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North Wessex
Downs
National
Landscape

Partnerships for Nature in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape

Brief for a Project Evaluation

Aim

The North Wessex Downs National Landscape is seeking to appoint a consultant to undertake the evaluation of the Partnerships for Nature in the North Wessex Downs project (P4N).

Specification

- An evaluation of the execution and delivery of the P4N project is required by the Heritage Fund and Defra and a final report submitted upon project completion (February 2026)
- The successful consultants will further advise and help to identify evidence and performance markers that will help to a) assess progress and ensure the project outcomes and outputs are on track b) to gauge the impact of the overall project against the P4N & Species Survival Fund (SSF) Aims and Objectives and c) identify additional elements that have been achieved or caused because of this project
- Utilising the evidence and data above, the evaluation will assess whether the individual sub-projects and the overall project has been successful in delivering the SSF objectives for people, nature and employment.
- Recommendations for future project delivery will be produced, such as what has worked well, what could be improved upon and lessons learned and adopted.
- Liaison with the North Wessex Downs as Lead Partner, the other delivery Partners and Wavehill (appointed as evaluators of the overall SSF Programme by the Heritage Fund) as required.
- Articulation and signposting of opportunities for the P4N legacy, post project completion.

Background to Species Survival Fund

The project is funded by the Government's Species Survival Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency. The fund is intended to be a key plank in achieving the UK Government's legally binding targets to halt species loss and protect 30% land for nature by 2030.

Projects must deliver against the fund theme of habitat creation and restoration, including ecosystem restoration, to support species abundance at a landscape, catchment or local scale, either within or outside of protected sites. This can include targeted actions taken as part of wider habitat creation or restoration projects. This link gives further information on the SSF programme:-

[Species Survival Fund | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

For the Species Survival Fund (SSF), the Heritage Fund will be collecting a range of standardised monitoring data directly from all projects (project output data) to understand what has taken place across all funded projects, and to feed into the analysis of the impact the SSF programme is having overall.

The Heritage Fund want to understand the activities and outputs that we will deliver as part of our project to inform both the programme evaluation and progress against Defra habitat targets, to evaluate the benefits for nature, people and employment. Wavehill have been commissioned by the Heritage Fund to undertake the programme evaluation. Please see the draft Monitoring Data Collection and Guidance at Appendix 1

Background to Partnerships for Nature in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape project

In the summer of 2023, the NWDNL produced a Nature Recovery Plan, see link below:

[Nature Recovery - North Wessex Downs National Landscape](#)

This plan sets out targets for habitats and species recovery across the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). When the call opened for the SSF, the P4N bid was put together to kickstart delivery against this plan, working across the Protected Landscape. The Partnerships for Nature project comprise nine partners, including landowners and farming businesses, estates, local and national charities and involves habitat creation, restoration and enhancement on seven separate sites across the NWDNL. The project will result in improved and increased habitat that will

benefit a range of species. Partnerships for Nature (P4N) started in May 2024 and will complete at the end of February 2026. The project received just under £1.56m funding with a further £186k match funding.

Further information on the Partners and the 'Approved Purposes' is in Appendix 2.

Please follow also follow this link to the P4N webpage :-

[Partnerships For Nature - North Wessex Downs National Landscape](#)

Scope of Work

Working with the NWDNL P4N team and Partners the successful consultants will:

Review to what extent the suite of projects and project overall is meeting/have met each of the HF Approved Purposes, including communications, staffing and governance.

- For each sub- project, review the plans and proposed and achieved outputs and outcomes.
- Review and agree a set of manageable quantitative and qualitative monitoring indicators (including the Species Survival Fund – Draft Monitoring Data Collection Guidance) for the short, medium and long-term that can be applied to the multiple sub-projects, inform the impact of the overall scheme and the effectiveness of the scheme's management/delivery. This should include work already undertaken from the project start in July 2024. Referred to here as the Framework
- For each indicator agree with the team and project partners what associated data will be captured, how, by whom and when, in line with the emerging SSF Monitoring and Data Collection Guidance (latest version at Appendix 1) Agreement will be required as to who will be responsible for data management, collation and analysis including the GIS based spatial data from February 2025 onwards as data collection will have already been undertaken for the interim report by end of January 2025. Develop creative evaluation methods where appropriate
- Contribute to the development of a simple reporting form to report monitoring data from projects as part of the Framework
- The outcomes for the natural environment that are and will be measured and monitored by volunteers as well as professionals, assessment of citizen science contributions and wider benefits must be captured in the evaluation, including through online and in person interviews
- Identify additional data collection and/or evidence that could usefully be acquired in addition to that being required by Wavehill, such as stakeholder interviews
- Provide advice at the project inception and at a mid-term review to the P4N team and project partners on how to strengthen any areas where the outcomes and

aims are not being well met. This could include suggestions for staff and volunteer training

- Quarterly meetings will be required ahead of quarterly reports to the HF. A mid-term review should be completed by 31 July 25. Produce a first draft evaluation report ready for the validation workshop in November 25 and the final report will be required by 30 January 26.
- The report should be concise, easy to read and cover: the evaluation methodology; outcomes of the project (what it has delivered), what are the tangible results and benefits of P4N; and how lessons will be shared. It should also include a short section on sustaining the P4N legacy and expanding on the investment of the SSF
- Attendance and participation in quarterly steering group meetings online and online quarterly meetings with the project team ahead of HF reporting.
- Organise and undertake site visits with each of the 5 Project Partners will be required to interview staff and/or hold focus group sessions as appropriate to obtain outputs
- An inception meeting at NWDNL offices and regular online meetings and other communication with the P4N Project Coordinator and Project Officer will be required
- Present findings in person via a validation workshop to the NWDNL and the NWDNL Council of Partners prior to the evaluation report completion for feedback and comment.
- Assess how the outcomes and outputs delivered during the P4N project contribute to NWDNL purposes eg Management Plan objectives and Nature Recovery Targets
- Identify potential actions and management procedures for legacy planning sufficiently in advance for participants to incorporate into future management plans and regimes.
- The format for the final report and framework should be agreed at the interim stage in July 2025. Allowance for 2 revisions to achieve the final version should be made.

Outputs

- Organise and attend 2 site meetings to each of Sulham, Moor Copse, Earth Trust, Sheepdrove, Bucklebury, Benham and Tidcombe – to see sites and interview partners and volunteers
- Organise and undertake 20 online interviews with partners and volunteers
- Participation and attendance at 3 in-person meetings at NWDNL meetings (inception, mid-term, validation workshop)
- Participation and attendance at 5 online quarterly meetings with P4N steering group

- Attend 10 quarterly meetings ahead of HF reporting and other online meetings with NWDNL P4N team
- Produce Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of outputs, outcomes, indicators, methods of data capture, by whom and when, including baselines for quantitative data and milestones for all delivery Partners. The Framework will need to reflect the content of Wavehill's evaluation processes.

Produce a simple format reporting system for capturing the output data in the form of an Excel spreadsheet and an Executive Summary

- Copies of any presentations to P4N meetings and partners for this contract
- Copies of any photographs taken by evaluator for this contract

The outputs and data arising from the contract will be the intellectual property of the North Wessex Downs NL and we will have the right to utilise this information in the future in anyway we see fit including sharing with partners or organisations associated with Species Partnerships for Nature Scheme.

Information Sources

Information to guide and assist the development of an Evaluation:

- NLHF general evaluation guidance - [Evaluation good practice guidance | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

The following will also be available to the successful contractor:

- Species Survival Fund P4N completed application form
- P4N Partnership Agreement
- P4N Steering Group Terms of Reference

Contract Management and Schedule

The work is commissioned by the North Wessex Downs NL. The person overseeing this contract will be the Project Co-ordinator, Tony Currivan.

Tenders should be sent to AnthonyCurrivan@northwessexdowns.org.uk by 5pm on 6th January 2025. If you wish to discuss the tender beforehand, please call 07860 342016.

Assuming sufficient eligible tenders are received, consultants will be selected, and contract let by the 20th January 2025. Further clarification or additional informal may be requested. The award of the contract will be notified to the successful consultant by means of written confirmation and issue of a purchase order. An inception

meeting will take place week beginning 10th February 2025. Work should be completed by 31st January 2026.

As a guide, expect an initial face-to-face meeting, regular telephone, skype or face-to-face catch-up meetings, visits or phone calls to project partners, and a presentation of the final report to the Advisory Board.

Tendering

The contractor can tender in whatever format they feel would best however it should include the following:

- Summary of CVs of each member of the evaluation team including relevant recent work, preferably on DEFRA and NLHF funded projects.
- An example of a recent Evaluation Report.
- Contact details for two referees we can contact without prior permission.
- Proposed methodology on how the brief will be delivered
- Confirmation that the work can be completed as per the brief, timetable and budget. If not, the scope of work that could be delivered given the timetable and budget.
- Cost breakdown of budget for the work (including allocated time against each proposed member of the evaluation team, day rates and details of basic expenses) using the attached schedule. This should be a fixed fee proposal.
- An itemised timetable including likely invoice dates. (Note funds will only be paid following the completion of agreed milestones to an acceptable standard).
- Details of professional and public liability insurance cover.
- Contractors must state if any part of their proposed supply solution requires the use of sub-contractors.
- Details of VAT registration (if applicable).

The tender documentation includes the following

- This brief
- Location map of Partner sites
- P4N Evaluator schedule of staff and fees

A decision on the awarding of the contract will be made by the North Wessex Downs NL based on the written submissions. Where difficulty is found in selecting the contractor, short-listed consultants may be invited to interview.

Evaluation of tenders

Acceptable tenders will be assessed against the criteria set out below:

- i. Price and value for money (60%)
- ii. whether the methodology approach and quality of the tender submission proposed by the consultant and the expected outputs will meet the NWDNL's requirements (25%)
- iii. experience and knowledge of the personnel proposing to deliver the contract (15%)

The NWDNL Council of Partners does not bind itself to accept the most financially favourable tender or, indeed, any tender.

Key milestones

Activity	By Date
Submission of tender	17.00 on 6 th January 2025
Consideration of tender by NWDNL; notification to successful contractor	17.00 on 20 th January 2025
Contractor agreement signed	27 th January 2025
Implementation of brief commences	10 th February 2025
In person inception meeting	10 th February 2025
Mid-term review of progress (NWDNL office meeting)	By 30 th July 2025
Submission of draft report and framework	2 weeks before validation workshop
In person validation workshop	By end of November 2025
Submission of revised report and framework	By mid-December 2025
Submission of final report to NWDNL	30th January 2026
Submission of final report to HF	28 th February 2026

The Manager will be:

Henry Oliver
 North Wessex Downs AONB
 Units 3 and 4
 Denford Manor
 Lower Denford
 Hungerford
 Berkshire
 RG17 0UN

Main point of contact:

Tony Currivan
Project Co-ordinator, Partnerships for Nature
North Wessex Downs AONB
Units 3 and 4
Denford Manor
Lower Denford
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0UN

Email: AnthonyCurrivan@northwessexdowns.org.uk

Phone: 01249 706101

Mobile: 07860 342016

Available Funding

The budget for this contract is £20,000 (incl VAT) and inclusive of all expenses, travel and materials. This figure is provided to give consultants an indication of the scale of the brief, not the tender submission sum expected.

Appendix 1

Draft Monitoring Data Collection and Guidance (issued as part of the overall Species Survival Fund Evaluation)

Species Survival Fund – Draft Monitoring Data Collection Guidance

November 2024 Update – final version to follow

Introduction

For the Species Survival Fund (SSF), the Heritage Fund will collect a range of monitoring data directly from projects – data on project outputs - to understand what has taken place across all funded projects, and to feed into the analysis of the impact the programme is having overall.

We want to understand the activities and outputs that you have delivered as part of your project to inform both the programme evaluation and progress against Defra habitat targets, so we can evaluate the benefits for nature, people and employment.

This document details what data is needed, when we'll need it and how it will be used.

Key Principles

Two data submissions – both submitted annually

There are two main types of data you will need to provide on your project's activities. These are:

1. Spatial data on habitat actions. There are two ways to submit this depending on whether, and how, you currently capture spatial data: through an online web tool created in Esri's Survey123 or through ArcGIS Online Collaboration.
2. Complete a spreadsheet template with data on activities and outputs for employment and skills, connecting people with nature and habitat actions not covered by spatial data.

These submissions will be due at an interim stage in **January 2025**, and as part of your project completion documents in February 2026. You can add your spatial data at any time, but you must send us data for work completed up to that point by the deadline.

Both of these sets of data will be used for the evaluation of the SSF.

Species Survival Fund programme evaluation

The Heritage Fund have appointed, and are managing, Wavehill to deliver the programme evaluation for the SSF.

This evaluation will cover how the SSF has been delivered and its impact overall. In addition to the data requirement detailed in this document:

- Wavehill will engage with you at key points in the delivery of the evaluation to understand more about your project – for example - the outcomes you anticipate and challenges you have faced. This will include two surveys, at least one site visit, and online meetings with your dedicated Wavehill contact.
- We are working collaboratively with Wavehill on the data you provide directly to us (to streamline data collection and avoid duplication, for example).
- The two types of output data covered in this document will be used by Wavehill as part of their analysis of the impact of the SSF overall. Additionally, the spatial data provided will be used to support our understanding of how the SSF contributes to Defra’s habitat target.

Defra’s habitat target

The Species Survival Fund is one of the key programmes designed to make progress towards Defra’s interim habitat target:

To restore or create 140,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats outside of protected sites by 2028.

The spatial data you will need to send us has two main purposes

1. Informing the SSF programme evaluation (as above)
2. Demonstrating your project’s contribution, and the contribution of the SSF overall to the habitat target

Not all of the spatial data you submit will count against the habitat target, but all of the data you submit will be used in the programme evaluation.

The Heritage Fund has reviewed, with Defra and other partners and stakeholders, what spatial data is needed to both report on the habitat target, and feed into the programme evaluation on the wider range of benefits that projects are delivering for habitats.

We are asking for the same data to be submitted for every type of action for habitat – and analysis of this data will determine whether it will be reported against the target or not.

Spatial data – habitat actions

Definitions and data requirements

We require spatial data submitted for all actions you have taken to create, restore or manage habitat. Shapefiles should be submitted with accompanying information about the habitat and action taken, as detailed in the table below.

The principle of the area the shapefile should cover will be the same for any action you submit (whether it meets the habitat target criteria or not). The reported action

area will be **the area of influence expected from the action** – the area of habitat that will be created, restored or managed by the action.

Definitions

Further guidance on the habitat target that the SSF reports against is detailed in the [Environment Act Habitat Target – Definitions and Descriptions](#) report.

This report defines wildlife-rich habitat, and what activities constitute habitat creation and restoration.

We strongly recommend that projects familiarise themselves with this as projects are required to report on habitat type and activity type as per the definitions in this document.

The target -

The target is an action-based (rather than outcome based) target, so information is required about the actions taken to restore or create wildlife-rich habitat and the size of the area intended to become wildlife-rich habitat as a result of those actions.

As this target seeks to record the size of the area intended to become wildlife-rich habitat following actions, the reported area will be the area of influence expected from the action.

- In many cases, the size of the intervention area will align closely to the size of the influenced area that is expected to become wildlife-rich habitat. For example, for an intervention involving planting native species to create a wildlife-rich native woodland habitat, the area of intervention (the area planted) aligns well with the area of influence (the area expected to become wildlife-rich woodland).
- However, there may be cases where the creation or restoration of wildlife-rich habitat requires intervention on a smaller area than that which might be expected to become wildlife-rich habitat (i.e. the intervention has an influence over a larger area than the intervention area). For example, for peatland restoration where the intervention is creating leaky dams, the intervention itself may be a point with a small actual area but with influence over the surrounding body of peat that could be larger in extent. In these cases, expert judgement should be used to determine the influenced area where it can be reasonably expected for wildlife-rich habitat to be created or restored in response to the action taken.

Wildlife-rich habitat –

- This refers to any of a range of specific natural and semi-natural habitats found in England. It is based on Priority Habitats and is expanded to include other habitat types listed in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Targets Regulations 2023.

- Wildlife-rich habitats generally equate to UK Habitat Classification level 4 habitat types, with the exclusion of some modified habitats, and including some level 5 habitats.
- Wildlife-rich habitat excludes heavily modified or degraded habitats.

The full list of wildlife-rich habitat is detailed in the [Environment Act Habitat Target – Definitions and Descriptions report](#).

Habitat creation –

- actions to establish wildlife-rich habitats that are of sufficient quality to support the species that are typically found in that habitat.

Habitat restoration -

- action on sites which support relict habitat that leads to the expansion of wildlife-rich habitat.
- action on degraded habitat where single or multiple actions need to be undertaken to address on or off-site pressures so that wildlife-rich habitats of sufficient quality can become established.
- action on existing habitat (possibly wildlife-rich) that has developed in a degraded ecosystem.

Habitat management –

- Habitat management includes actions that are intended to maintain or enhance existing wildlife-rich habitat and may follow those specific actions related to restoration and creation.
- It is recognised that, whilst these actions to improve the condition, structure or composition of existing wildlife-rich habitats will be important in delivering the statutory species targets and are to be encouraged, they are out of scope of the habitat target. This activity is also an important part of the impact evaluation of the SSF.

Submitting your data

Spatial data can be submitted to the Heritage Fund through an online web tool created in Esri's Survey123 or through ArcGIS Online Collaboration.

- Survey123 is accessed online through a web browser and allows you to draw project extents and describe the individual areas on which work has taken place. Once you have submitted a boundary you are unable to edit it. An online dashboard will be created allowing you to see the extent of submitted areas.
- To use the ArcGIS Collaboration method, you will need to be an existing Esri customer and have a Professional or Creator licence. This method will give you access to feature layers that you can use to map and describe area on which work has taken place. The Collaboration will allow you to continue to edit your project extents through to the submission deadline.

- Both Survey123 and the ArcGIS Online Collaboration contain drop down menus that ensure that you provide all the information listed in the tables in the 'Data requirements' section.

Data requirements

The key data requirements are:

- Spatial habitat data should be recorded in ESRI shapefile format (using one of the methods detailed above)
- Two types of GIS vector data should be used to represent the habitat areas and features: polygons and polylines. Polygons should be used for areas of habitats and large habitat features (i.e. ponds, banks etc. a minimum size of 25 m²), and polylines of linear habitats (i.e. small watercourses and hedgerows longer than 5 m). Each polygon or line, should represent a patch of habitat expected to result from the action taken on the site to which the record relates.
- This should be accompanied by relevant information about the habitat and activity type and level of confidence in the outcome.
- The creation of very small-scale features such as nest boxes, log piles, bare ground scrapes and bee banks should not be mapped (but should be submitted as part of the wider project monitoring data collection). However, features larger 25 m² in area of 5 m in length should be mapped as above as polygons or polylines, respectively
- Polygons should not overlap. The only instances in which GIS features should be overlapping is where a polyline is overlapping a polygon. For example, a hedge is planted around a restored species-rich grassland. The new hedge is digitised as a polyline and will overlap with the polygon of restored grassland.
- Any location should only be submitted once during the life of the project – shapefiles should only be submitted once capital works on that specific area are completed.
- Where condition assessments have been carried out on sites, this data may be used in the relevant habitat condition field of the spatial data. Where condition assessments have not been undertaken, this data may also be provided through an informal ecological assessment of a site by project staff. This might use [Statutory biodiversity metric condition assessments](#) categories Good/Moderate/Poor, [JNCC Common Standards Monitoring](#) categories favourable/unfavourable (recovering condition)/unfavourable (no change)/unfavourable (declining condition)/part destroyed/destroyed, or other appropriate categories or scales.

Table of data to be provided with shapefiles

Field name	Field type (number of characters)	Values/format	Description
ID	Text (10)		Projects should assign each polygon a unique ID number
Project ID	Text (10)	NL-23-xxxxx	Heritage Fund project reference
Site Name	Text (200)		Optional: Projects can choose a site name, if relevant
Base UK Habitat	Text (200)	Habitat (using UKHab level 4, and level 5 for scrub – TBC)	Starting baseline habitat
Base Condition	Text (200)		Optional: Starting condition assessment score, where available.
Target Habitat	Text (200)	List of wildlife rich habitats - TBC	Target wildlife-rich habitat to result from actions
Type of Action	Text (20)	Creation Restoration Management	Projects should use the Environment Act Habitat Target-Definitions document to ascertain which of these actions applies
Action	Text (200)		High-level description of all action/interventions taken e.g. 1. Blocked ditches 2. Ceased applications of fertilizer 3. Dug pond 4. Reduced grazing pressure 5. Initiated non-native species control programme
Confidence Measure	Text (20)	Low Medium High	Measure of confidence at end of project the actions taken will achieve habitat of sufficient quality to support typical species.
Created Date	Date	dd/mm/yyyy	Date of polygon creation
Created By - Organisation	Text (50)		Name of organisation capturing data
Notes	Text (200)		Any further important notes – any detailed descriptions can be provided as an Excel spreadsheet, linked by the ID field

Species data

The evaluation of the nature outcomes of the SSF focusses on habitats. The key reasons for this that the timeframe for delivery of the SSF is short, and species data in that timeframe would not give as clear an indication of the benefits of SSF.

Projects' survey data should be submitted to NBN Atlas, as detailed your additional grant conditions.

Monitoring data collection – other project activities

We will provide a template for you to provide the following data, in addition to data on habitat actions submitted as spatial data. This data falls under three main categories – nature, people and employment and skills.

Nature

Habitats – additional actions

This is for numbers of trees planted and actions smaller than 25 m² / 5m

- Number of trees planted (if over 25 m², submit numbers planted in addition to spatial data)
 - Location (OS grid ref) and:
 - number
- Small scale interventions - this includes the creation of very small-scale features such as nest boxes, log piles, bare ground scrapes and bee banks. These should not be mapped (size threshold: features smaller than 25 m² or 5m if linear)
 - Location (OS grid ref) and:
 - number (if relevant)
 - short description
 - Work involves creation/restoration of wildlife-rich habitat – Yes/No
 - If yes, need baseline and target habitat

Surveys

- Location (OS grid ref) and:
 - frequency / number of times completed
 - type of survey: species / habitat / other
 - short description
 - wildlife-rich habitat: Yes/No
 - undertaken by: staff / supplier / volunteers

People

Connecting people with nature

- Location (post code or grid ref) and:
 - type of event (options: Workshop, Talk (in-person), Talk (online), School or youth organisation-specific activity e.g. school visit, Health and wellbeing activity e.g. walks, Festival or large-scale event e.g. open day, Other)
 - short description
 - number of events
 - number of people attending

- target audience (options: Young people and children (aged 18 or under), Landowners, General public, Local communities, Other)
- short description of 'other' target audience

Volunteering

- Location (post code or OS grid ref), and:
 - volunteer numbers (eg. total number attending in that location)
 - new volunteers (eg. Recorded when it is their first time attending)

Access infrastructure

- Location (post code or OS grid ref), and:
 - New footpaths – length in metres
 - Of this – length in metres of accessible footpath
 - New buildings – visitor centre / toilets
 - Of this – number of accessible buildings / facilities
 - New signage and/or interpretation

Employment and skills

Employment and paid training roles are both included on the same sheet in the data template spreadsheet. Please complete one line per person.

Employment

- Job location (post code or grid ref), and:
 - role title
 - Employee (eg lead or partner)
 - created, retained, supported through FCR
 - Job level (entry, mid-level, senior)
 - hours (FTE)
 - contract length
 - equalities data (options: Aged 25 years or under, socioeconomically disadvantaged, Black, Asian or from another ethnic minority, LGBT+, A disability, Aged 60 years or over, Other, None of the above, Not known)

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

- Apprenticeship location (post code or grid ref), and:
 - Apprentice or trainee
 - role title
 - Employee (e.g. lead or partner)
 - qualification / level
 - hours (FTE)
 - contract length
 - equalities data (as above)

Staff and volunteer training

Formal training (training towards a qualification / certificate)

- Location (post code or grid ref), and:
 - Short description
 - Qualification gained
 - Numbers of staff
 - Numbers of volunteers

Informal training

- Location (post code or grid ref), and:
 - Short description
 - Numbers of staff
 - Numbers of volunteers

Further Reading

Here are a few of the key documents for reference:

- [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023](#)
- [Environment Act Habitat Target – Definitions and Descriptions](#)
- [Statutory biodiversity metric condition assessments](#)

Keeping in touch

We can support you if you need any assistance or guidance on any of these requirements. Please do get in touch via your Grant in Aid Manager if you need anything or have any questions. Both the Heritage Fund and the appointed evaluation Wavehill have dedicated capacity to support projects.

This data is collected by the Heritage Fund's Research, Data and Insight team centrally, for all projects funded by the SSF. Please discuss your provision of this data as part of your project monitoring reporting to your Grant in Aid Manager to help ensure you're not duplicating any reporting.

Appendix 2

Partnerships for Nature Partners and Species Survival Fund Approved Purposes for this project:

The 'Partners' are:

1. The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NWDONB) – the 'Lead Applicant' to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF, the fund administrator); representative of the Accountable Body Wiltshire Council and responsible for monitoring, reporting and evaluating the project.
2. Action for the River Kennet (ARK)
3. Bucklebury Estate
4. Southern Streams Farmer Group/FWAG South East
5. Sir Richard Sutton Ltd (Benham Estate)
6. The Sulham Estate
7. Sheepdrove Organic Farm
8. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust
9. Earth Trust
10. Plantlife

The North Wessex Downs National Landscape (NWDNL) was designated in 1972 as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty under the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949. It is managed by a Partnership, known as the Council of Partners consisting of 35 members including representatives of the nine local authorities, whose areas make up the North Wessex Downs, and other representatives from the community.

P4N Objectives

All work undertaken through P4N funding must meet the following Approved Purposes for which the grant is awarded:

- 1. Delivery of habitat creation and restoration/enhancement works, to support species abundance, according to the specific objectives of the project across seven separate sites in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. This will consist of:**
 - Restoration/enhancement of 2.5km of chalk stream habitat and regrading of 2.36km of riverbank habitat.
 - The restoration/enhancement of 26ha of existing lowland heathland, 31ha of newly created heathland, and 200ha of wood pasture by the introduction of non-breeding, native breed cattle

- Creation of ten hibernacula
- Creation of 26ha wildlife-rich habitat from arable field including wild-flower rich pasture, wildflower margins, species rich hedgerow, fruit and native trees, demonstrating regenerative farming and integrated food production.
- Restoration/enhancement of 20 ha of chalk grassland
- Creation of 0.5ha of wetland habitat.
- Restoration/enhancement of two coppice plots (1.6ha and 2ha).
- Restoration/enhancement of two dew ponds.

2. Delivery of an activity programme, as per your application and supporting documents. This will include:

- Recruitment and training of project volunteers, include establishment of a Friends of Bucklebury Commons Group.
- Delivering of series of organised walks across the sites, including participating in the North Wessex Downs Walking Festival
- Delivering workshops and organised walks for 45 local farmers and landowners.
- Offering practical advice to 20 farms on how to introduce species and nature recovery into their longer-term business models.
- Creating habitat interpretation materials at Sheepdrove Farm.

3. Recruitment of :

- Project Ranger (1 FTE)
- Species Recovery & Regenerative Farming Officer (1 FTE)
- Project Manager (0.3 FTE)
- Project Co-ordinator (0.5 FTE)
- Project Support Officer (0.6 FTE)

4. Promotion of the project through media campaigns and communications, acknowledging the support of the UK Government in line with Species Survival Fund acknowledgement guidance.

5. Undertake a project evaluation and, additionally, contribute data to the wider programme evaluation of the Species Survival Fund. You must also disseminate lessons learnt to the wider sector.

6. Creation of a costed management & maintenance plan, to implement the proposed increased management and maintenance costs as detailed in your application.

Due to delays in the start date to 23 May 2024 and recruitment, items 3 have already been completed and items 1, 2 and 4 have been started.5 and 6 have yet to be started. The evaluation must be applied to all work including that already undertaken.