



BRANCHOUT
ESSEX & SUFFOLK WATER

PRIORITY HABITATS

Application guidelines and
supporting information

living water

www.eswater.co.uk
www.branchout-esw.co.uk

WHAT IS THE BRANCH OUT PRIORITY HABITATS FUND?

Priority habitats are habitats that are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity in England (see the list drawn in accordance with Section 41 of the NERC Act and BAP habitats for more detail).

Priority habitats cover a wide range of semi-natural habitat types, and are identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action.

A healthy natural environment is essential for supplying top quality drinking water. Northumbrian Water set up the Branch Out fund in response to the need to build resilience in the region's natural environment.

The purpose of the fund is to enable local communities, land managers, other organisations and individuals to contribute to the restoration and/or creation of priority habitat within Northumbrian Water's operating area.

PROJECT CRITERIA

- All projects must be aiming to create or restore priority habitat. The benefits must include some aspects that are quantifiable and measurable.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The fund is open to organisations, community groups or individuals from the public, private, voluntary and education sectors within the catchments where Northumbrian Water operates.

PROJECT SELECTION

Submission of an application does not mean automatic entitlement to funding. All applications will be carefully considered by the Branch Out team.

Applications will be acknowledged within ten working days. Applicants will be informed in writing or by email within five working days of the bi-annual decision meeting on whether their application has been successful, and if so, the amount of grant they have been awarded.

Applicants may in some instances be asked to provide further assistance to allow a final decision to be made.

Funding decisions will be made at the end of May and November each year. However these timescales will be subject to change depending on the number of applications received.

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL SELECTED PROJECTS

For all projects granted any level of funding, the following must be delivered:

1. All external communications relating to the project to be agreed with Northumbrian Water's communications team before use.
2. Northumbrian Water's contribution must be acknowledged in all press releases.
3. Northumbrian Water's logo must be used on project material and interpretation.
4. A report on the progress of the project must be submitted to Northumbrian Water every six months and /or on project completion (whichever occurs first).
5. Project reports must provide evidence of where the project money provided by Northumbrian Water has been spent.
6. Project reports must provide information on specific measurable project outputs as agreed with Northumbrian Water before the project starts.
7. All successful project applicants will sign a partnership agreement agreeing to the above terms. Where a medium or large fund is granted, additional requirements will be agreed specific to each project.

RETURNING COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

Sign, scan and email to: branchout@nwl.co.uk

Or sign and post to:
Conservation
Northumbrian Water
Boldon House Wheatlands Way
Pity Me
Durham DH1 5FA

www.branchout-nw.co.uk