

Chess Smarter Water Catchment Community Grants: Guidance

Water is more precious than ever due to climate change, population growth and changes in peoples' behaviours. With more extreme weather events, ongoing urbanisation, and a fundamental shift in our land-use patterns, it becomes even harder to manage this precious natural resource.

Here in the Chilterns, we are one of Europe's highest consumers of water, with those not on meters currently using 165 litres/person/day, dropping to around 110 litres where metering is in place. Here in the Chess Valley 97% of all water is used in and around our homes.

The Community Grant Fund is looking to support local organisations, charities, and groups, who are looking to address one or more of the six key themes of the Chess Smarter Water Catchment project. These are.

1. Managing Flow,
2. Water Quality,
3. Wildlife Corridors,
4. Invasive Non-Native Species,
5. Working together,
6. Involving People

Each theme has an objective and part to play in improving the River Chess Catchment area, this is your chance to be part of the work. The Chess Smarter Water Catchment project is partnership funded by Thames Water. The area covered by this project is marked in the map below.

Our Support

Details of who can apply to the Community Grants is found in our "Community Grants Guidance" below - page 3 onwards.

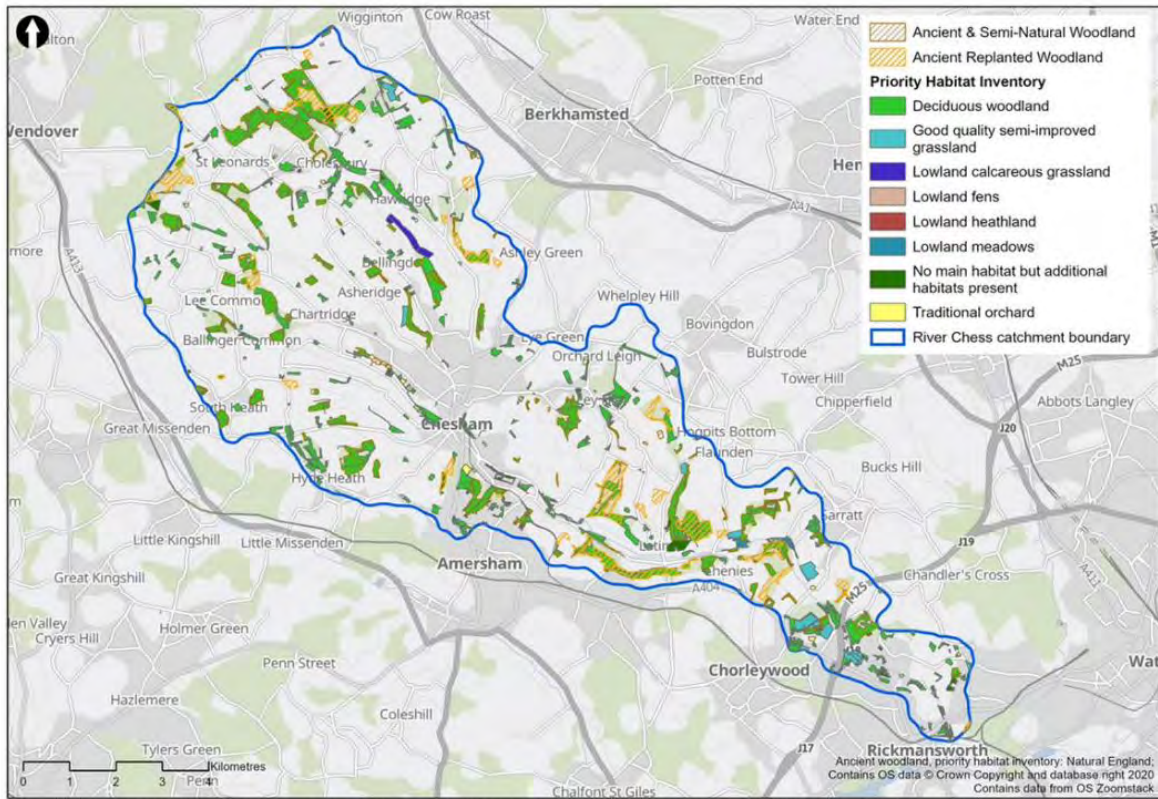
Applications are open from 1st April 2023 for the cycle of one year ending on 31st March 2024. You will receive notification of a successful application within two months of the proposal being received.

The maximum grant allocation for one-years cycle that can be applied for is up to £5,000, with preference being given to grants of less than £1,000.

Applications may be made by incorporated associations, groups, societies, and organisations not registered with a regulator, such as the Charity Commission or Companies House.

Recipients of a Community Grant will be expected to report back regularly to the Chess Smarter Water Community Fund providing evidence and documentation of progress made on achieving deliverables; funded activities will be visited when possible.

River Chess Catchment Map



Environment
Agency

Affinity Water



Herts &
Middlesex
Wildlife Trust



Queen Mary
University of London

Working in partnership

Community Grant Guidance

Aims of the Fund

The Chess Smarter Water Community Grant aims to support local organisations, charities and groups, who are looking to address one or more of the six key themes of for the Chess Water Catchment.

1. Managing Flow,
2. Water Quality,
3. Wildlife Corridors,
4. Invasive Non-Native Species,
5. Working together,
6. Involving People



We look forward to seeing inspiring and interesting twists on projects delivering these themes.

Eligibility Criteria

Organisations - Funding is for not-for-profit organisations which deliver activity that is legally charitable and for public benefit. Eligible entities include Registered Charities, Community Interest Companies with an asset lock, Charitable Incorporated Organisations, non-profit making Limited Companies, Incorporated Community Groups and Community Amateur Sports Clubs.

All applicants will be expected to provide a governing document or constitution for their organisation. If you wish to make an application from another type of organisation in the non-profit sector, we encourage you to contact grants@chilternsociety.org.uk to discuss eligibility.

Grant-funding an organisation that is not a charity – what we consider

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/draft-guidance-grant-funding-an-organisation-that-isnt-a-charity>

Geography - Only projects within the Chess Catchment can apply. However, a 2km buffer zone outside the catchment maybe considered.

Project & Core Costs Funding – Grants are available for specific projects only and not for organisational core costs.

Budget planning - Applicants are asked to submit a budget detailing the total cost of the proposed project. Match funding or application that see a project to fruition will score highly.

The Chiltern Society cannot reclaim VAT on your behalf.

Funding Themes – The Community Grants will fund projects responding to one or more of the key themes of the project:

1. Managing Flow,
2. Water Quality,
3. Wildlife Corridors,
4. Invasive Species,
5. Working together,
6. Involving People

We look forward to seeing inspiring and interesting twists on projects delivering these themes.

Grantees Unless agreed before receiving an application organisation may only hold one grant from the Community Programme at any time.

Decision Timescale Applications may be submitted on an ongoing basis and there is no deadline for submissions, funds will be allocated until funds are exhausted. We will endeavour to process applications promptly with no longer than two months between submission of application and notification of decision. Please note, a high volume of applications will mean that the decision timescale will take longer.

Initial funding is in place until March 2024, we hope to secure funding until December 2025, so would consider multi-year projects, subject to us securing funding for additional years. For such a project we would require a staged payment plan.

Pre-application Conversation We welcome discussions about your plans prior to application. However, are a small team so only have limited time. Organisations that have been in operation for under 12 months or do not have a complete set of annual accounts must have a pre-application conversation which can be arranged by emailing grants@chilternsociety.org.uk

Application Form Applications are to be made through [this online Chiltern Society Portal](#).

Group Applications – We welcome applications for partnership projects. Applications must have a designated lead organisation which meets all eligibility criteria and is able to coordinate funding to partners. Organisations named as part of consortia applications will also be able to apply individually so long as there is no duplication of funding or activity.

Reporting

All organisations awarded a community grant will be required to report to the Chess Smarter Water Catchment Community Fund during and at the end of the agreed funding period. Reports will include brief reflections on how your organisation has addressed the themes of the project, and a brief breakdown of expenditure. Other additional evidence that would be of benefit includes photographic before and after shots outlining any quick wins associated with each individual scheme.

Acknowledging your grant

If you wish to publicly acknowledge the support of Chess Smarter Water Catchment Community Fund, please request a copy of our logo once you have been awarded a grant. The Fund will also connect with and share information about grant holders on the news section of our partners websites and on social media platforms. We the provider will also contact you to share the success of your project with our partners and the wider public. Prior and subsequent access may be required occasionally by volunteers and partner organisations in specific circumstances to monitor the impact of completed works.

Indemnity and Breach of Conditions

The applicant shall be responsible for meeting any claims against him or her, or against the Society, arising out of the grant aided items or services because of negligence or public liability.

In the event of a breach of the agreement, the Society may declare the offer to be void, or may vary the amount of grant to be paid or, where the grant or a portion of it has been paid, may require the amount paid to be repaid in full or in part with interest at the rate then currently specified by the Treasury for debts owing to Government Departments.

These grants are administered by the Chiltern Society. A Registered Charity no.1085163. A company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales registration no.413844. White Hill Centre, White Hill, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1AG