



## Branch Out Application

- **Additional information may be requested to help decision making.**
- **Successful applicants will be required to sign up to appropriate terms and conditions for any project.**
- **Please read separate guidance notes before completing this application form.**

### 1. Details of person or organisation applying

Name/organisation:	<b>Village Landscape biodiversity project</b>
Status of organisation/person:	<b>Local community</b>
Address:	<b>Village Hall The Village Essex</b>
Telephone/email/fax:	<b>village@landscape.co.uk</b>

### 2. Project details

Address or location of project:	<b>Landscape scale project</b>
Site status (National / international site designations):	<b>Ancient Woodland</b>
Project timescale (Please indicate whether this is a new or ongoing project):	<b>New. Initial habitat creation and restoration to be completed within 2 years.</b>

### 3. Brief description of project. Maximum 250 words, please post or email copies of plans and photographs if relevant.

**This is a landscape scale project which aims to increase connectivity between a large area of woodland (a 17 hectare semi-natural deciduous woodland and ancient woodland) with other pockets of woodland, copses, ponds and grasslands in and around the village to allow for a well integrated landscape. A local wildlife site will also be improved, enhancing an existing pond, creating a wildflower meadow and outdoor classroom and introducing coppicing to the small woodland. The project also aims to increase environmental awareness and education amongst the local community by making use of the outdoor classroom.**

**The project has mapped out the current habitats identifying the potential for both habitat establishment and restoration, benefitting both the wildlife situated in the immediate area**



and those who migrate through. Landowners of these identified sites have been contacted and are in full support of the project.

Hedgerows and copses will be planted for the benefit of dormice, birds and invertebrates; two ponds will be re-profiled and enhanced for great crested newts and other amphibians and a wildflower meadow will be created for butterflies and moths with particular emphasis on conserving the Heath Fritillary.

Local schools, landowners, the local wildlife trust and general public will all have the chance to get involved with this project and even run, monitor and maintain certain areas of the project.

Maps, photographs, leaflets, plans or any extra information provided is always useful.

#### 4. Costs

Total cost of project (please provide detailed breakdown):

<b>Village Landscape Biodiversity Project Costs</b>	
<b>Hedgerow and copse planting</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Pond enlargement &amp; re-profiling (specialist contractors), aquatic plants, dipping platform, hibernacula construction</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Wildflower meadow</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Creation of outdoor classroom, small out building containing equipment for pond dipping and other outdoor activities, activity equipment, interpretation boards, wooden chairs</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>1000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£21,200</b>



How much is already in place or promised? (Please provide details)

- **£11,000 is already provided by a local charity.**
- **The trees have been donated by the Wildlife Trust.**

Amount of grant you wish to apply for: **£10,200**

If only partial funding is available which elements of the project would be given priority?

**Pond enlargement and re-profiling by specialist contractor and hedge planting. This is key in connecting and improving habitats in the area.**

How will you fund the balance? (If applicable)

**We would like to continue to apply to funding sources and do works as funding becomes available. We are currently filling out applications for a Community Foundation Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

**5. If applicable, have you applied for planning permission or other consents which may be required before undertaking any works.**

Yes  No **N/A**

**6. Project collaboration**

Details of project support from other partners, government or non-governmental organisations:

**This project is in partnership with the Local Wildlife Trust and the local Council. There are seven schools that would like to participate in the habitat creation and monitoring.**

**Local landowners have given their permission for the project.**

**Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission have all been informed of the project.**

Don't forget to include any letters of support for your project



**7. Please explain how the project meets the criteria of the Branch Out fund and how it will contribute to water, wildlife or communities. (Please refer to criteria stated in the guidance document. Maximum 500 words).**

Details of project support from other partners, government or non-governmental organisations:

**Water in the natural environment:** Effects of climate change are already apparent so by enlarging two ponds in the local area it will increase the water storage potential, benefitting wildlife in times of drought and the landscape in times of flooding.

**Wildlife:** The ponds are being enlarged to increase great crested newt habitat in the area. Great Crested newts are a protected species and have suffered severe decline in recent years. The enlargement of the ponds will also open up certain areas to light and will help the establishment of native aquatic plant species which will be planted within the pond. New hedgerows are to be planted linking ponds to other habitats such as grassland and woodland. Creation of a hibernacula not far from one of the ponds will add an extra habitat which amphibians and reptiles will be able to make use of during the winter. The native aquatic plant species will also attract an array of invertebrates which in turn will attract other wildlife. There is currently a large dormouse population in the ancient woodland, however there are no other records of dormice in any other local wildlife sites. By increasing hedgerows and therefore connections between these areas hopefully the dormice will have a larger area to move creating a more stable genetic population and allow migration during times of climate change. A wildflower meadow is to be created on an area of unused grassland, this backs on to a small woodland (a designated local wildlife site), therefore this will increase the amount of butterflies and moths in the area, the pond on this field is also one that will be enlarged and therefore hopefully increase the amount of dragonfly in the area. There are also plans to winter graze this grassland.

**Community:** This project engages a number of sectors. All seven schools in the area will have the chance to get involved with planting the hedgerows and small copses. The schools will also have access to the outdoor classroom which will be at the wild flower meadow and local wildlife site. There is also the chance for schools to take on part of the project which includes monitoring and maintaining certain areas such as particular hedgerows. The local community will have a chance to get involved working with the Local Wildlife Trust who are in partnership with this project, there will be work parties, weekend events and surveys that can be attended. Essex & Suffolk Water employees are also welcome to come along any of the events. Local farmers will also have the chance to get involved by offering land to the project or using their livestock for the winter grazing.

**Reputation:** There are plans to promote this work in the local newspaper and local radio station. A booklet explaining the project and how to get involved will be displayed at the local Wildlife Trust visitors centre and distributed to local shop owners and other business which they give to their customers. Partners and funders of the project will be promoted in the booklet and on other publications. If Essex & Suffolk Water fund this project, their logo will also be placed on the new interpretation board at the Wild flower meadow.



**8. How will you measure the success of the completed project? Maximum 250 words.**

**Success of the project will be judged on:**

- **Two ponds enhanced**
- **Wildflower meadow created**
- **Length of hedgerow planted**
- **Number of activities run for the public**
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**In addition, habitat condition surveys will be carried out on completion of practical work.**

I confirm that the details set out in this application are correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed:	Date:
Name (please print): On behalf of:	

Please ensure form is  
signed and dated

Please send completed application form to:

[branchout@nwl.co.uk](mailto:branchout@nwl.co.uk)

or

**Conservation team, Essex & Suffolk Water, Sandon Valley House, Canon Barns Road, East Hanningfield, Essex, CM3 8BD.**