

Beelines Guidance

Please contact grants@southdowns.gov.uk with any queries relating to this fund.

About the fund

Beelines provides grant towards the costs of establishing pollinator habitat at sites within the South Downs National Park.

The application process

The Expression of Interest is to help us understand the scale of interest and carry out constraints checks on sites. For example, checking impact on Cultural Heritage Assets.

We cannot offer detailed project advice at this stage and it is not a requirement for you to have undertaken detailed research in order to submit a proposal. Please provide the information that you can. These sources may help with your application:

- Buglife's B-Lines map, depicting pollinator routes across the UK: [B-Lines - Buglife](#)
- PlantLife's Meadow Hub: [Plantlife Meadows | Home](#)

After closing to expressions of interest, the projects will be prioritised by considering their impacts on biodiversity, potential value for money and any community benefit, such as public access or educational activities. Shortlisted projects will receive site visits and guidance to develop and costed project plan which will be put forward for a funding decision.

Criteria

- The site proposed **must lie within the South Downs National Park boundary**. Please see <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-applications/residents/> to check.
- The applicant should be the landowner, their representative or somebody with the land owner's permission.
- The fund is unable to support staff or an organisation's other overheads.
- The fund is not able to accept applications for apiaries and bee hives
- We are unable to fund work that is required for the fulfilment or discharge of a planning condition

The program is open to the following types of applicants within these funding parameters:

- a. **Partner** (Wildlife Trust or National Trust for instance) – max grant of £5,000, 50% cash match funding required and partner must commit to maintain the site without further support after year 1.
- b. **Farmer** – max grant of £5,000, 50% match funding required which can include in-kind (labour, materials, equipment etc.). Farmer must commit to maintain the site without support after year 3.
- c. **Local authority** (parish, town, district or county councils for instance) – max grant of £5,000, 50% match funding required which can include in-kind. Council must maintain the site without further support after year 3.
- d. **Private landowners** (large houses or small holdings for instance) – max grant of £2,500, 50% match funding required which can include in-kind. Landowner must commit to maintain the site without further support after year 3.
- e. **Applications from groups** - Applications can be accepted from groups, for example a farm cluster or landscape partnership. The above maximum amounts and match funding parameters by applicant type will be taken into account. The scope of project and value of overall grant to a group may be capped at a lower amount depending on demand for available funding.

Contact grants@southdowns.gov.uk if you do not fall into any of these categories but think you have a project relevant to Beelines.

Funding Conditions

If offered a grant this may be subject to bespoke conditions about the standard of work and the materials used. You will be required to submit a completion survey and photos once completed, as well as return site monitoring information when requested. This is usually at years 1,3, and 5 after the project is complete. You will need to acknowledge the funding from the South Downs National Park.

Submitting your Expression of Interest Form:

Filling in the questions:

1. **Project title** – A name describing location and aspiration is helpful. For example ‘Westvillage Community Meadow’
2. **Project Description** – max 100 words. In a sentence, summarise what you would like to do.
3. **Applicant** – please provide contact information for the applicant or the nominated lead contact (if group)
4. **Site address** – please provide the site address. If you are applying for a group, please include a primary site and County and provide a list of all locations as an attachment to the application.
5. **Site grid reference** – Please use <https://gridreferencefinder.com/> to identify the grid reference at the centre of the site. If this application is for a group please provide all grid references with other site details in an attachment.

Instructions for using Grid Reference finder:

1. Access the website; enter whichever location details you have into the search bar on the left of the screen and click "go".
2. Ensure that you have the correct location selected by checking the location using the map which is represented by a drawing pin.
3. If you would like to create a new drawing pin closer to the actual location Right Click on the desired location
4. Details of the location will appear when you hover over the drawing pin. The X and Y coordinates are the Easting and Northing coordinates.
5. Copy both sets of the 6 digit accurately and insert them into the Easting (X) and Northing (Y) fields in the form.

6. **Site type** – this is a tick box selection
7. **Landowner name and address** – please provide the name and address of the landowner if it is different from the applicant. If this application is for a group you can provide a list as an attachment to this form.
8. **Describe the proposed site, any plant and pollinator species already present which you may be able to identify, and explain why you feel it has the potential to improve habitat and connectivity** – please consider:
 - a. the **beelines connectivity map** (<https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/beelines/>)
 - b. **other habitat** sites in the local area which your site could connect with (for instance in terms of hedgerows, ponds, chalk grassland, wildflower meadows,

heather, heathland or field margins) – sites with high levels of connectivity will be prioritised.

- c. **community impact** – will there be a broader community impact? For instance, is the site accessible to the public? Would a wildflower meadow adjacent to a footpath improve public amenity and provide opportunities for education through interpretation panel.

9. **Please provide an explanation of estimated project cost** – this is not a required field but please enter if known. You are then asked to enter an estimate of your grant request if this is known.

10. **What, if any (not necessary), research and planning have you carried out thus far.** - Projects with more developed delivery and long term maintenance plans will be prioritised – please consider any information you have on:

- a. the **best species** to plant
- b. **project plan** including estimated dates(or seasons) for work and long term management of the site
- c. **budget** including annual management costs
- d. **match funding** (pending or secured), and

11. **Are you in receipt of any grants?** Please select if you are in receipt of funding from SDNP or other grants for the project and explain below.

12. **What added value can you, your organisation or the site itself bring -**

Some examples of added value may be:

- Cash contributions to the project's cost
- In-kind contribution of equipment, materials or volunteer time to the project's delivery and maintenance.
- Will be accessible for educational and/or research visits

13. **Attachments –**

Please upload:

- A simple site map and ideally a location map showing important habitat features in the area such as hedgerows and ponds.
- Photographs of the site
- Further details of site location and land owners for group applications
- Any reports or studies that you already have for the site