



Information sheet

As part of the Life on the Edge project (LotE), we are pleased to be able to offer grant funding to support groups and organisations to engage their local community in LotE activities. Please ensure that you read this information sheet carefully and that your project meets the aims of the project, as well as helping us to achieve LotE outcomes.

1. What 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 Community grants?

This 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. The grants will be available to facilitate community engagement by local groups to achieve the outcomes of LotE. They can be used by the group to add value to works carried out through the conservation grants or as standalone projects, for example to provide training, events materials and refreshments, artist or activity leader fees or promotion.

- Community engagement grants are available up to a maximum of £2000. To help with cashflow, we can make upfront part payment. Applicants will need a community group bank account.
- The scheme can provide up to 75% funding to local businesses, landowners, not-for-profit and voluntary sector projects. The 25% can be made up from cash or non cash contributions, such as volunteer time.
- 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 – eg 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 community engagement, nature connection	✓	
Engage target audiences identified by Life on the Edge		✓
Help deliver the South Devon AONB management plan		✓

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

- Volunteer expenses – eg travel or equipment
- Equipment and materials to carry out LotE tasks
- Event costs – eg refreshments, leader fees, venue or room hire
- Promotion and publicity

The scheme particularly welcomes projects that:

- link community and nature
- develop skills and learning in the community
- involve young people or older people
- combat social exclusion and promote diversity

- bring organisations and people together to co-operate in tackling problems or promoting new ideas
- encourage links between rural and urban groups
- 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:

- Village celebrations for LotE themed activities
- Running events to engage the local community
- Support to run conservation activities.
- Campaigns to increase number of volunteers for a project which meet LotE aims and objectives
- Volunteer training
- 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.

5. Who can apply?

Public, private, voluntary sector, community groups, individuals and businesses within the LotE project area of the South Devon coastal B-Line and neighbouring urban areas. You must 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.
- Details of bank account

6. How we assess your application

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 Community 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 Stuart Riddle the Life on The Edge Community Officer stuart.riddle@southdevon-nl.org.uk 01803 229347 /07483 929163 .