



Access to Nature

Regional Targeting Plan – South East

PURPOSE

This document identifies areas and beneficiaries that are seen as a particular priority for Natural England's (NE) Access to Nature programme in the South East Region. These regional priorities reflect the national programme's priorities, targets and outcomes, further informed by regional knowledge and evidence.

The purpose of the plan is:

- 1) To encourage applicants to develop proposals that will deliver the identified priorities within the limited budgets for the Access to Nature Scheme.
- 2) To aid the assessment process to ensure that projects are targeted in accordance with the priorities described in the plan.

It should be noted that the plan is not a mechanism for approving (or not approving) individual applications, which will all be considered on their own merits.

Applicants should first meet all the **eligibility criteria** of the scheme. Applications should also accord with the scheme's **priorities, outcomes and targets**. Please refer to the website for full details of the application and assessment process as described in the General Guidance notes: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature/>.

To increase the chances of a successful application you are advised to read through the priorities in this targeting statement. Applicants should note that this is a qualitative process – applications do not need to address all the targets described. This list is not exhaustive, and many proposals not covered by the targeting statement may still receive funding.

Applicants are required and encouraged to submit their own evidence of need in support of their application. As Access to Nature is an open application scheme, the onus is on the applicant to demonstrate that their proposal will benefit those who

currently have a low level of access, and / or engagement, with the natural environment.

Applicants are encouraged to speak with their local Natural England adviser before they commit to the time and expense of applying for grant aid. Contact: Heather Whetter at Heather.Whetter@naturalengland.org.uk / 0118 939 2657 or Cressida Wheelwright at Cressida.Wheelwright@naturalengland.org.uk / 0118 939 2904.

BACKGROUND TO THE SOUTH EAST

The South East Region has the largest regional population in the UK – over 8 million people residing in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. London excepted, it is the most prosperous region but it is also the region with the widest range of social deprivation and economic disparities (again excluding London). It is an international gateway but parts of its road and rail systems are heavily congested. It has high quality landscape, with the highest proportion of land covered by national or international designations of any English Region, and the highest proportion of woodland. Its attractiveness, geography and economic success mean that it is subject to substantial development pressures both national and international. Some people contend that the region is ‘full up’; others point out that 90% of its land mass remains undeveloped. Despite the conflicting messages a high proportion of the population consider that they enjoy a high quality of life which however, needs to be balanced against the recognition that there are social inequalities, environmental conflicts and development tensions. [SEERA’s Draft SE Plan, 2006]

GEOGRAPHIC TARGET AREAS (with accompanying maps)

Priority will be given to applications that address the needs of communities in the 10% most deprived urban and rural areas as highlighted in the county maps and accompanying Table for the SE Region. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data is sorted alphabetically by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) within the Table. A postcode search is available online to enable people to identify which Lower Super Output Area a proposed project is located within. This is available at: <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

The 2007 IMD mapping highlights significant areas of the Isle of Wight as well as much of the Kent and indeed scattered LSOAs along the whole length of the South East coast when considering both rural deprivation as well as the urban deprivation within many coastal towns. Other urban centres with sectors of high deprivation include Reading & Slough in Berks; Banbury, High Wycombe, Oxford & Milton Keynes in Bucks and Banbury & Oxford in Oxfordshire. Within Surrey there are only three small pockets of urban deprivation at Redhill, Staines & Woking and in Hampshire, Aldershot is the sole centre of urban deprivation outside the coastal centres of Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth & Southampton. In East and West Sussex there are seven and four (respectively) coastal towns with high deprivation. However, other deprived communities, especially rural ones, should not be forgotten.

Given the SE region is relatively well off when considering the social, economic and geographic disadvantaged, area-wise, say compared to rural Cornwall, the target audience is relatively small. However, further economic growth is planned in South East and further housing expansion is planned through the SE Plan. CLG (Community & Local Government) have identified eight 'Growth Points' within the South East together with 'Growth Areas'. The increases in population and all the stresses that come with this urban expansion will have a predicted knock-on effect on the need for people to engage with our natural environment. To pre-empt this escalation, these areas could also be considered for funding under the Access to Nature grant, alongside other priorities (e.g. IMD and lack of accessible greenspace) Growth points in the South East are Banstead, Basingstoke, Didcot, Dover, Maidstone, Oxford, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (11 local authorities, known as 'PUSH'), Reading and Reigate. Natural England is supporting the position, that in order to be sustainable and acceptable environmentally, these areas should have Green Infrastructure Strategies. Growth Areas include the Thames Gateway, Ashford, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale.

In addition the provision of Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) is a key strategic approach being promoted by Natural England in the South East to ensure people have access to nature, in all its guises for the broad benefits which it believes such provision provides e.g. health both in terms of physical, mental and social well being as well as educational or simple aesthetics or personal enjoyment. [Reference: Patrick Mckernan & Matthew Grose's: An Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace provision in the South East, February 2007]. The accompanying IMD maps show an overlap with ANGSt areas in the South East. This reveals large areas of the countryside that are potentially lacking access to nature and where targeting could be focussed. 31 Local Authorities have been identified in further analysis of our ANGSt mapping that have deficiencies of an average number of Accessible Natural Greenspace standards and with whom Natural England is keen to develop new partnership working to address these needs, i.e. West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, Reading, Vale of White Horse, Aylesbury Vale*, Worthing, South Oxfordshire, Tonbridge & Malling, Maidstone*, Adur, Tandridge, Shepway, Horsham, Mid Sussex, Basingstoke and Deane*, Winchester*, Test Valley*, Thanet*, Sevenoaks, Arun*, Rother, Chiltern, Brighton and Hove, Isle of Wight, Dover*, Oxford, Lewes, Hastings*, Swale* (excluding Thames Gateway), Portsmouth* and Havant*. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are considered a priority. Additionally there is a Draft South East County Greenspace map showing where resources are currently known which may help with identifying gaps in Greenspace provision. Thus those areas, and their communities, with poor access to Greenspace can also be considered as a priority for Access to Nature grant funding.

A caveat to ANGSt mapping that is essential to factor in, is that some areas are at first glance well served by Accessible Natural Greenspace. However, the standards are based on geographical measures and not related to population density and the carrying capacity of that Greenspace to cater for the existing population nor indeed any increases in visitor pressure. Mapping models are in the process of being prepared, however in their absence, those areas where ANGSt is dependent primarily on sensitive designations (e.g. SSSI, SPA, SAC with particular issues centred on disturbance such as the coast or Thames Basin Heaths), the provision of new Natural

Greenspace would be deemed beneficial. Provision of existing evidence that suggests Greenspace is at capacity already may also be a consideration.

PRIORITY GROUPS

The Access to Nature Grant will prioritise applications that involve people currently under-represented in terms of contact with the natural environment including disabled people, the young, black and ethnic minority communities and older people.

Additionally, priority will be given to communities and individuals experiencing social deprivation through disability, age, unemployment, or economic disadvantage and those disadvantaged by where they live through lack of access to the natural environment.

Additionally, other non-geographical groups that may be identified through existing or new survey data that may be considered a priority.

Information included in national and regional strategies, such as those listed below, may help potential applicants to identify these groups.

Opportunity for All, Department of Work and Pensions report 2006
www.dwp.gov.uk/ofa/reports/2006/pdf/StrategyandIndicators-FullReport.pdf

Opportunity for All, Department of Work and Pensions update and key strategy documents 2007
www.dwp.gov.uk/ofa

Outdoors for All? Diversity Review, Countryside Agency/Natural England/Defra
www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Recreation/DR/index.asp

The Natural England Diversity Review:
<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/lar/recreation/dr/>

The South East's state of health is above the national average, however there are pockets of relative deprivation: coastal Kent, the south coast and in isolated rural areas and towns. The major causes of ill health and deaths in the region are cardiovascular diseases and cancers. Although the South East benefits from relatively high employment rates, 820 000 are economically inactive and we also have the longest commuting times in the country. We also have an aging population.

There is increasing recognition of how engagement with nature and the presence of Accessible Greenspace can benefit health and wellbeing. The availability of Accessible Greenspace within neighbourhoods can encourage its use, and is a key motivator for continued physical activity. The presence of Greenspace offers a free resource, which is appreciated by the widest range of social groups. Accessible and well managed Greenspace can benefit health and counter inequalities through encouraging physical activity, by reducing stress and alleviating associated conditions, and by increasing social cohesion within communities.

Those communities that suffer relative health deprivation (particularly related to conditions associated with stress and lack of physical activity) would particularly benefit from improved access to Natural Greenspace. Further information regarding key indicators of health inequalities can be reviewed through SEPHO (www.sepho.org.uk)

Any application that compliments Natural England's Health Agenda will be considered a priority. For more information visit Natural England's Health webpage or contact Jenny Bowen, Health & Environment Lead at jenny.bowen@naturalengland.org.uk or 01273 407943.

KEY NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES & DOCUMENT

Applicants are advised to demonstrate the strategic fit of their projects by showing how their proposals address the themes, priorities and objectives of key local, national and regional strategies and documents, for example:

- Draft South East Plan, 31 March 2006, SEERA
http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan/plan/view_plan.html
Proposed changes (July 2008) and Public Consultation documents (October 2008) are also available.
- Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards
www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/526.pdf
- Capturing Richness – Countryside visits by black and ethnic minority communities
http://www.countryside.gov.uk/Images/Capturing%20richness%20-%20Final_tcm2-10023.pdf
- South East Regional Health Strategy, SEPHO
<http://www.sepho.org.uk/pages/viewResource.aspx?id=11138>.
- Environment & Health Policy, Natural England
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/research/policy-position-statements/docs/health-pps.pdf>
- 'Natural England South East – Regional Access Strategy'
Currently being drafted; to be available c. April 2009. Contact Rosie Holmes-Henderson.

Action for Biodiversity in South East England, South East Biodiversity forum.
(Under review & targets out of date)

http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/resources/documents/nature/South_East_action_for_Biodiversity.pdf

- Biodiversity Opportunities Map
<http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk/biodiversity/#wa122>

To be included within the 'South East Biodiversity Strategy', to be published by the 'South East England Biodiversity Forum', c. February 2009.

- More recent biodiversity targets, but also under review found at:
[http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk/assets/library/documents/BIODIVERSITY_I_N_SE - Regional targets.doc](http://www.sebiodiversity.org.uk/assets/library/documents/BIODIVERSITY_I_N_SE_-_Regional_targets.doc)

Reference should also be made to the Local Authority Local Development Framework (LDF) as the main local planning policy & guidance documents as well as Community strategies or equivalent, where they exist and Landscape Character Assessment maps. Other themed documents may also be relevant.

CONTACTS

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Applicants may also wish to make contact with other potential partner organisations such as local SE offices of the Consortium organisations that are involved with Access to Nature grant for additional support and advice. Other potential key partners may include Local Authorities (e.g. grant funding officers, countryside management staff, planning officers, health and community advisors), Primary Care Trusts, regional and local wildlife organisations and community interest groups.

Other Changes Spaces Big Lottery Grant Schemes

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) ‘Local Food’ Scheme

To find out more and to be kept informed of developments on the scheme please email your full visit the website at www.localfoodgrants.org.

Groundwork’s ‘Community Spaces’ Scheme

To find out more and to be kept informed of developments on the scheme please visit the website at www.community-spaces.org.uk.

Building Research Establishment (BRE) ‘Community Sustainable Energy Programme

To find out more and to be kept informed of developments on the scheme please visit the website at www.communitysustainable.org.uk

Mind ‘Ecominds’ Programme

To find out more and to be kept informed of developments on the scheme please visit the website at www.mind.org.uk/ecominds

Other Grant Schemes and Funding Providers

Please note this list is advisory only.

[Big Lottery Fund](#)

[Heritage Lottery Fund](#)

[Awards for All](#)

[Landfill Communities Fund](#)

[Defra](#)

[Investing in Communities](#)

[Breathing Spaces](#)

