

Appendix 2 Natural England Seed Corn Funding

Project Title: Nottingham City Habitat and Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping

1. Key partner(s): Nottingham City Council (data will also be provided to Nottingham Biodiversity Action Group and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust).

2. Fund Request: £8,000

3. Outcomes to be delivered:

- Comprehensive and detailed digital land use and habitat survey data for all of the City's open and green spaces using remote sensed and field based data collection (to UK Hab methodology).

- Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (BOM) undertaken at a high resolution to identify fine scale connections and opportunities for habitat creation, restoration and expansion. Broad habitats included comprise; woodland, grassland, scrub and heathland, and wetland. With additional innovative and bespoke mapping for opportunities for SuDS, daylighting of culverted watercourses and Green Infrastructure opportunities (e.g. green roofs).

- Reports providing methodology and results of the habitat survey and BOM.

- Full digital GIS data sets for all data gathered and BOM opportunity areas.

4. Key objectives to support outcome(s)

The objective of applying for seed corn funding is to bridge a gap in current funding levels and facilitate the essential baseline habitat survey needed for creating a Biodiversity Opportunity Map for the City. The City BOM will complement the excellent work already undertaken by the Boroughs and Districts and complete the coverage of the whole County.

The BOM digital data, map and supporting report will form a key strategic document for informing the emerging Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategy, identifying opportunities for delivering habitat creation for Biodiversity Net Gain, carbon capture initiatives and will inform future delivery of Nature Recovery Networks.

5. What will be delivered and when?

Habitat and land use data will be collected via remote sensed data and field survey within the period July – September 2021. The BOM modelling, mapping and reporting will take place in the period September 2021 – December 2021.

6. Which principle(s) are being addressed (see Nos 1-6 below)

The principles being addressed are 1, 5 and 6.

1) The habitat survey and digital mapping and the BOM modelling, mapping and reporting will directly lead to the expansion, connectivity, amount and quality of nature outside of protected sites, but linking with those sites and habitats. It will provide the City Council and partner organisations such as Notts Wildlife Trust, Notts Biodiversity Action Group and any other interested individuals and parties with information on the most ecologically valuable locations for creating more, bigger, better and more well-connected habitats to create and expand the existing but gappy network of habitats and open spaces managed for nature conservation. It can be used to feed into the Nature Recovery Network for the AT and neighbouring areas.

2) The survey and BOM mapping will plug the City-wide gap in the existing Countywide BOM mapping allowing for complete coverage of Nottinghamshire, although with BOM modelling and mapping undertaken to a finer scale and higher resolution to allow for connections into and through the dense urban environment to be identified and realised.

3) The contribution from the seed corn funding would help to secure additional funding from internal sources and the Future Parks Accelerator Fund. Given the overall cost of the data collection, mapping, modelling and reporting multiple funding streams are required to generate enough funding to see the project all the way through from data collection to final reporting and data collected and mapped through this project will also be used to inform a Natural Capital Account for the city and Ecosystem services assessment of broad habitat types – this report will look at social benefits of the natural capital and unlocking barriers to engage with the natural world – which would further address principle 2).

7. What will success look like?

Success will be having an up to date, digital and comprehensive land use and habitat map for the whole City. This data alone will be invaluable for planning and implementing future habitat restoration and creation opportunities, including delivering Biodiversity Net Gain through planning. However, using this data to model and create a city-wide BOM that connects with the rest of the County will also be a great success of the project. This will give the evidence-base needed to ensure that future strategies, planning policies and documents, and council objectives work towards the same goal of increasing biodiversity in the city, better connecting existing areas and making the most of the City's existing natural capital assets.

8. What will be the project's legacy?

The project's legacy will be having a comprehensive understanding of the city's habitats and where the network of sites, spaces and habitats can be improved to deliver real benefits for people and wildlife in terms of better connections and greater access to nature. It will be an up to date digital dataset that can be maintained long into the future with all subsequent habitat restoration and creation works and projects. It will be a data set that will give a detailed baseline against which all future gains and losses can be monitored.

9. Breakdown of Project Costs and Timetable:

Land use and habitat data collection: Undertaken during the period July – September 2021. Cost for this aspect is approx. £25,000 BOM modelling, mapping and reporting: Undertaken during the period September – December 2021. Cost for this aspect is approx. £13,000.

Costs are estimates and timetable broad as we are currently in the process of awarding the tender for the work and therefore have not fixed this with the suppliers as yet. (The habitat survey and BOM are part of a wider tender package including Natural Capital accounting and ecosystem services assessment, and a tree planting opportunity mapping and strategy, further work streams that will also require the detailed digital habitat data to be conducted prior to their preparation).

10. Provide details of match funding (if applicable)

Cash £ 30,000 matched funding provided by the FPA project

In-kind £ N/A

NRN Principles

1. Strategically support expansion, connectivity, amount, quality of nature outside of protected sites but linking with protected sites (including priority habitats, linking with green spaces, species recovery).
2. Strategically support people's experience of nature reducing barriers to accessing wild places/landscape character of an area to support people's cultural connection to the place.
3. Support planning for connecting People with Nature to ensure people are involved in setting the nature recovery agenda and feel ownership of nature recovery. If possible, test elements of the NRN toolkit and as appropriate community engagement standards.
4. Unblock blockages / help move contribution to NRN forward significantly e.g. evidence collation, map development.

5. Plug strategically important gaps e.g. funding may help link projects and act as leverage to expand a project or cross-boundary, linking across AT boundaries.

6. Bringing significant leverage in funding /in-kind/breadth of partnership to strategically important projects e.g. Biodiversity Net Gain, other investment and/or linking across AT boundaries.