

Dorset AONB: Stepping into Nature Community Grant Criteria



How to Apply

The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (DAONB) is a nationally important protected landscape, with vibrant communities and a wealth of wildlife and heritage.

Stepping into Nature is funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund, led by Dorset AONB and is working to improve health and wellbeing for Dorset's older people, those living with mild to moderate dementia and their carers. Using Dorset's outstanding natural and cultural landscape to create and provide dementia friendly activities and sensory rich places of interest to visit in Dorset.

Being out in nature and sharing an activity outside is something which brings immediate benefits to everyone and we believe is a crucial part of "living well". Regardless of where we live, nature is free and on our doorstep, our entire lives.

This fund will be used to help people make connections to the natural environment in local communities. Enabling community groups to undertake projects, which help to conserve and enhance the natural beauty in their local area and encourage engagement with nature for older people, those living with dementia and their carers

What kinds of projects can be funded?

This grants scheme will provide small grants for a range of eligible projects that contribute towards the Stepping into Nature objectives:

- To develop and deliver opportunities for people to become more physically and mentally active through engaging with the natural environment.
- To improve the environment to increase accessibility creating "Dementia Friendly Countryside" green spaces.
- To reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness through delivering inclusive nature based activities within communities.
- To increase opportunities for learning new life skills or confidence to pass on learning to others for older people including those living with dementia & carers.
- To increase and motivate older people including those living with dementia and carers being able to independently access information and experiences to connect with outdoor spaces.

Do projects need to be within the AONB boundary?

Projects don't necessarily need to be within the AONB boundary, but must benefit the AONB and contribute towards the aims and objectives on the Stepping into Nature Project.

We would particularly like to support projects in the following areas:

- Dorchester and surrounding areas
- Bridport and surrounding areas
- Beaminster and surrounding areas
- Swanage and surrounding areas
- Lyme Regis and surrounding areas
- Chickerell and surrounding areas

How much can be applied for?

Grants between £100 - £2,000 can be applied for.

The fund can support up to 70% of the costs with the remaining 30% in kind. The Fund cannot be matched by Exchequer funds – i.e. money from a Government department or agency e.g. Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission or National Lottery funds.

Volunteer time can be costed using HLF's definitions:	per day	per hour
Unskilled labour - (for example – clearing a site or helping at an event)	£ 50.00	£ 6.25
Skilled labour - (for example – admin work, or leading a guided walk)	£ 150.00	£ 18.75
Expert - (for example – accountancy or teaching)	£ 350.00	£ 50.00

This is a yearly rolling grant scheme to March 2020 and all eligible projects will be scored against set criteria on a case by case basis. All projects must be complete by mid - March 2020.

Criteria

The project proposed should

- Contribute to the objectives of the Stepping into Nature Project.
- Respond to an identified need, which will improve health, wellbeing and independence of older people, those living with dementia and their carers in Dorset.
- Have outline plans for aftercare & sustainability that must be submitted at time of application.
- High standards of Health and Safety must be met while carrying out the work being funded.

Eligibility

- Any group or organisation can apply to the fund.
- Projects that support direct commercial transactions for financial gain will not be funded

Terms and Conditions

Please be sure you have read and understood the terms and conditions of this grant

- Decisions on grant allocation will be made within one month of application receipt
- Once a decision is made to release funds for a project, a letter of confirmation will be sent out.
- Grant offers will remain valid until the end of the financial year in which they are made.
- Grant recipients will be visited by one of the administrators and will need to provide evidence that a project has been completed (e.g. through before and after photos). This will be agreed between the grant recipient and the appropriate officer.
- For creation of greenspaces projects grant recipients must undertake aftercare maintenance as appropriate.
- Recognition of the National Lottery & Dorset AONB should be made in any publicity. Recipients of grants will be expected to co-operate with reasonable requests for publicity by the Stepping into Nature Project.
- We will not fund “miscellaneous” expenses

How to apply

Contact us about applying for the fund or download the application form from www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/our-work

We'll happily talk with you about your project ideas either over the phone or in person (we're based in central Dorchester).

To talk or arrange a quick meeting, please call or email Julie Hammon 01305 224785 julie.hammon@dorsetcc.gov.uk

