



# Portsmouth Water Biodiversity Grant 2026-2027



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Portsmouth Water as part of its ongoing environmental commitments is offering a grant scheme for environmental improvements. The biodiversity fund is to the value of £50,000 for 2026-2027.

## Small Grant Scheme

We are offering a small grant scheme for single payment up to £1,000 for projects (total funds available each year is £5,000).

### Small grant examples

- Hedge and brush cutters
- Bat detector
- Japanese Knotweed removal
- Purchase and plantation of fruit trees

For more examples please see:

[cleanwaterpartnership.co.uk/biodiversity](https://cleanwaterpartnership.co.uk/biodiversity)

## Large Grant Scheme

We are offering a large grant scheme for single payments between £1,000 and £10,000 for projects (total funds available each year is £45,000).

We will strongly support applications where match funding is available from other stakeholders including volunteer input.

Application will NOT be accepted for work that has already received other funding i.e. double funding.

This grant is awarded in two payments. The initial 85% is awarded and then upon successful completion of the final project the final 15% is awarded, given the requirements of the partnership have been met. Please see [page 7](#) for more information.

### Large grant examples

- Dew pond restoration
- River walkover surveys
- Creation of bat roosts
- Grazing infrastructure

For more examples please see:

[cleanwaterpartnership.co.uk/biodiversity](https://cleanwaterpartnership.co.uk/biodiversity)

## Funding is available for:

The main aim of the grant scheme is to enhance the habitat network surrounding Portsmouth Water land.

The fund will cover:

- Biodiversity and habitat improvements e.g. re coppicing woodland, wetland creation
- Invasive non-native species control e.g. Himalayan Balsam control to reduce bank erosion
- Species and habitat survey projects e.g. invertebrate survey of grassland
- Equipment to carry out knowledge enhancement



## Who can apply?

- Constituted not for profit conservation groups with an associated bank account into which funds can be transferred.
- Local Authority Countryside Departments including South Downs National Park.

Applications will be open from 13 April to 18 May 2026.

Grants will be awarded in June.



# Application requirements



- Completed application form
- A map of the project location
- Photographs of the location
- A copy of the organisations constitution

The submission of a valid application does not guarantee funding.

A maximum of 3 projects may be entered by any one applicant each year.

# Applications assessment

Applications will be assessed by the following criteria:

- Is the project in the Portsmouth Water operational area?
- Is the amount requested within the grant limits?
- Does the project align with the grants main aim?
- What biodiversity outcomes does the project have?
- Has the partner demonstrated the capacity to deliver the project?
- Does the proposal demonstrate value for money?
- If the project requires land owner permissions have these been sought?
- Does the proposal clearly identify risks?
- Does the applicant have credibility to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with Health and Safety?



# Partnership requirements



- All work must comply with relevant environmental legislation and have the appropriate planning permissions and permits.
- Projects must be completed within 18 months of receiving the grant award letter in order to receive the final part of the funding.
- The production of a short final report including before and after photos, accounts and how objectives have been met to be submitted within 1 month of project completion. Once this has been received the final part of the funding (15% of total grant awarded) will be paid.
- Regular updates required on agreed criteria. Timeframe to be agreed on a case by case basis.
- Any publicity of the project must explicitly acknowledge the financial support provided by Portsmouth Water.
- The grant recipient will work with Portsmouth water to publicise the award and benefits that it has delivered. Specifically in the production of bespoke posters for awarded grants by Portsmouth Water which will be used in external communications.
- Any species records from the project to go to the local biodiversity record centre.

## Project governance

- Applications that meet the requirements will be reviewed by Portsmouth Waters catchment and environment team.
- A successful applicant will sign a letter of agreement and be solely responsible for the project delivery.
- The successful applicant will be responsible for attaining all permissions and consents and be legally responsible for all risks associated with the project.
- All applicants will be contacted by December on whether they are successful or not.



# Data protection

The data and documentation collected as part of your application will be held securely and will be processed at all times in accordance with data protection law.

Your application and accompanying documents will be held electronically within Portsmouth Water's Catchment Management team and only those who require access to the data will be able to process this. If you submit your application by post, the application form and accompanying documents will be scanned and the hardcopy documents securely destroyed.

Successful applications will be held until 2035 and unsuccessful applications will be held until 2030 as per the required and recommended timescales.

The contact details provided will be used to confirm if your application has been successful or unsuccessful.



## Useful websites



Portsmouth Water

**[portsmouthwater.co.uk](https://portsmouthwater.co.uk)**

Downs and Harbours Clean Water Partnership

**[cleanwaterpartnership.co.uk/about-1-1](https://cleanwaterpartnership.co.uk/about-1-1)**

Rivers Trust

**[theriverstrust.org](https://theriverstrust.org)**

Test and Itchen Catchment Partnership

**[About the Test & Itchen Association - Test and Itchen Association](#)**

East Hampshire Catchment Partnership

**[East Hampshire - CaBA](#)**

Arun and Western Streams Catchment Partnership

**[Arun & Western Streams Catchment Partnership](#)**

Meon Valley Catchment Partnership

**[meonvalleypartnership.org.uk/projects](https://meonvalleypartnership.org.uk/projects)**

EA

**[gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](https://gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)**

SDNP

**[southdowns.gov.uk](https://southdowns.gov.uk)**

Wildlife Trusts

**[hiwwt.org.uk](https://hiwwt.org.uk) / [www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](https://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)**

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

**[hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre](https://hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/biodiversity/informationcentre)**

Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre

**[sxbrc.org.uk/home](https://sxbrc.org.uk/home)**