



Access To Nature

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Aim of the programme

To provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds to have greater access to our natural environment, enabling them to get more involved in looking after it, learning new skills and creating new places for people to enjoy.



Introduction...

Funded by Big Lottery Fund through the Changing Spaces Programme

Delegated grant scheme – BIG has handed over the money to NE to distribute on behalf of a partnership consortium

Total grant from BIG is £25million

- with **£22 - £23million for grants**

Scheme runs until 2014 but all money must be spent by December 2013



Consortium



Programme led by Natural England on behalf of a partnership consortium:

British Waterways
BTCV
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
GreenSpace
Groundwork UK
Land Restoration Trust
The National Trust
Natural England
RSPB
The Wildlife Trusts
The Woodland Trust





Funding themes



- Community awareness and active participation
- Education, learning and volunteering
- Welcoming, well managed and wildlife rich places





The basics...



Access to Nature has 5 Outcomes:

(1) A greater diversity and number of people having improved opportunities to experience the natural environment

Target: at least 1 million people to have improved opportunities to actively experience and enjoy the natural environment

Eg awareness raising events; interpretation materials; guided walks and talks; leaflets, trail guides; natural play programmes; employment of a project officer to build capacity



The basics...



(2) More people having opportunities for learning about the natural environment and gaining new skills

Target: 75,000 people to have a new learning opportunity related to the natural environment

Target: 50,000 volunteers to have a new opportunity to actively participate in training and development programmes, gaining new skills

Eg species identification workshops; educational programmes; volunteer recruitment and training activities; educational materials; skills training



The basics...



(3) More people able to enjoy the natural environment through investment in access to natural places and networks between sites

Target: Investment in access links and associated networks to 130 natural places

Target: 325,000 people experiencing better links with the natural environment

Eg footpaths, boardwalks, cycle routes, creating/managing greenways, green corridors, access links; green transport links; community surveys and public consultation



The basics...



(4) richer, more sustainably managed natural places meeting the needs of communities

Target: investment in the quality of 100 natural places, meeting the needs communities

Target: 2500,000 people benefiting from physical improvements to their local natural environment

Target: 5,000 people regularly participating in the care of these natural places

Eg survey work; site/landscape management; habitat creation/restoration; restoration and enhancement of landscape features; improved safety provision



The basics...



(5) An increase in communities' sense of ownership of local natural places through establishment of strong partnerships between communities, voluntary organisations, local authorities and others

Target: 100% of projects actively and positively engaging with local communities

Eg employment of dedicated project officers; use of green space for community activities linked to well being and health, purchase of tools and equipment; volunteer involvement; capacity building and partnership development



The basics...



Target Beneficiaries - projects must primarily benefit one or more of the target beneficiaries:

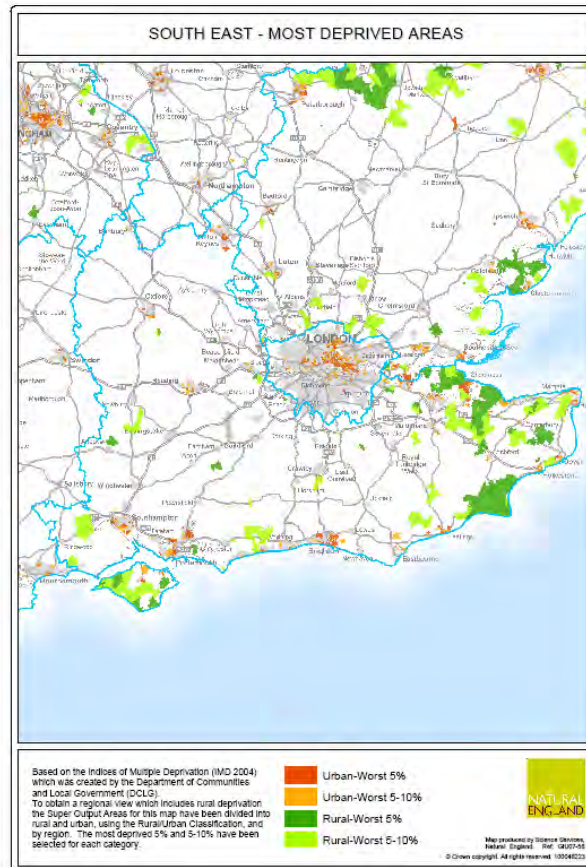
- People underrepresented in terms of contact with the natural environment
- Communities and individuals experience social exclusion
- People disadvantaged by where they live through lack of accessible natural environments



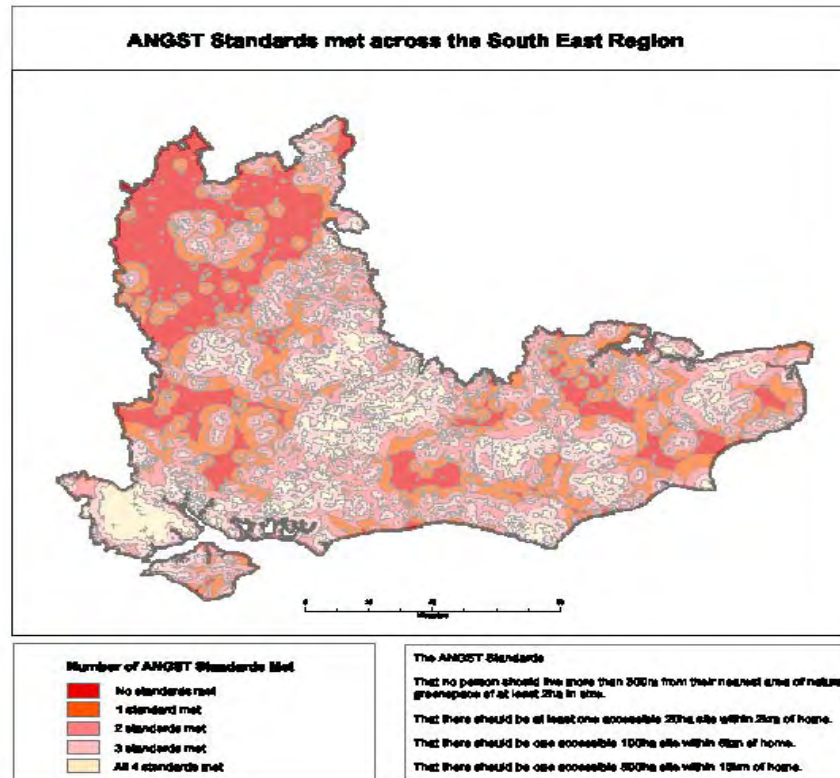
The South East Regional Targeting Plan

- Areas of high social and economic deprivation (10% most deprived lower super output areas) as identified through the Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Areas lacking in accessible natural greenspace (identified through ANGSt mapping)
- Growth points and growth areas (Basingstoke, Didcot, Maidstone, Oxford, Reading, Reigate, Banstead + PUSH)
- Non geographic priority groups
- Health agenda

'IMD' and Super Output Areas



ANGST Targets



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Back to the basics...

Scheme will launch in early **April 2008** 

Open to applications from 2008 – 2010

Grants of **£50,000 - £500,000**

Small number of grants >£500,000 for flagship projects which must be national in scope

Only properly constituted not-for-profit organisations are eligible (includes statutory bodies)

NE is not eligible

- although can be a partner in a bid from another eligible applicant. Must not benefit financially and can only act in an advisory and contributory capacity



Back to the basics...

Projects must:

Meet one or more of the outcomes

- happy to accept projects that are focussed on a single outcome

Primarily benefit one or more of the target beneficiaries

Be delivered through a partnership between local communities, voluntary and/or statutory bodies

Demonstrate local need and support



Back to the basics...

Partnership funding requirements

Grant requested £	Maximum grant from Access to Nature	Minimum partnership funding
50,000 - 100,000	Up to 90% of total project costs	10% (no cash requirement)
100,000 – 500,000	Up to 80%	20% (minimum 10% in cash)
Over 500,000	Up to 70%	30% (minimum 10% in cash)



Application process

- Applications can be made from April 2008
- Applications can be made on-line. Paper copies available in request
- Two stage application process:
 - Stage 1 - Eligibility of applicant and project proposal
 - Stage 2 – Full application assessment
 - Application will be considered by Project Board (grant of less than £100k) or Independent Grants Panel (grant of more than 100k)



What can be funded?



- Capital items can be funded as well as revenue
- Can fund post-holders to implement schemes on the ground
- Could fund site improvements for biodiversity value
- Able to fund land acquisition

- **Revenue costs include:**
 - Salaries of project workers &/or management staff
 - Staff recruitment
 - Staff expenses & training (inc volunteers)
 - Running costs for project buildings
 - Depreciation for equipment only used on project
 - Monitoring & evaluation
 - Marketing & publicity
 - Professional & legal fees
 - Travel & refreshments costs for beneficiaries



What can be funded?

- **Capital costs include:**
 - Constructing a new building or refurbishing existing
 - Buying land and buildings
 - Improving land, for example landscaping, paths, vegetation clearance
 - Associated costs, e.g. feasibility studies
 - Fees related to the project e.g. architect's, surveyor's or legal fees
 - I.T. - computer hardware and software
 - Vehicles
 - Tools & equipment



And what not?

- Work that has already started
- Work not directly associated with the delivery of the project
- On-going routine site maintenance where this is not part of a community / volunteer initiative
- Reclaimable VAT costs
- Projects that result in financial or commercial profit
- Works or services that would normally be provided by a statutory authority, for example a local authority
- Projects more reasonably funded by another Changing Spaces grant programme



Some possible project examples

- Funding the employment of volunteer co-ordinators on some reserves
- Grants to purchase areas of land close to where people live, that local communities have identified as being important to them for recreation/ biodiversity interest etc.
- Funding of links to sites to connect communities with their local natural spaces.
- Funding of training and development programmes for volunteers
- Funding for groups of carers to have some time off, enjoying the natural environment

More info

Via the web:

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

To receive updates, email:

accesstonature@naturalengland.org.uk

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(Tues – Thurs)

