

# Sussex Lund 2023

## Criteria and Guidance Notes



Sussex Lund is a grants programme supported by the Lund Trust. It supports small-scale, practical projects that improve the landscape of the High Weald AONB and the towns, villages and hamlets on its fringes. It also supports projects that help people to experience the landscape and build connections to it.

### What area does the programme cover?



The programme is focused on the [High Weald AONB](#) (which covers parts of West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent, and Surrey) and the towns, hamlets and villages on its fringes.

Projects focused on farms and woods are eligible, as well as projects focused on community greenspaces such as churchyards, school grounds, allotments, and recreation areas.

[Click here to view a larger, more detailed version of this map and the application buffer zone.](#)

### Who do we support?

Sussex Lund is open to everyone: community groups, schools, churches, parish councils, charities, arts organisations, businesses, farmers, and landowners. If you are a private landowner or a for-profit organisation you will need to demonstrate that the landscape and public benefit is greater than any private gain.

Sussex Lund will consider applications from past applicants for new projects, but not for the continuation and maintenance of previously funded projects.

### What projects do we support?

Sussex Lund will consider supporting the capital and revenue costs of projects that make a tangible improvement to the High Weald's landscape by:

- [Improving its habitats](#) such as creating ponds and wetland, removing non-native species (for example rhododendron and leylandii), planting new hedges and restoring old ones, planting

trees, coppicing woodland, planting orchards, developing more species-rich grassland, putting up bird, bug and bat boxes or creating more wildlife-friendly allotments and greenspace.

- Improving its scenic beauty such as planting street trees, reducing sign and light pollution, removing or screening eyesores, replacing 'hard', man-made boundaries with soft, natural boundaries, and clearing litter.

Sussex Lund will also support projects that engage people in the landscape by:

- Improving people's experience of the area through projects that develop a better understanding of the landscape, share its benefits for people, and build long lasting connections to the area. We are especially interested in projects that improve the experiences of young people, new residents and people who are nature deprived.

### How much can I apply for?

One-off grants of between £500 and £15,000 are available. Ideally you will spend the grant within a year of accepting your grant offer but projects that take longer will be considered.

The programme will accept applications for larger grants for collaborative projects involving two or more organisations or individuals, or for multi-year projects if they enable landscape-scale change or better people engagement.

Collaborative projects are welcomed as greater impact and reduced costs can often be achieved through joint working.

### Do I need match funding?

There is no requirement for match funding. However, the grant panel will consider your own or others' commitment to the project in the form of cash, in-kind support, or time in their decision-making.

### When can I apply?

The panel considers applications once a year. The closing date for 2023 applications is midnight of **Tuesday 3 October 2023**.

### How do I apply?

**If you are considering applying, it is essential that you contact us for informal advice about the suitability of your project and tips on how to submit a strong application.** It is important to us that the applications we receive have a good chance of success.

If you have not already spoken to us, [please register your interest](#) by submitting an enquiry via our website. We host free events during the application window to support you in developing your project. To find out more, register an enquiry and book an event go to [www.highweald.org/Sussex-Lund](http://www.highweald.org/Sussex-Lund).

### Submitting a strong application

The panel will be looking for projects with strong evidence of need and long-term benefits, that provide value for money, follow good environmental practices, have a low carbon footprint and can inspire wider change. Below are some questions to consider before applying and when completing your application form.

- Do you have a management plan for your site/project? A plan will demonstrate that your project is well considered. *If you don't have a plan, but think one would be useful, we may be able to help you with any costs.*

- If you need support for equipment, how often, and for how long, will it be used? How will it be maintained? Can you hire the equipment rather than purchase it? Can you loan it to others, so the benefits are greater?
- Have you avoided pesticides (unless essential, for example in non-native species control)?
- Have you avoided use of non-sustainable materials, such as peat and plastic, and used more sustainable materials such as peat-free compost or British or local timber?
- If your project involves planting, are you using species typical of the High Weald and are they from reputable sources? Can you use 'whips' or younger trees which are cheaper than standard trees?
- For people-focused projects, how will you engage residents and visitors? How will you recruit and train volunteers if needed? *If you can supply a PR/engagement plan it will strengthen your application.*
- Have you identified specific places for delivering a people-focused project? *We will need a copy of your agreement with the landowner or manager to carry out activities on their land.*
- How will you measure the impact of your project on people's relationship with – and appreciation of - the High Weald landscape?
- Have you minimised the carbon footprint of your project by considering the CO<sub>2</sub> impact of the goods and services you are choosing?
- If your organisation has an annual income of more than £300,000, is your project in addition to what you would normally be expected to do? Can you use your reserves?
- What is the public benefit of your project? For projects on private land, is your project visible from roads or public paths?
- Are your project management costs/overheads justified and a reasonable proportion of your overall costs?
- How will you maintain your project once complete?

### When will my project be assessed?

We will present your application to the Sussex Lund grant panel in early December. We will tell you the panel's decision by the end of December.

### Who to contact

To register your interest or tell us about your proposed project, [please complete our enquiry form](#) and a member of the High Weald team will be in touch to discuss your project.

Sussex Lund is administered by the High Weald AONB Partnership in collaboration with [Lund Trust](#).

