



Access to Nature

Regional Targeting Plan - LONDON

London - Regional Priorities for Access to Nature Funding

INTRODUCTION

This document identifies areas and beneficiaries that are seen as a particular priority for Natural England's (NE) Access to Nature scheme in the London 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 the 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: 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 of the priorities described. This list is not exhaustive, and 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.

Potential applicants are encouraged to speak to their local Natural England Adviser before committing to the time and expense of applying for a grant from the Access to Nature scheme. In London the Access to Nature Adviser is Joanna Watson, who can be contacted on 0300 060 2436 or at joanna.watson@naturalengland.org.uk. Contact details for Advisers in other regions are listed on the Access to Nature website.

THE LONDON REGION

Covering an area of 1,572 sq km, and with a population of around 7.5 million inhabitants, Greater London is the smallest but most densely populated of the English regions. The region's population growth is accelerating and over the next eight years the population is projected to increase by a further 700,000.

London is a thriving world city with a dynamic and successful economy and a rich and varied culture. It is the most culturally diverse city in the world and is home to over 46% of England's minority ethnic population, with over 300 languages spoken by pupils in London schools.

London is the wealthiest region in the United Kingdom in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita; with a higher concentration of individuals in the high income bands than anywhere else in the country.

However, these simple measures mask the fact that London is a region of stark polarisation in terms of deprivation, with areas of poverty frequently neighbouring those of great prosperity. 26% of London's neighbourhoods are amongst the top 20% most deprived communities in the country; almost 30% of its working age population is not employed; 45% of children in inner London live in poverty and 60,556 homeless households are in temporary accommodation (65% of the national total).

Notwithstanding its high population density, London is a remarkably green city in which almost 2/3 is covered with greenspaces and water. Of the greenspace and water, around 1/3 is private gardens, 1/3 parks or sports areas and 1/3 wildlife habitat such as woodlands, grasslands and rivers. The region includes many areas that have been designated for their nature conservation value, including: 36 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 2 National Nature Reserves (NNR), 1,400 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), 2 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and parts of 2 Special Protection Areas (SPA).

In addition to its biodiversity value, natural greenspace plays an important role in contributing to people's physical and mental wellbeing, creating a sense of place and community and providing opportunities for relaxation and exercise.

Despite London's apparent richness in greenspaces, there is a marked inequality in terms of opportunities to access the natural environment. Significant areas of London are deficient in freely accessible greenspace and, where sites are available, they may be of poor quality or lacking in wildlife value. This is of particular concern in a region such as London, where many people live in high density housing, without private gardens and lack the means or opportunity to travel longer distances to experience the natural environment.

The need to address this inequality is identified as a key objective of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy as well as being highlighted in the London Plan.

Even in localities with good quality, freely accessible greenspace, the profile of a site's users may not necessarily reflect the profile of the community living close to the site. Barriers to use of greenspace are various and in a region as culturally and socially diverse as London, identifying solutions to tackle these barriers and work towards equality of opportunity is vital.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR LONDON

1. GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES

1.1 Projects that originate from or that will work with the most deprived communities in London.

Specifically, we will prioritise applications that address the needs of communities in the 10% most regionally deprived Lower Super Output Areas* (LSOAs) in the London Region, as identified through the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 statistics.

Maps showing the 10% most deprived LSOAs in London can be found in Annex 1. A list of these areas can be found in Annex 2.

A postcode search is available online to enable people to identify which LSOA their proposed project is located within. This is available at: <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

The IMD combines a number of indicators (employment; health deprivation and disability; education skills and training; barriers to housing and services; crime; the living environment) to give an overall score for deprivation and allows LSOAs to be ranked relative to one another.

We accept that the IMD data does not always reveal a full picture of local issues. If your project is addressing a particular issue or need that has not been captured by the IMD you should supply supporting information to evidence this need. We will take this information into account wherever possible.

* Lower Super Output Areas are geographical areas commonly used to report statistical data. LSOAs are smaller than electoral wards and have an average population of 1,500.

1.2: Projects that will benefit communities in parts of London where there is a lack of freely accessible greenspace.

Although London is a relatively green city, there are many areas that lack good quality natural environment, that is open to all. We will therefore prioritise projects that aim to overcome this environmental deprivation, particularly where lack of greenspace corresponds with deprivation (as described in priority 1.1).

We have used the Mayor of London's Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature data to define environmental deprivation. Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature are localities that are more than 1km walking distance from a freely accessible greenspace (defined as publicly accessible sites of Borough or higher level of significance for nature conservation interest). Maps showing these areas can be found in Annex 3.

Again, we accept that the data may not always give a full picture of local circumstances. If your project is addressing environmental deprivation that has not been captured by the Areas of Deficiency in Access to Nature mapping, you should supply supporting information to evidence this. We will take this information into account wherever possible.

2: NON GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES

2.1 Projects that will benefit people who are underrepresented in terms of contact with the natural environment or who are experiencing social exclusion.

These groups will vary depending on the nature of the project and the barriers to engagement but could include older people, young people, disabled people, black and ethnic minority communities, those experiencing ill health, unemployed people and economically disadvantaged people.

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

Outdoors for All? Diversity Review, Natural England, Defra, Countryside Agency
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/pdf/access/dap-ofa.pdf

A Sense of Freedom, Natural England
www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/ne52senseoffreedomtcm2-32120_tcm6-4033.pdf

Capturing Richness; countryside visits by black and ethnic minority communities
www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/capturingrichnessfinaltcm2-10023_tcm6-4017.pdf

Opportunity for All, Department of Work and Pensions
www.dwp.gov.uk/ofa

3 GROWTH AND REGENERATION AREAS

3.1 Projects in areas identified for significant levels of regeneration and growth, where the project will also be overcoming barriers to engagement with the natural environment or addressing social and/or environmental deprivation

A number of areas in London have been identified as key areas for strategic economic growth and housing expansion, or for significant regeneration. Associated increases in population and housing density mean that opportunities to benefit from engagement with the natural environment are of great importance.

We will consider funding projects in a number of these areas including London boroughs in the Thames Gateway and the London, Stansted, Cambridge Corridor; Olympics Host Boroughs, provided that the project is also addressing our other priorities (social deprivation, lack of accessible greenspace, barriers to engagement with nature).

Please note: Applications for projects that do not address any of the above priorities may still be funded but applicants will need to make a case to demonstrate that there are mitigating factors and provide appropriate additional supporting information.

KEY NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES & DOCUMENTS

Applicants should demonstrate the strategic fit of their projects by showing how their proposals address the themes, priorities and objectives of key national and regional strategies and documents. Examples of such documents include:

- State of the Natural Environment in London: Securing our Future (Natural England)
www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/london/sone/default.aspx
- Connecting with London's nature; The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy
www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/biodiversity/index.jsp
- London Biodiversity Action Plan
www.lbp.org.uk/londonap.html
- The London Plan – The Mayor's Spatial Strategy
www.london.gov.uk/mayor/planning/strategy.jsp
- Improving Londoner's Access to Nature (GLA, London Plan Implementation Report)
www.london.gov.uk/mayor/planning/docs/access-to-nature.pdf
- The London Rivers Action Plan
www.therrc.co.uk/lrap/lplan.pdf
- Connecting Londoners with Trees and Woodlands (the Mayor's London Tree and Woodland Framework)
www.london.gov.uk/mayor/environment/forest/index.jsp
- Natural England's Access Policy and Health and Wellbeing Policy
www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/policy/policies/default.aspx
- Thames Gateway Parklands Vision
www.communities.gov.uk/thamesgateway/crossgovernmentpriorities/parklands/
- East London Green Grid
www.london.gov.uk/mayor/auu/green-grid.jsp
- The Mayor's Draft London Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
www.london.gov.uk/mayor/publications/2008/08/climate-change-adapt-strat.jsp

USEFUL INFORMATION & CONTACTS

More information about Access to Nature:

For further advice and information about the Access to Nature scheme in London contact:

Joanna Watson
Natural England
6th Floor, Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6DE
Tel: 0300 060 2436
Email: joanna.watson@naturalengland.org.uk

For general information about Access to Nature and contact details for other regions, visit the Access to Nature website at: www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature

Other Changing Spaces grant schemes:

The Big Lottery Fund is providing the funding for the Access to Nature scheme under its Changing Spaces Programme. If your project is not suitable for Access to Nature, you may want to find out more about the other Changing Spaces schemes:

Groundwork's **Community Spaces** scheme – www.community-spaces.org.uk

Mind's **Ecominds** scheme – www.mind.org.uk/ecominds

Building Research Establishment's **Community Sustainable Energy Programme** - www.communitysustainable.org.uk

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts' **Local Food** scheme - www.localfoodgrants.org. (nb this scheme closes to new application in August 2009)

Useful sources of information and advice:

London Wildlife Trust

Central Office
Skyline House
200 Union Street
London
SE1 0LX
Tel: 020 7261 0447
Email: enquiries@wildlondon.org.uk
Website: www.wildlondon.org.uk

London Biodiversity Partnership

c/o Natural England
6th Floor, Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
SW1E 6DE
Tel: 0789 9943544
Email: nick.white@naturalengland.org.uk
Website: www.lbp.org.uk

London Parks & Green Spaces Forum

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City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA
Tel: 020 7983 4495
Email: info@lpgsf.org.uk
Website: www.green-space.org.uk/lpgsf/

Greater London Authority & Mayor of London

City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA
Tel: 020 7983 4000 (main switchboard)
Website: www.london.gov.uk

Government Office for London

Riverwalk House
157–161 Millbank
London
SW1P 4RR
Tel: 020 7217 3111
Email: enquiries@gol.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.gos.gov.uk/gol

Borough Councils

Contact details for all London Borough Councils can be found at
www.go-london.gov.uk/boroughinfo

London Health Observatory

www.lho.org.uk/

Useful local statistics and information

www.uklocalarea.co.uk

