

North Somerset Biodiversity Action Grant



This grant scheme is intended to part fund biodiversity action plan (BAP) habitat creation or restoration within North Somerset; and to enhance habitats that support BAP species such as water vole and dormice. The aim is to conserve and enhance the diversity of local wildlife - 'biodiversity'. The grant is funded by North Somerset Council and is available to support landowners to undertake small-scale biodiversity projects.

All landowners are welcome to apply, but the grants are discretionary and are subject to budgets being available.

Biodiversity action plans

Biodiversity Action Plans focus on species and habitats that are under threat. They contain actions to encourage the restoration of important habitats and to increase the distribution and numbers of important species.

The North Somerset Local Biodiversity Action Plan – *Action for Nature*, includes habitat and species plans for our local area. The plan may be viewed at www.n-somerset.gov.uk).

Wildlife Sites

Wildlife Sites represent the best examples in North Somerset of wildlife habitats and populations of rare species. The sites have been designated against criteria that assess whether the site demonstrates substantive value for biodiversity at a regional level. The boundaries of Wildlife Sites may be viewed on North Somerset Council's Replacement Local Plan (Adopted March 2007) at main Council offices.

We strongly encourage projects which improve the management of designated Wildlife Sites and achieve the aims within *Action for Nature*

The grants

Grants of up to 50% of total project cost, usually up to a maximum of £500 are available. However, projects that fulfil key biodiversity aims or that improve management of Wildlife Sites may be eligible to receive more than £500.

Examples of suitable projects include:

- the creation and management of wildlife corridors to link key habitats by planting species-rich native hedgerows; or by creating or restoring rhynes and ditches
- the restoration of wildflower meadows
- the creation and management of wildlife ponds

The grant does not cover fencing.

How to apply

Please complete the application form and attach a simple plan of your site, as well as an itemised quotation for the proposed work. A site visit will be necessary to assess your project.

The grant process

If your project is eligible and funds are still available, you will receive written confirmation of a grant offer subject to scheme conditions.

Payment

Grants will be paid once the work agreed has been finished to our satisfaction. Receipts will also need to be provided.

Please return this form with quotation to:
Biodiversity Officer, North Somerset Council, Natural Environment Team, Weston Court, Oldmixon Crescent, Weston-super-Mare BS24 9AU.
Tel: 01934 426 762

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____

Site address _____

Are you the owner of the land?

Yes/No

If not, please enclose written consent from the landowner.

Is your site a designated Wildlife Site?

Yes/No

Briefly describe your project:

Please give a brief outline of your biodiversity aims:

Please if any other grant has been applied for:

Total cost of project:

How much grant aid are you applying for:

When do you propose to start:

Please attach a site plan and independent itemised quotation to this form.

Conditions

- the project must be within North Somerset;
- applications must be supported with an independent itemised quotation;
- you need to submit a plan with your application showing what you propose to do and where you are proposing to do it;
- the grants are not available for undertaking work for commercial profits or to satisfy a condition of any planning consent or legal agreement;
- you will need to give reasonable access to the site to officers of North Somerset Council for a period of up to three years from the date the grant is paid so that we can monitor the progress of your biodiversity project.

I have read, and agreed to abide by, the terms and conditions of the grant:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

