

Powys Nature Partnership

Local Places for Nature - Community Wildlife Grants 2026/27

Guidance Notes

The [Powys Nature Partnership](#) is looking to support projects from local organisations and community groups to maintain and enhance biodiversity with Community Wildlife Grants funded under Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature (LPfN) scheme.

The [State of Nature Report](#) 2023, found that Welsh Wildlife decreased on average by 20% and one in six of our species are threatened by extinction. The Powys Nature Partnership is aiming to halt and reverse this decline by delivering the [Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan](#) in partnership with Powys County Council who have declared a nature emergency.

The aim of Local Places for Nature is to create Nature on Your Doorstep, where people live, work and access public services. It focuses on engaging communities to create and enhance places for nature, not just to be passive recipients or observers of nature. Spending time in nature also benefits our mental and physical wellbeing.

Local Places for Nature is a bottom-up programme with a focus on urban areas, particularly areas of deprivation and/or those with little or no access to nature.

Restoring nature in and around communities tackles the nature emergency and provides the community with a space to be surrounded by nature. This will also contribute to the actions within the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan.

Notable Dates

- Application window open: 29th June 2026
- Application deadline: 5pm 14th August 2026
 - We encourage early submission of completed application forms to support grant administration
- Feedback on applications: Week beginning 31st August 2026
- Project Start Date: 14th September 2026
- Funding must be spent and claimed in full by 26th February 2027. Please note there will be interim quarterly claim periods between project start date and February 2027. The submission deadlines for these are noted below.
 - Quarter 3: 21st December 2026
 - Quarter 4: 26th February 2027

Who can apply

The fund is open to

- community groups
- voluntary organisations
- charities and other third sector organisations
- public sector organisations including Town and Community Councils

We would encourage schools to seek Local Places for Nature Funding through [Keep Wales Tidy](#).

Applicants must have suitable public liability insurance for any work carried out along with any necessary permissions and consents to carry out the project.

This is a **reimbursement grant**; applicants must submit evidence of expenditure to receive grant payments. Your organisation must be able to cover the upfront costs and claim them back. You will be able to claim funding every quarter so can space spend out throughout the year. Please take this into consideration before applying for funding.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel from the Powys Nature Partnership. For more about Biodiversity in Powys, the Powys Nature Partnership and the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan visit [Biodiversity in Powys - Powys County Council](#)

What will we fund:

- Projects that will take practical action to create local places for nature by creating greenspaces, including on man-made structures and surfaces, or enhancing greenspaces which already exist.
- Projects do not have to be based at one site, for example, you may plan to deliver a town-wide project.
- Projects must be not-for-profit, they must enhance nature and allow communities to access nature where they live, work and access public services.
- Projects should focus on those areas with relatively high levels of deprivation, the most urban/peri-urban areas and places with relatively little or no access to nature.
- Projects should improve access to nature and engage people with wildlife.
- Funding can be used to purchase tools, equipment plus sheds/tool stores to help maintain the site(s).

Each project must contribute towards at least one of Welsh Government's objectives.

- Increase wildflower planting.
- Increase community food growing opportunities.
- Increase local tree planting.
- Create dense and diverse woodlands the size of a tennis court.
- Create habitats at rail stations and transport interchanges.
- Encourage wildflowers and improve biodiversity by changing mowing practices.
- Create sensory gardens.
- Reduce the use of pesticides.
- Restore or create community orchards.
- Improve public access to drinking water.

All projects must adopt the 'do no harm to nature principle', including steps such as using peat free compost and minimising plastic waste as well as using appropriate native species. Materials must be suitable for the area, as environmentally friendly as possible and sourced locally where possible. Plants (including trees and wildflowers) must be native species and of local provenance.

Each project should be designed to be delivered in a way that ensures long-term sustainability. Applicants must agree to maintain the site for a minimum of **five years** and have a plan for future maintenance.

- On-going maintenance, repairs, and running costs cannot be covered.
- Staff and ongoing management costs are not covered by the grant.

How much will we fund

- Grants are available for up to £5,000.
- If you have a project idea that is greater than this, please speak with us.
- For smaller biodiversity enhancement schemes see / contact us about our 'Neighbourhood Nature' option.

Grant criteria

Administrative

- The grant will fund capital costs only. Capital expenditure includes, for example: trees, plants, wildflower seeds; bird and bat boxes, bug hotels; planters; compost areas; equipment for maintaining the project; contractor costs; benches.
- Three quotes must be obtained from suppliers if you are purchasing any single item, piece of equipment, or work carried out by one single supplier/contractor costing over £5000. For anything under £5000 then best use of funding by using the most appropriate supplier is expected.
- **No revenue costs can be included such as staff or volunteer time.**
- Match funding is not a requirement of the grant but will be looked upon favourably.
- The project location must be accessible to members of the public.
- You must have permission from the landowner before applying for funding and include this as part of your application.
- Your organisation must show how you will maintain the project for at least 5 years at your own cost.

- Recipients must have suitable public liability insurance for any work carried out under the grant.
- Successful applicants must provide proof of expenditure with all grant claims to receive funding; applicants must be able to cover initial costs before being reimbursed.
- Successful applicants will be required to provide quarterly updates to monitor progress.
- You will also complete a case study (minimum of 500 words) by 31 March 2027 (template will be provided).
- Welsh Government's contribution to the project is promoted in any communications and signage produced through this project and suitable reference is made to the support provided by Powys Nature Partnership.

Biodiversity

- Your project should contribute towards at least one of the Welsh Government objectives
- You will consult with local experts to ensure biodiversity is being enhanced, such as members of the Powys Nature Partnership.
- Best practise is followed around biosecurity measures when moving or using all natural materials and live plants.
- Use of local provenance and origin seeds and plants is prioritised wherever possible. This includes Welsh heritage varieties of vegetables and fruits for food growing projects.
- Use of local provenance trees, wherever possible and adhering to the UK and Ireland Sourced and grown policy for trees will reduce the risk of importing pests and diseases and safeguard native species. To find a list of nurseries and find out why this is important please see: [Where Do Our Trees Come From? - Woodland Trust](#).
- Wherever possible, use and encourage no-dig or perennial options for vegetable growing plants.
- You must follow the 'do no harm' to nature approach to ensure that existing nature is maintained and enhanced through this project. For example, **only peat-free compost must be used** e.g Melcourt All Purpose Peat Free.
- All natural materials are sustainably sourced; specifically wood products should be certified e.g., FSC, PEFC.
- Use of local Powys-based suppliers is prioritised wherever possible. This might be more expensive but supports the local economy and reduces the carbon footprint of your project and can be reflected in your grant request.

Contact

You are encouraged to seek advice on developing your project before applying to ensure your project will be eligible.

Please contact biodiversity@powys.gov.uk for all enquiries.

Application form link

[Local Places for Nature Funding - Powys](#)