manoeuvre through gates.	2022	£10,516
West Sussex County Council	Purchase of two wheelchair accessible picnic tables for installation by volunteers alongside the Easy Access Trail at Buchan Country Park to make it easier for family groups that include a wheelchair user to stop, picnic and use the BBQ stands.	2023	£1,958
East Sussex County Council	Purchase of three wheelchair accessible picnic benches and one armless 'Chiddingstone' bench for installation by volunteers alongside the Forest Way Country Park; a disused railway line managed as an easy access trail which also connects to many PROW in the surrounding river valley. The benches make it easier for less mobile people to stop and rest and provide more opportunities for everyone to stop, picnic and enjoy views of the High Weald landscape.	2023	£4,452
West Sussex County Council	Upgrade of a permissive footpath across the Holmbush Estate, improving access between Kilnwood Vale, a large housing estate on the edge of Crawley and Buchan Country Park (located just within the High Weald National Landscape). Capital works involved tree and stump removal to create a 3m wide path, installation of a culvert to allow drainage, dressing of 210m of new path with mot type one stone and installation of a new access gate.	2024	£16,776
East Sussex County Council	Purchase and installation of 107 metal gates, to replace some of the 2,000 stiles on the East Sussex High Weald public rights of way network and an enable less agile people (and dogs) to more easily use footpaths. Focus areas led by landowners and communities with approximately 26 km of public rights of way made more accessible.	2024	£20,000

Organisation name	Items and activities supported	Grant award year	Grant award
Kent County Council	Surface improvements to the well-used PROW network around Tunbridge Wells to allow year-round use with a focus on sections that form part of, or link, key promoted routes: the Tunbridge Wells Circular Walk and the High Weald Landscape Trail (WB53, WB54 and WT109). Improvements to 295 metres of bridleway (2m width) and 680 metres of footpath (1.5m width) with 150mm of mot type one stone.	2024	£39,130
Kent County Council	Purchase and installation of 25 kissing gates, to replace some of the stiles on the Kent High Weald public rights of way network and enable less agile people (and dogs) to more easily use footpaths. Focus areas led by landowners and communities with approximately 6km of public rights of way made more accessible.	2024	£8,925
St Helens Preservation Society	Improvements to the path network around St Helens nature reserve, an important wildlife-rich area of greenspace that connects urban Hastings with the national landscape. Volunteer installation of 5 bridges to improve access across the deep-sided gills (waterways) that are typical of the High Weald and erection of 10 wooden way marker posts to make the nature reserve's path network easier to use and navigate.	2024	£7,394
Aspens Charities	Opening up of access to 'Claypit mere', a large pond located in the grounds of a charity dedicated to helping people with autism and other learning disabilities. Installation of a wheelchair accessible viewing platform (3.6 x 3.6m), a pond dipping platform and new 4.5m metre access path dressed with mot type one stone.	2024	£5,376
Kent High Weald Partnership	Construction of a 13m long timber boardwalk and installation of two benches to provide rest points for those with limited mobility, improving access within Barnett's Wood and asphaltting of a wheelchair entrance and construction of a 40m boardwalk and 8 steps to improve 55m of path, facilitating access around Sherwood Lake.	2024	£22,090

Organisation name	Items and activities supported	Grant award year	Grant award
Kent County Council	Installation of 96m of recycled plastic boardwalk along two sections of public rights of way (WT79) making sections of the path network around Shadwell Woods, Speldhurst suitable for year-round use. Project to use three different boardwalk materials to allow assessment of strengths/weaknesses to inform future projects.	2025	£32,655
Kent County Council	Surface improvements to a 530m section of public rights of way (WT403) to improve a popular section of the Tunbridge Wells Circular Walk (near High Rocks and a Scout's Association camp) and make it suitable for year-round use.	2025	£13,400
Kent County Council	Installation of 65m of recycled plastic boardwalk along a section of public rights of way (WC105) that passes through a wet woodland, making a popular public right of way linking Cranbrook and Sissinghurst more suited to year-round use.	2025	£31,056
East Sussex County Council	Purchase and installation of 100 to 130 metal gates, to replace some of the 2,000 stiles on the East Sussex High Weald rights of way network. Focus areas led by landowners and communities with approximately 25 km of public rights of way made more accessible.	2025	£24,878
RSPB (Broadwater Forest)	Installation of a new 90-metre section of boardwalk to link two existing boardwalks and achieve safe access to, and protection of, a beautiful wet woodland. Improvements to drainage (110 metres of drainage trenches and two six-metre drainage pipes) and recambering with an excavator of 320m of path to improve runoff, reduce erosion and enable year-round accessibility.	2025	£6,755
Gravetye Estate	Surface improvements (dressing with mot type 1 stone) to create a 250-metre all-weather section of path in a key location on the estate's blue circular walking route leading to improved accessibility and year-round use of the path.	2025	£22,268

Organisation name	Items and activities supported	Grant award year	Grant award
TCV	Purchase of a nearly new electric minibus for transporting up to 15 volunteers and tools to 10 sites p.a. within the High Weald to allow over 75 conservation tasks p.a. and a unique experience that improves people's access to and connection with the landscape.	2025	£51,716

21 projects with a total grant award of £450,752