

Biodiversity Enhancement Programme

Application form

April 2025



1. **About the YWS Biodiversity Enhancement Programme**
	1. Introduction

Yorkshire Water Services (YWS) are committed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity, to safeguard the natural capital on which we rely to deliver our services.

The YWS Biodiversity Enhancement Programme is a programme of funding available to enable biodiversity enhancement schemes across the region and across the function of YWS operations. The primary interest of the programme is to work in partnership with others, to conserve and enhance biodiversity in our operational area through projects in alignment with the Government’s 25 year Plan for the Environment.

Previous projects during our last business cycle have ranged from supporting training programmes, to small community group projects to largescale landscape improvements. During the last 5 years, through working across 28 main projects with 165 stakeholders, close to 700 ha of habitat has been conserved or enhanced, with over 400 public events run. An incredible 35,000 hours of volunteer time was committed, and close to £1.9m of match funding was unlocked.

YWS are anticipating funding several projects up to a maximum value of £50,000, though we encourage applications for any value below this and there is no minimum value. Individual projects are only eligible for a single funding allocation. Projects can extend across financial years, but we must be able to evidence beneficial completion by November 2029. Funding can be spent on operational or capital costs.

We anticipate as a minimum, calls for funding will occur in 2025, 2026 and 2027.

* 1. Who is eligible to apply

We can only accept proposals from constituted groups and organisations who meet Yorkshire Water's vendor requirements, be they private, public, voluntary or educational. You can contact biodiversity@yorkshirewater.co.uk with any questions relating to what this entails.

We are able to fast track projects with a financial value less than £5,000.

YWS will consider all eligible applications on their merits and in light of the funding available, but unfortunately, we may not be able to fund all applications that we would wish to due to financial limitations. YWS are not able to fund work that has been carried out prior to the Agreement start date.

1. Assessment Criteria

The criteria that biodiversity enhancement proposals will be assessed against is outlined below. The criteria are qualitative and give a guide to the assessment process, however projects do not have to score highly across all criteria to be selected.

**As a core outcome, projects must conserve or enhance a S.41 habitat or species with a functional link to the water environment.**

**Projects must also align with one of the following aspirations:**

• Building ecological resilience within an ecological system upon which YW impacts (e.g, through abstractions, storm overflows, reservoir impoundments)

• Improving river water quality and/or reducing sediment input

• Engaging people with biodiversity issues and raising awareness of the value of biodiversity

• Supporting partners in bidding for additional funding (e.g HLF) where there is a clear benefit to YW customers.

• Helping deliver actions set out within the four regional LNRS’s and/or the respective CaBA Catchment Management Plans across which Yorkshire Water operates.

**In addition, outcomes will be qualitatively scored against the following but there is no expectation a project will be required to achieve outcomes against all the below:**

- The Lawton principles

- How sustainable the project is and what will be done to ensure a lasting benefit

- Whether the project helps increase the resilience of organisations protecting nature

- Supporting stakeholders and strategies

- Where appropriate to the project, scale of the arising benefit in ha or length of river benefiting

- Availability of match funding or how the project will add value to other independently funded projects

- Risk of failing to achieve project outcomes

YWS are happy to consider projects that involve supporting a bid for greater funding (e.g, match funding a HLF bid) or that involve undertaking academic research that supports the above outcomes. YWS are able to support management costs and not just costs of capital delivery.

Yorkshire Water already has a programme of work maintaining and restoring Ancient Woodland and SSSI land in our ownership and less priority will be given to projects where there are existing or alternative funding routes that are available.

Please do not hesitate to contact biodiversity@yorkshirewater.co.uk with any questions.

1. Outline of the application process

In order to apply for funding, please complete the application form in Section 4 and return it with any supporting information to biodiversity@yorkshirewater.co.uk by 1700 on the 30th June 2025. We will notify the principal contact to confirm that your application has been received. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within one week of submission, then please contact us.

YWS may request further information from the applicant to allow a decision to be made.

YWS will consider all submitted applications after the submission deadline and aim to respond by the 11th July. Specific details, for example payment terms, will be discussed with selected projects prior to final agreement.

1. YWS Biodiversity Enhancement Programme Application Form, 2025

**Section 1 – The applicant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of your organisation** |  |
| **Primary contact details for the Biodiversity Enhancement Fund Application** |
| Title |  |
| Name |  |
| Position within organsation |  |
| Address |  |
| Postcode |  |
| Daytime telephone number |  |
| Mobile telephone number |  |
| E-mail address |  |
| **Organisation details** |
| What is the purpose of your organisation? (150 words max). |  |
| Please state your registered charity or company number if you have one. |   |

**Section 2 – Your proposed project**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title** |  |
| Name and grid reference of location for project (if applicable) |  |
| Project in a sentance  | *Brief short description summarising your project:* |
| Is your proposal part of a wider project? |  Yes No If yes, please provide brief details below |
| **Project Timescale** |
| Estimated start date (no earlier than May 2025) |  |
| Estimated completion date (no later than Nov 2029) |  |
| If applicable, have you applied for planning permission or other consents which may be required before undertaking any works? | Yes No If no, please state in your project description your approach to obtaining these  |
| Will the project require ongoing maintenance following completion?  |  Yes No If yes, please state your approach to this below: |

Please provide a concise description of your proposed project. (Please include any supporting information as an appendix)

*(500 words max).*

Please describe how your project aligns with the YWS Biodiversity Criteria. (Please include any supporting information as an appendix)

*(500 words max).*

How will you measure project success?

*(250 words max).*

**Section 3 – Finance**

|  |
| --- |
| Cost |
| Total project cost? | £ |
| Breakdown of cost? | Item | Cost |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
|  | £ |
| **Funding** |  |
| What is the total amount of funding that you are applying for from the YWS Biodiversity Enhancement Fund? |  £ |
| Is there any existing funding allocated to your project through partners or your own organisation? |  Yes No  If yes, please provide details of monetary or in kind contributions… |
| Has your proposed project secured/ will you be seeking match funding? |  Yes No  If yes, please details of the source of match funding and the amount… |

**Section 4 – People**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Will any existing partnerships be involved in the project? |  Yes No If yes, please name the organisation, highlight their involvement in project, and provide principal contact details.  |
| Are there any supporting bodies or advocates of the project? E.g. Environment Agency or Catchment Partnership. |  Yes No If yes, please name the orgainisation and provide details for principal contact. |
| Is the intention to involve volunteers in project delivery? | Yes No If yes, please provide an estimate of number of volunteers and/or hours. |
| Who will undertake delivery of the project? |  |