

High Weald Nature and Community Fund

2025 Grant Recipients



Recipient	Project location	Project summary	Grant	Category
Waterlife Recovery Trust	Across the High Weald (within 2km of main watercourses)	A collaborative project involving 80 land managers and 40 volunteers in installing, managing and monitoring 125 smart mink traps to eradicate the non-native, invasive American mink across 3,200km of High Weald watercourses.	£61,248	Landscape-wide project
The Garden Classroom	Chiddingstone Hoath, Kent	Provision of a bespoke and immersive residential camp experience in the High Weald for 220 primary school children with high levels of support need due to poverty, food intolerances and allergies, cultural constraints and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Five free places will be offered to families with financial constraints.	£19,820	Connect
Fabrica	Crawley, West Sussex	Twenty-four creative nature-based sessions for 48 men with mental health issues that draw inspiration from the High Weald landscape, reduce isolation and build trust.	£16,362	Connect
Diversity Resource International (DRI) CIC	Various locations across the High Weald	Seven walks for 70 ethnically diverse women who would not walk on their own, facilitated by travel bursaries, bilingual interpreters, walk leaders, psychotherapists to enable women to overcome real and perceived barriers to countryside access.	£6,499	Connect
Soil Craft CIC	Central High Weald including Ticehurst, Etchingam, Burwash, Northiam and Playden	Delivery of over 20 soil-themed workshops to 600 attendees in local schools, community groups and environmental educators using a combination of hands-on experiences, microscope sessions and simple experiments.	£6,764	Connect
Strandliners CIC	Hastings, East Sussex	Delivery of five beach-based education sessions with support for coach hire and supporting education equipment and materials to enthuse and deepen understanding of the beach and foreshore environment amongst 150 primary school children.	£5,800	Connect
Sussex Underwater	St Leonards and Hastings, East Sussex	Delivery of five beach-based education sessions with support for coach hire and supporting education equipment and materials to enthuse and deepen understanding of the beach and foreshore environment amongst 150 primary school children.	£5,800	Connect
Town Grown	Hastings, East Sussex	Organisation and promotion of Edible Open Gardens for 2026 and 2027, a Hastings-wide event showcasing sustainable food production in the town's greenspaces and gardens, with 8 winter workshops on sustainable gardening practices.	£10,850	Connect
Natureways Therapy	Haywards Heath, West Sussex	Delivery of 28 outdoor, therapeutic workshops for people with mental health challenges and restoration of 213m ² of a silted-up woodland pond.	£4,266	Connect
Greening Chiddingly	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Development of a community led and maintained (digital) Green Map involving 250 members of the community including children, communicated via a parish-wide events and publicity programme.	£6,613	Engage
Bumblebee Conservation Trust	Various locations across eastern High Weald	Training of seven long-term volunteers to deliver 32 community engagement activities and recruitment of new volunteers to increase bumblebee records and encourage creation of suitable habitat.	£4,715	Engage
Greening Chiddingly	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Creation and delivery of a landscape-scale nature restoration strategy involving farmers, other land managers and community groups.	£3,970	Engage
Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council	Cranbrook, Kent	Delivery of six community engagement; purchase and installation of monitoring equipment and wildlife homes; and benches, to enhance community involvement in conservation, improve biodiversity, and increase access to nature.	£2,506	Engage
Friends of Creatureland	Heathfield, East Sussex	People engagement and habitat improvements to a small wood and meadow through coppicing, charcoal production and electric fencing to improve meadow grazing.	£1,485	Engage

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Borde Hill Gardens	Haywards Heath, West Sussex	Installation of 16 raised beds (eight accessible), a shed and an outdoor accessible toilet, alongside planting of a 100m edible hedge and 26 fruit trees to establish a community grower's garden; purchase of hand tools to allow 15 volunteers to remove cherry laurel from ancient woodland.	£16,963	Create
Ashburnham Christian Trust	Ashburnham, East Sussex	Creation of an accessible outdoor growing space linking the community barn to the garden and a new wildlife pond to enhance opportunities for learning and connection with the land.	£16,963	Create
Silverdale Primary Academy	St Leonards -on-Sea, East Sussex	Transformation of a 500m ² area of unused school grounds into a multifunctional space for growing, conservation, and learning, designed to inspire and educate 630 students.	£13,119	Create
Rock Park Primary School	Uckfield, East Sussex	Refit of an outdoor classroom to be fully accessible; materials for a willow weaving workshop; and purchase of gardening tools, outdoor clothing and storage equipment to allow three classes to participate in outdoor educational activities.	£7,629	Create
St Marys Special School	Horam, East Sussex	Creation of an all-weather teaching and plant growing space by pupils with special needs, including purchase and installation of large, rainwater capture tanks.	£6,658	Create
Dudley Infant School	Hastings, East Sussex	Creation of a year-round all-weather outdoor learning area through provision of an outdoor shelter, raised beds and wildlife-friendly areas to allow school food growing and forest school activities.	£7,410	Create
Colegate Primary School	Colegate, West Sussex	Purchase of a trail camera and scythe kit and scything training to allow field edges to be better managed for wildlife.	£335	Create
Salehurst C of E Primary School	Robertsbridge, East Sussex	Installation of a tool shed and rain water harvesting system to improve outdoor learning areas (woodland, pond and sensory area) and inspire the children and wider community to connect with nature.	£2,597	Create
Holy Trinity secondary C of E Crawley	Crawley, West Sussex	Equipment to allow establishment of a forest school; equipment to improve a food growing area; pond plants and filter for a wildlife area; and two educational trips to two High Weald farms who cater for SEN pupils.	£2,292	Create
Ticehurst Parish Council	Ticehurst, East Sussex	Traditional hedge-laying of a 157m historic hedgerow beside the Bell Field sports ground in Ticehurst and delivery of 4 free walks and talks for local people on hedgerows, hedgelaying and hedgerow plants.	£6,192	Improve
St Michaels Withyham	Withyham, East Sussex	Enlargement and reprofiling of the school pond to improve its wildlife value; installation of a pond dipping platform; creation of a small 78m ² wildflower meadow; and protection of the new wildlife area with 35m of traditional fencing.	£4,529	Improve
Broad Oak Village Hall	Broad Oak, East Sussex	Planting of a native mixed species hedge (23m) and replacement of non-native vegetation with native trees, to enhance the village hall grounds for people and wildlife in keeping with its rural setting.	£2,081	Improve
Hale Farm	Chiddingly, East Sussex	Farming and gardening tools suitable for special needs children attending a farm school and planting of two hedges (154m) to complete a habitat corridor across the farm.	£9,150	Improve
Friends of Eastern Road Nature Reserve	Lindfield, West Sussex	Rejuvenation of a 900m ² Victorian pond for wildlife through vegetation clearance, de-silting and re-profiling.	£19,680	Improve
Ore Community Landscape Trust	Hastings, East Sussex	Planting of 18 native trees, installation of a 30m mesh grid path and restoration of a Victorian well, to improve the habitat and access in around in an urban woodland.	£3,292	Improve
			£275,588	