



# High Weald Nature and Community Fund 2026

## Application Criteria

### Introduction

**Welcome to the High Weald Nature and Community Fund, which supports work that benefits nature and people across the High Weald Landscape.**

The High Weald covers parts of Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex and Kent, including the villages and towns in and around it such as Heathfield, Crowborough, Battle, Horsham, Crawley, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath, Uckfield, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Tenterden, Rye and Hastings. [Click here to view a map of the area >>.](#)

The Fund is managed by the High Weald National Landscape Partnership and funded by Lund Trust. A panel nominated by the Lund Trust makes decisions on grants.

### Aims

The Fund aims to:

- **Create new wildlife-friendly green spaces**, including community gardens, pocket parks, allotments, community orchards, and school growing spaces, particularly in towns and villages.
- **Improve habitats and enhance connections between them by making existing green spaces greener** through initiatives like pond creation, wetland development, hedge and tree planting, species-rich grassland establishment, and installation of bird, bug, and bat boxes. We may also support habitat management/restoration work, such as hedge-laying, coppicing, and invasive species removal if integral to broader conservation efforts.
- **Engage communities in the management of green spaces** for nature and food growing, increase volunteer participation in environmental projects, and provide resources and training for community-led conservation efforts.
- **Facilitate connections to nature for individuals disconnected from it**, including young people, those with physical or mental health challenges, people living with disabilities and other underrepresented groups, by enabling access to the High Weald landscape.

### Criteria

When evaluating grant applications, the panel considers:

- The extent to which your work aligns with one or more of the above aims
- The need for our funding and the value for money provided
- The likelihood of successful project implementation following good practice standards
- The sustainability and legacy of the project
- The potential for the project to inspire others.

## Who can apply?

We welcome applications from non-profit organisations such as public bodies, charities, community groups, schools, and churches. Additionally, private landowners and land managers may apply if their proposed work provides a clear, direct public benefit. At a minimum, the work we support must be visible from a road or public right of way.

## How much can I apply for?

- **Non-profit organisations:** Up to 100% of project costs.
- **Private landowners/land managers:** Up to 40% of project costs, potentially up to 80% for projects offering significant benefits to people and nature.
- **Small grants:** £500 to £20,000. Project completion within three years of grant acceptance.
- **Large grants:** up to £100,000 for larger-scale, collaborative projects. Project completion timeline within five years of grant acceptance.

The grants can support capital and revenue costs.

## How to apply

It is important to us that the applications we receive have a good chance of success. Please [register your interest in the Fund via our website](#), using the online form. Within two weeks, an adviser from the High Weald National Landscape team will contact you to discuss your project idea informally. We work alongside other grant programmes and may suggest alternative schemes better suited to your project.

If your project is potentially suitable for a [small grant](#), we will:

- send you the small grants application form
- provide advice on submitting a strong application
- offer a site visit if we think it would be helpful to your project development
- invite you to events that will help you develop your project and complete the application form.

If your project is potentially suitable for a [large grant](#), we will:

- ask you to complete an expression of interest form
- seek 'in principle' support from the panel for your project
- send you the large grants application form
- offer advice and support with project development
- provide comment on application drafts.

## Application deadline, assessment, and decision

The panel considers applications once a year. You can submit your application anytime until the programme closes at midnight on **Monday 13 July 2026**. The panel will review applications in mid-September, considering project benefits, financial need, implementation likelihood, sustainability, and potential for inspiration. Decision notifications will be sent in early October 2026.

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

