

Nature and Community Fund 2024 Grant Awards



Recipient	Project location	Project summary	Grant	Category
Isabella Goggin	Across the High Weald	An exploration of textiles as a potential diversification option for mixed farming within the context of the land-based economy of the High Weald.	£7,500	Lund Fellowship
Nigel Akehurst	Across the High Weald	An exploration of how to celebrate and build more enthusiasm around the growing network of regenerative farmers in the High Weald.	£7,500	Lund Fellowship
Greening Chiddingly	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Twenty wildlife and landscape-focused events for landowners, school children and the wider Chiddingly community, as well as under-served communities from outside of the area, involving environmental arts, science and surveys.	£8,013	Greening Chiddingly
Chiddingly Primary School on behalf of Parents and Friends of Chiddingly School	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Creation of a nature friendly garden for outdoor learning by 109 school pupils, involving removal of disused astroturf, preparation of a lawn for wildflower sowing and planting of native and heritage fruit trees.	£9,885	Greening Chiddingly
Chiddingly Parish Council	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Restoration of a 250m ³ pond and improved management of 1600m ² of species rich grassland by contractors and volunteers to create more varied and wildlife-friendly habitat within a parish nature reserve.	£2,700	Greening Chiddingly
Chiddingly Parish Council	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Creation of a 20m ² seasonal pond to improve the habitat mosaic of a community orchard.	£875	Greening Chiddingly
Hale Farm	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Creation of a moveable all-weather teaching space and vegetable growing area for groups of children with special needs, and planting and protection of a new hedge (207m).	£9,051	Greening Chiddingly
Hawthbush Farm	Gun Hill, East Sussex	Planting of 443m of lost hedgerows, creation of four in-field tree copses, and fencing off and planting of 153m of the river Cuckmere to create beaver-ready habitat.	£14,403	Greening Chiddingly
Smithland's Wood	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Resetting of a 900m ² wildlife pond to create a more diverse wetland habitat mosaic in a private nature reserve used by Girl Guides and managed by volunteers.	£2,762	Greening Chiddingly

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Wild in the City	Fletching, East Sussex	Connecting 78 people of colour from London with the High Weald's landscape and wildlife through two three-day residential and three one-day training courses (nine days in total) to build knowledge and confidence in visiting and exploring rural areas.	£15,743	Connect
London Youth	Wych Cross, East Sussex	Establishment of a 'Kids Fund' which, over three years, will allow 264 poorer children from nature-deprived areas visit a well-established High Weald outdoor education centre and experience woodland-focused nature activities.	£20,000	Connect
Lymley Wood CIC	Five Ashes, East Sussex	320 holiday club sessions to allow disadvantaged local children to connect with nature in a typical High Weald wood and field, alongside temporary administrator support to allow development of projects that improve the site's habitat management.	£19,100	Connect
Wild Souls Woods CIC	Crawley, West Sussex	Delivery of three 12-week activity programmes that will help 15 families with children that have special needs connect with nature, become environmental stewards and improve their well-being.	£10,080	Connect
Care for Carers	Several locations across the High Weald	Support for an Artists in Residence project providing 14 workshops, 9 outdoors in High Weald nature reserves and 5 indoors, for 128 East Sussex carers including 16 young carers, culminating in a celebratory event.	£14,549	Connect
Arts on Prescription CIC	St Leonards, East Sussex	Installation of a roofed pergola to create more outdoor learning space, support for five volunteer gardeners and delivery of 42 nature and food-growing events for approximately 360 disadvantaged adults and children living in Hastings.	£20,000	Connect
Blackshed CIC	Robertsbridge, East Sussex	A varied and creative events programme of 13 events focused on connecting and engaging people with mental health challenges (around 200 participants) and the wider community (around 120 participants) with village habitats to achieve multiple benefits, including environmental action.	£8,525	Engage
Children's Forest	Several locations across the High Weald	Advice and training to help around 200 people care for eight established Children's Forests.	£7,224	Engage

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Wild Groombridge	Groombridge, East Sussex	Community building and siting of 60 nest-boxes, creation of 3ha of nectar-rich area next to a public path through shrub planting and Weald native origin seed sowing, and purchase of wildlife survey and monitoring equipment to support the delivery of community wildlife walks, talks, training and surveys.	£8,330	Engage
St Francis Field CIC	Northiam, East Sussex	Chainsaw, pruner, Allen scythe mower and a range of hand tools to allow volunteers to manage the St Francis Field woods, hedges and grassland for wildlife, plus erection of temporary deer fencing (300m) to protect regenerating coppice stools.	£5,439	Engage
Oak Haven Collective CIC	Edenbridge, Kent	Tools, materials and training to allow volunteers to create and manage wildlife habitats and build capacity to run engaging events for the wider community.	£1,960	Engage
St John the Baptist Church, Tidebrook	Tidebrook, East Sussex	Removal of non-native trees and shrubs, planting of 30 native trees, creation of a compost heap, and purchase of tools for conservation volunteers.	£5,439	Engage
Wadhurst Primary and Nursery	Wadhurst, East Sussex	Establishment of a school growing area with raised beds, fences and a shed, and purchase of beehives and beekeeping equipment to give children hands on experience with food growing and beekeeping.	£4,485	Create
Stonegate CofE Primary School	Stonegate, East Sussex	Expansion of the school allotment and composting area, and creation of a plant propagation area, to make the school grounds more nature friendly, more easily integrated into curriculum teaching and better able to support pupil wellbeing.	£4,119	Create
Sanctuary Farm	Horam, East Sussex	Construction of an outdoor kitchen, with a 300m water and electricity supply and food preparation area, to allow the farm to offer food growing and healthy eating sessions for an additional 10 schools and 500 young people.	£7,306	Create
Sussex Community Rail Partnership (Friends of Ore Station)	Hastings, East Sussex	Restoration of a piece of derelict land into a vibrant community garden through clearance of fly-tipping, construction of ten raised beds and erection of two community notice boards with three community open days, three 'how to grow plants' workshops and ten nature-focused school activity days.	£19,633	Create

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Ore in Bloom	Hastings, East Sussex	Creation of a new wildlife friendly community garden on disused space behind the Men's Shed in the heart of Ore through landscaping, creation of planting beds, and pollinator friendly planting. The garden will engage older, isolated and disadvantaged people from the local area.	£18,058	Create
Heathfield and Waldron Parish Church	Heathfield, East Sussex	Planting of a new 60m native species hedge between a footpath and allotment to create new habitat that supports insects and pollinators and contributes to the ecological functioning of the allotment.	£1,500	Create
Pevensey Farmers Cluster Group	Upper reaches of the Cuckmere river catchment	Installation and management of six state-of-the-art mink rafts with three training session for farmers and bird surveyors to help eradicate mink from the Cuckmere water catchment and enable water vole and breeding bird recovery.	£7,538	Improve
Sacred Earth	Marle Green, East Sussex	Restoration of the grassland, scrub and woodland mosaic by contractors through laying part of three outgrown hedgerows (225m), haloing around important trees and woodland coppicing (0.5ha) and removal of encroaching scrub (0.7ha) from a 1.5ha wildflower grassland.	£6,740	Improve
Ore Community Landscape Trust	Hastings, East Sussex	Removal of invasive plants, creation of ten steps to improve access and installation of 30m of mains water pipe to improve the site for forest schools and volunteer work parties.	£7,116	Improve
Aspens Charities	Pembury, Kent	Tools and materials to allow volunteer construction of a viewing and pond dipping platform to improve accessibility and connection to wetland habitat.	£298	Improve
Friends of Eastern Road Nature Reserve	Lindfield, West Sussex	Purchase of equipment to allow the community to survey and care for a large village pond.	£500	Improve
Rookery Wood	Tidebrook, East Sussex	Removal of non-native cherry laurel to restore a 0.3ha deciduous woodland.	£6,050	Improve
Total award value 2024			£282,421	