

NATURAL
ENGLAND

BIG
LOTTERY
FUND

CHANGING SPACES ACCESS TO NATURE



The logo for Natural England, featuring a green square with the text "NATURAL ENGLAND" in white and green.The logo for the Big Lottery Fund, a blue circle with a dotted pattern and the text "BIG LOTTERY FUND" in white.

Access to Nature has a wealth of environmental knowledge and expertise in the consortium of partners involved in developing and running the scheme. Led by Natural England, the consortium comprises:



www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature

ACCESS TO NATURE

Providing new opportunities for people to enjoy the natural environment

What is Access to Nature?

Access to Nature is a new grants programme run by Natural England on behalf of a consortium of major environmental organisations. It is funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme which was created to help communities enjoy and improve their local environments.





Who can benefit from Access to Nature?

People are firmly at the core of this programme. We all have a right to enjoy the natural environment but for some people this is easier than it is for others, whether through lack of opportunities, understanding or physical access.

Access to Nature is looking to fund new opportunities for people who currently have little or no contact with nature and the outdoors. We want to work with organisations and networks that will help us broaden access to the natural world for young people, older people, black and minority ethnic groups, and people with disabilities.

We also want to work with those experiencing social, economic and geographical disadvantage to develop opportunities and help change people's perceptions about the natural world.

How does Access to Nature work?

Access to Nature aims to fund projects across England on both a national and regional basis with grants of between £50,000 and £500,000 available. In addition we will make a small number of larger grants of over £500,000 for projects which have a national significance or impact.

This is a competitive process, and in order to support organisations and minimise lengthy applications the programme operates a staged application process. The first stage seeks expressions of interest – support in developing your application is available from the network of Regional Advisers we have set up. Stage 2 is a full application.

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Who should/can apply?

One of the main aims of the programme is to bring about long term benefits to communities through partnership working. Individuals will benefit from the programme but we are looking for applications from collaborations between different local groups who can work together.

As with all funding of this kind there are a number of outcomes that we need to meet. These are all underpinned by the main aim of bringing together communities and others to improve links between people and the natural environment. Others may also look at gaining new skills, physical improvements to where people live or sharing experience and resources to link people with existing sites.

What is the timeframe for applications?

Applications for Access to Nature opened in April 2008. However, this is a long-term investment with projects having until June 2010 to submit full applications with project completion by October 2013. This means the length of projects can run from 2008-2013.

Thinking about applying?

More details on the application process, outcomes we are looking for from the scheme and case studies of the sorts of projects we hope to fund can be found on our website.

We also have a network of Regional Advisers who are there to provide support, advice and guidance to potential applicants. Their details are also available on our website so please contact them if you have an idea for a project you would like to discuss.

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**NATURAL
ENGLAND**

Natural England works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas.

www.naturalengland.org.uk

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For more information about Access to Nature, or should you require this publication in an alternative format, please contact

The Changing Spaces Advice Line: 0845 3671 671
www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature

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