



## **South West – Regional Priorities for Access to Nature Funding 2009/10**

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 West 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. Contacts are listed at Annex B

## South West Region Key Facts

The South West Region is the largest and most rural region in England. It covers approximately 23,851km<sup>2</sup> comprising Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and the West of England area (Bristol City, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset). Five million people live in the South West Region, with around 53% of people living in rural districts representing the highest proportion of any region in the country. 24% of people live in the regions 3 main conurbations Bristol, Bournemouth & Poole and Plymouth.

The diverse landscape of the South West is recognised as important with 37% of the region being designated as AONB or National Park. This along with 700 miles of National Trail attracts over 20 million visitors per year, from Britain and beyond, significantly contributing to the regions economy.

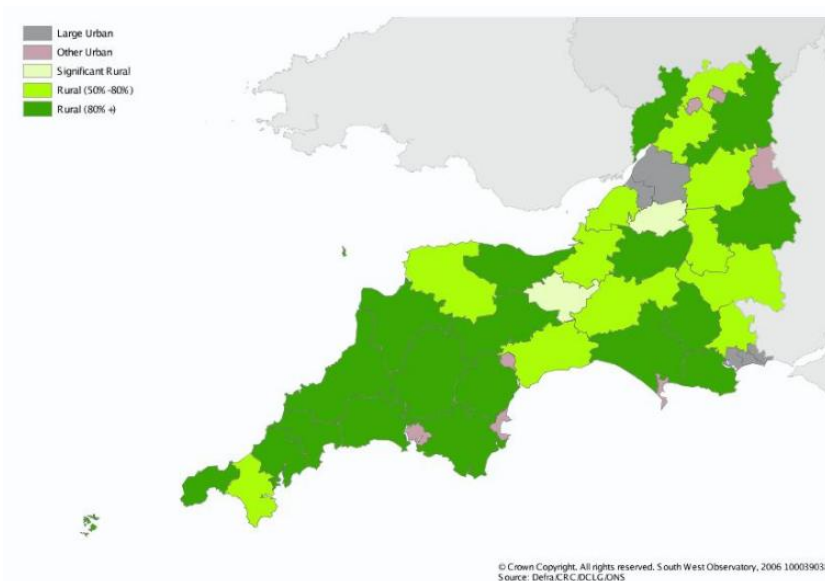
The geography of the region, that of a peninsula stretching 350km from the south west of Cornwall to the regions north in Gloucestershire creates its own difficulties with the south and south western end of the region being geographically remote and being less able to access services.

The South West has shown the greatest growth in population of any English region over the last 20 years, and for the last 10 years this growth has been entirely due to migration. Rural areas have shown the greatest increase in population.

The population of the South West also has more elderly people than the English average mainly due to the popularity of some coastal resorts for retirement. Areas such as Christchurch, West Somerset and East Devon all have more than 30% of the population of retirement age. The proportion of people over 65 years old is expected to further increase from 19% to 25% over the next 20 years putting increasing pressure on providers of support to the elderly.

For more information please see the [Natural England](#) or the [South West Regional Observatory](#) internet sites.

### Map A: The South West Region Rural and Urban Districts



## SW Identified Targets

### 1. Geographic Target Areas

1). Applications will be prioritised geographically. Those that originate from or work with communities living in the 5% -10% most deprived urban and 5% - 10% most deprived rural wards by Super Output Area, in the South West region, identified through the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 statistics will be a priority. We will use standard census data to identify these locations. The urban and rural LSOA categorisation within the data and maps seeks to address the dominance that urban areas have in the IMD statistics that can mask rural deprivation.

*IMD maps by regionally ranked LSOA, both covering the entire South West region and by individual county, and a data spreadsheet for the IMD, are available separately from the guidance section of the Access to Nature webpages. The regional ranking maps show only those LSOAs which fall within the regionally ranked most deprived 10%, to reflect the Access to Nature scheme's target areas.*

2). Applications from communities which address environmental deprivation and the lack of provision of freely accessible green space, or provide opportunities to remove barriers to accessing areas of existing green space to those communities living in the 5% - 10% of most deprived urban and rural areas will be a priority.

Natural England has used mapping of a wide range of Geographic Information (GI) datasets in order to assess access to the natural environment. Natural England has produced draft maps showing levels of natural environment access across England. The datasets used to illustrate such access in these draft maps are:

- Doorstep Greens
- Village Greens
- Cycle Ways (Sustrans Routes)
- National Trails
- Public Rights of Way
- Millennium Greens
- Forestry Commission 'Woods for People'
- Country Parks
- Local Nature Reserves
- National Nature Reserves
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act Access Land

It is acknowledged that restricting the datasets to this selection omits a number of other categories of natural greenspace, particularly in urban areas; the selection was made on those datasets that were available and had consistent coverage over the country. **It should be strongly emphasised that these maps are in draft form only.**

In order to provide a usefully examinable overview of access to the natural environment distribution within the region, levels of access provision within each LSOA have been assessed and graded according to the percentage of each LSOA's area that is covered by such provision. Those within the worst 10% for access will be a particular priority. *These maps are available separately from the guidance section of the Access to Nature webpages.*

3). Applications aimed at communities outside the most deprived 5% - 10%, but meeting these other priorities, will need to make a case for mitigating factors and provide their own robust evidence of need and supporting information, e.g. those within the 10% most deprived Health Domain of the IMD 2007.

## 2. Priority Groups

It will be our **priority to fund** projects that will bring lasting change for our **target beneficiaries** in terms of their opportunity to access, enjoy and engage with the natural environment. Our target beneficiaries are:

- 1). People currently under-represented in terms of contact with the natural environment, as identified in the DEFRA Outdoors for All?, including disabled people, the young (particularly 12-20 year olds), black and ethnic minority communities, and people from inner cities.
- 2). Other non geographic priority groups identified through existing policy, strategies and formal studies, e.g. cross generational projects benefiting the increasing elderly population of the south west, people with poor health or in areas of significant housing growth.
- 3). People disadvantaged by where they live through lack of access to the natural environment. See Annex B.

### Key Regional Strategies

The above priority groups can be identified thematically through reference to the DWP report [Opportunity for All](#) and the DEFRA [Outdoors for All?](#) Diversity Review.

Applicants are advised to consider how their applications fit with the key themes, priorities and objectives of the following Regional documents:

[Regional Spatial Strategy](#)

[Regional Bio-diversity Strategy](#)

[Regional Forestry Framework](#)

[Regional Sustainable Development Framework](#)

[Community Health Profiles](#)

Consideration should also be given to your Local Strategic Partnerships. These in conjunction with Local Authorities should have a Sustainable Community Strategies in place, which should be focused on integrating social, economic and environmental issues.

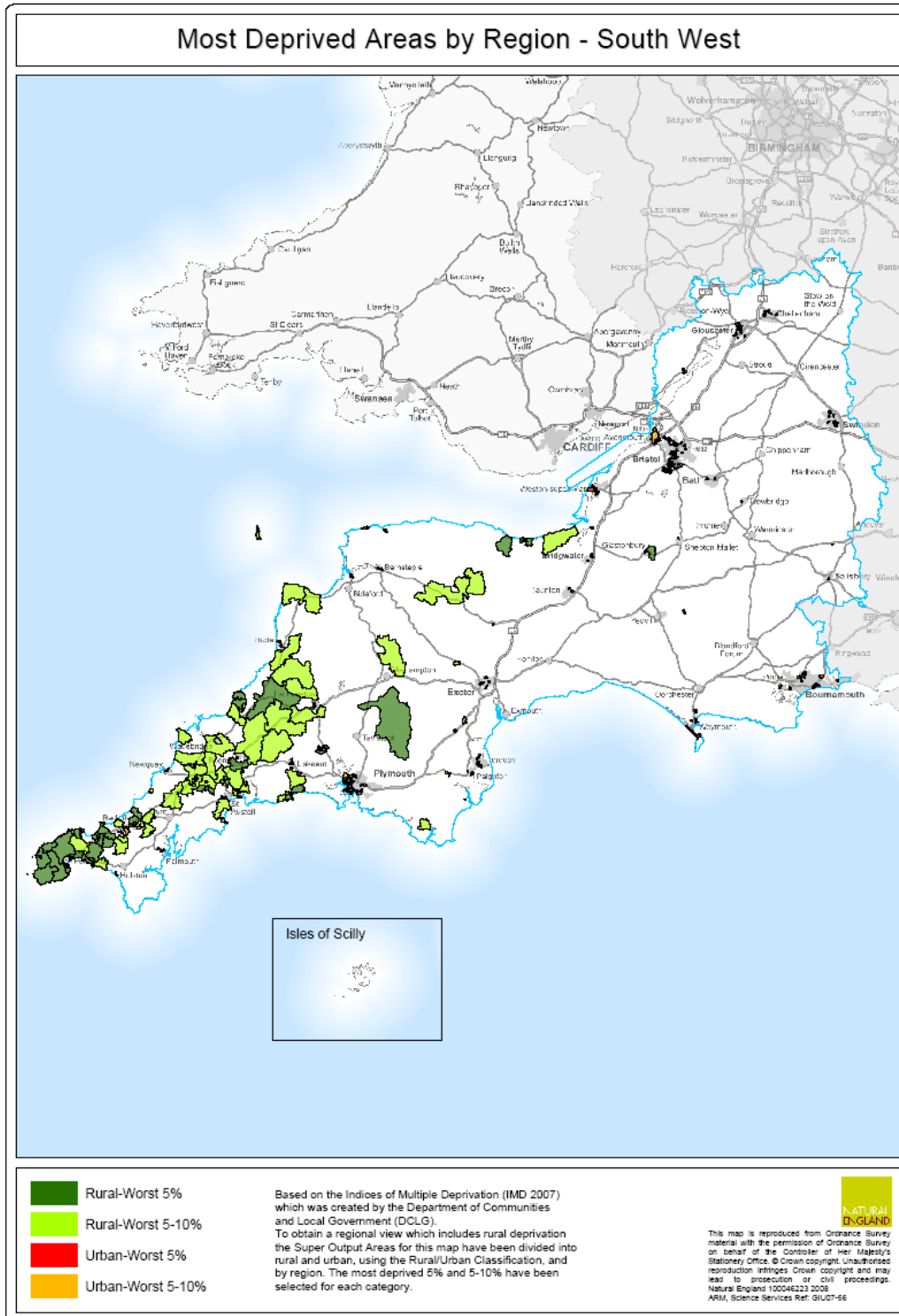
Although projects should address at least one of the priorities highlighted in this statement, applications will be considered for projects outside these priority areas where a good case for funding can be made.

We accept IMD statistics may not reveal full and detailed local issues. Statutory authorities, agencies and delivery bodies will often have highlighted these. We will take account of such information where possible, but it is down to the applicant to demonstrate the need for the project and supply supporting information.

## Annex A – Geographical data

### Map 1: South West's most Deprived areas

Map of the Super Output Areas (SOA's) which are in the 5-10% most deprived urban (red) and rural (green) wards in the South West Region. As measured in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007. (Information on SOA's and how the IMD were calculated can be found in Annex D). *More detailed county scale maps of the South West can be found in the Guidance section of the Access to Nature website.*



## 2. Maps of percentage accessible green space per Super Output Area

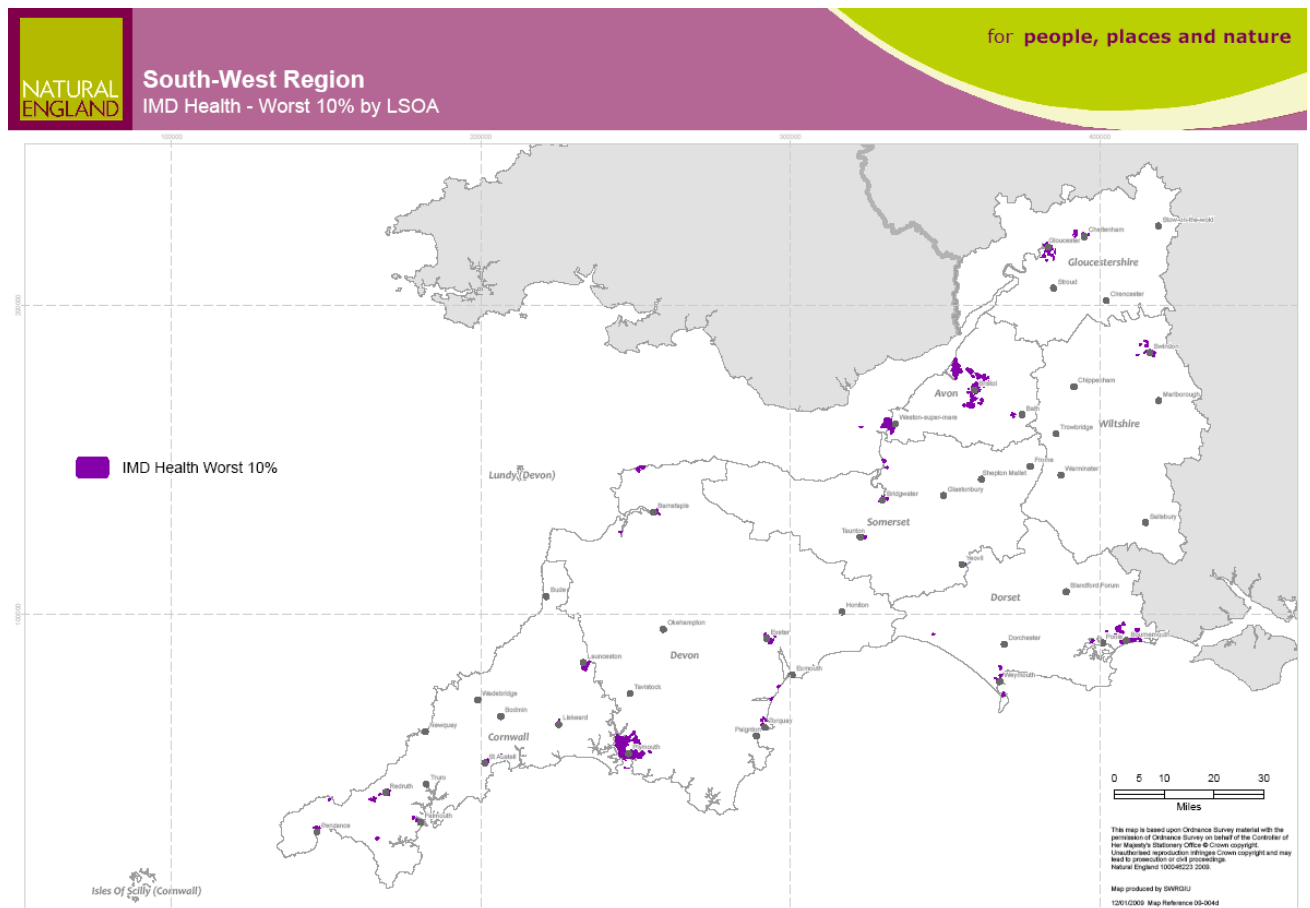
These map shows percentage cover of Super Output Area of accessible green space across the South West Region. It is quantified by all existing data on green space that is open for public use (see list above). Those areas which are shown to be black have no available accessible greenspace or where we do not have the relevant data. These maps should be considered **draft**.

These maps also show the lowest 10% linear and green and open space access in rural and urban areas of the South West region.

Map can be viewed in the guidance section of the Access to Nature website.

## 3. Map showing Lower Super Output Areas which fall into the 10% worst for health.

This map shows SOAs which fall within the bottom 10% of the health domain from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007.



## Annex B – Contact Details

Scheme website: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk) and [www.biglottery.org.uk](http://www.biglottery.org.uk)

South West Adviser	South West Project Support	National Grants Team
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### Access to Nature webpages

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature>

### Indices of Multiple Deprivation

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination>  
<http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk/page.asp?id=1057>

### Super Output Areas

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/soa.asp>

### Urban / Rural Classification

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/geography/nrudp.asp>

### Population statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

### Regional Statistics

[South West Regional Observatory](#)

[South West Health Observatory](#)

### Geographic Information

MAGIC

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

Nature On the Map

<http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/>

### Green Infrastructure

[GI Tool | Green Infrastructure in the West of England](#)

### Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt)

[Background](#)

[Documentation and guidance](#)

## **Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)**

[Planning Policy Guidance 17](#)

## **Local Development Frameworks**

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/england/genpub/en/1115311947782.html>

## **Other Changes Spaces Big Lottery Fund Award Partners**

Big Lottery Fund – funding programmes, including Changing Spaces

[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/all\\_open\\_programmes-uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/all_open_programmes-uk)

Groundwork UK – ‘Community Spaces’

<http://www.community-spaces.org.uk>

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

<http://www.rswt.org/localfood/>

Building Research Establishment – ‘Community Sustainable Energy Programme’

<http://www.communitysustainable.org.uk/>

MIND – ‘Ecominds’

<http://www.mind.org.uk/ecominds/>

## **Selected other grant schemes and funding providers**

[Big Lottery](#)

[Heritage Lottery Fund](#)

[Awards for All](#)

[Landfill Communities Fund](#)

[Defra](#)

[Investing in Communities](#)

[Breathing Spaces](#)

<http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/apply/nature>

## **Other useful Links:**

[Commission for Rural Communities](#)

[Natural England Health pages](#)

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

## Annex C - Definition of Super Output Areas and Indices of Deprivation

### Super Output Areas (SOAs) – from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a new geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Their first statistical application was for the Indices of Deprivation 2004.

#### Background

Previously the standard unit for presenting local statistical information has been the electoral ward/division. This has drawbacks though:

- Electoral wards/divisions vary greatly in size, from fewer than 100 residents to more than 30,000. This is not ideal for nationwide comparisons, and also means that data which can safely be released for larger wards may not be released for smaller wards due to disclosure requirements (i.e. the need to protect the confidentiality of individuals).
- Electoral wards/divisions are subject to regular boundary changes - [more info](#). This creates problems when trying to compare datasets from different time periods.

It was therefore decided to develop a range of areas that would be of consistent size and whose boundaries would not change. These would be built from groups of the Output Areas (OAs) used for the 2001 Census, and would be known as Super Output Areas (SOAs).

#### The 3 layers of SOA

Disclosure requirements mean that some sets of data can be released for much smaller areas than others. To support a range of potential requirements it was decided to create 3 layers of SOA:

Lower Layer	Minimum population 1000; mean 1500. Built from groups of OAs (typically 4 to 6) and constrained by the boundaries of the <a href="#">Standard Table (ST) wards</a> used for 2001 Census outputs.
Middle Layer	Minimum population 5000; mean 7200. Built from groups of Lower Layer SOAs and constrained by the 2003 local authority boundaries used for 2001 Census outputs.
Upper Layer	To be determined; minimum size c.25,000.

- The 34,378 Lower Layer SOAs in England and Wales (32,482 in England, 1896 in Wales) were generated by a computer programme which merged OAs taking into account measures of population size, mutual proximity and social homogeneity. The boundaries were released to the public in February 2004.

#### SOA boundary files and look-ups

Boundaries of both Lower and Middle Layer SOAs can be viewed on the interactive map on the [Neighbourhood Statistics \(NeSS\)](#) website.

#### Indices of Deprivation 2004

Created by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG)

The IMD 2004 measures deprivation for every Super Output Area and Local Authority area in England. It combines indicators across seven domains into a single deprivation score and rank. The domains are:

- \* Income
- \* Employment
- \* Health and disability
- \* Education, skills and training
- \* Barriers to Housing and Services
- \* Living environment
- \* Crime

Each domain contains a number of indicators, totalling 37. Two supplementary indexes have been created as a subset of the income domain. These relate to income deprivation affecting children and income deprivation affecting older people.

There are 32,482 Super Output Areas (SOAs) in England ranked from 1 as the most deprived down to 32,482 as the least deprived.

The most deprived SOAs tend to be in urban areas and are more dominant in certain regions.

To obtain a regional view which includes rural deprivation the SOAs for this map have been divided into rural and urban, using the Rural/Urban Classification, and by region. The most deprived 5% and 5-10% have been selected for each category.

**More information on domains and indicators is available here: [The English Indices of Deprivation 2004: Summary \(revised\) - Communities and neighbourhoods - Communities and Local Government](#)**