

Life on the Edge – Conservation Grants

Information sheet

As part of the Life on the Edge project (LotE), we are pleased to be able to offer grant funding to support businesses, groups and organisations to carry out practical conservation projects to improve or create habitat for LotE invertebrates. Please ensure that you read the information sheet and that your project meets the aims of the project, as well as helping us to achieve LotE outcomes.

1. What is Life on the Edge?

Life on the Edge, or LotE, is a project engaging local communities, farmers and landowners to restore species rich coastal grasslands across South Devon for rare and endangered invertebrates. As part of this project, we will be working closely with partners to deepen people's connection with nature, leading them to enjoy health and wellbeing benefits and enjoying learning more about how important South Devon is for its wildlife, landscape and natural heritage.

2. What are the Conservation Grants?

These grant scheme supports projects that bring social, environmental and biodiversity benefits to the Life on the Edge project area. It aims to provide organisations, community groups and parish councils with funding to deliver projects which meet the LotE outputs and outcomes. These grants will be available for all landowners or land managers, for example farmers, parish councils, holiday parks and schools, for added value works where Agri-environment funding does not apply. They must be matched by at least 25% of in-kind work by the landowner/ manager or project team (including volunteer time).

- Conservation grants are available up to a maximum of £5000.
- The scheme can provide up to 75% funding to local businesses, landowners, the 25% can be made up from cash or non-cash contributions, such as volunteer time. Not-for-profit, community and voluntary sector projects can receive up to 100% funding.
- In all cases, an agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will be signed prior to receipt of grant. There will also be requirements about monitoring and recording the project's progress and outputs.
- If the grant is for capital works on private land, buildings or heritage, the applicants will need to sign a landowner agreement to secure management and maintenance for 10 years from completion of the project.
- Grant payment is administered by South Hams District Council on behalf of South Devon National Landscape partnership and is usually paid retrospectively.

- Projects should strive to be environmentally sustainable – e.g. use peat-free compost, locally sourced seed, recycled plant pots, FSC timber.

3. What kind of project is eligible?

Projects put forward for funding must be completed within a calendar year of the start date. If you feel your project is not achievable within that timescale, please talk to us to discuss the possibility of registering an expression of interest for next year; or phasing your project over more than one year (this is subject to confirmation of funding in future years).

Projects **MUST** meet the essential criteria listed below, and the application form must clearly identify how this is to be achieved.

	Essential	Desirable
Primarily benefit the Life on the Edge project	✓	
Help deliver outputs and outcomes of the Life on the Edge project	✓	
Promote sustainability and good environmental practise	✓	
Have the demonstrable support or involvement of communities		✓
Have clearly identified outputs and provide good value for money	✓	
Make significant improvements to biodiversity or conservation value for key species identified for LotE	✓	
Help deliver the South Devon AONB management plan		✓

Grants can cover the costs of some or all of the following:

- Volunteer expenses – e.g. travel or equipment
- Equipment and materials to carry out LotE tasks
- Hire of machinery needed to carry out the task
- Promotion and publicity
- Specialist advice or leaders
- Specialist contractors

The scheme particularly welcomes projects that:

- Make a real and lasting nature improvement for the key LotE species which need bespoke management and specialist conditions.
- link community and nature
- Provide advice to engage, support and inspire landowners to delivery South Devon's Coastal B-Line



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- Create new sources of local wildflower seed to support LotE and future wildflower restoration projects in South Devon.
- Projects on sites owned by small landowners or parishes, who are not eligible for agri-environment schemes.
- Develop skills and “capacity building” in the community;
- Lever in contributions from other sources;
- Have little access to alternative public funding;
- Add value or new dimensions to existing LotE projects.

Examples of projects could include:

- Creation of a meadow rich in species key to the LotE invertebrates.
- Creation of a coastal species rich grassland seed donor site.
- Invertebrate surveys.
- Bespoke habitat improvements relevant to LotE Key species.
- Specialist contractor works not funded through agri-schemes.
- Running parish conservation tasks to engage the local community.
- Support to run conservation activities.
- Volunteer training.
- Conservation activities aimed at LotE target groups – young people and older people.

4. What kind of project is not eligible?

The grants advisory panel will not consider projects where:

- there is no clear and demonstrable benefit to the Life on the Edge project and wider community and purposes of the National Landscape.
- The works could be funded through an agri-scheme.

5. Who can apply?

Public, private, voluntary sector, community groups, individuals and businesses can apply. You don't have to live or work within the LotE project area to apply. You must simply demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon LotE and satisfy the core criteria of the grant. Community groups will need to have a basic constitution, and a bank account so that you can receive grant payments. If you need help drawing up a constitution, please let us know. You will need to send the following documents with your application:

- A copy of your constitution (unless you are a public sector organisation or private owner)
- Proof of ownership / permissions if the project involves land or buildings.
- Copy of recent accounts or last 3 months of bank statements

6. How we assess your application



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Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Before you submit an application, please speak to us! The LotE team can guide and support the development of your application where appropriate.

Please pay careful attention to how your project specifically relates to the criteria against which applications will be assessed. The LotE Conservation Grant Fund is a competitive grant scheme. This means that projects seeking funding are assessed against criteria and compared to each other in terms of benefits and value for money. Those projects able to demonstrate the potential to deliver a wide range of the fund's objectives, which also offer value for money, are more likely to successfully achieve grant support.

The decision whether to award a grant is made by the National Landscape Partnership Committee's grant advisory panel. The panel has representatives from a range of interests, including community, business and environmental management.

7. How can we in the LotE team help?

If you would like more information or want to talk through a project idea, please contact Sam Skevington the Life on the Edge Conservation Officer
sam.skevington@southdevon-nl.org.uk 07511873327.