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# Green Blue Horizons

## Green and Blue Horizons – from city to Forest

September 2021 – March 2023

Funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund

£800,000 investment delivered by 5 partners

### Four themes

- Nature conservation and restoration, including ecosystem restoration and species recovery.
- Nature-based solutions, particularly for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Connecting people with nature.
- Jobs and skills

## Green Recovery Challenge Fund



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Heritage  
Fund



Hampshire &  
Isle of Wight  
Wildlife Trust



Freshwater  
Habitats Trust



the  
Countryside  
Education Trust



NEW FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK

# Green Recovery Challenge Fund

## Project Ambition

### Habitats

20ha of grassland restoration

Up to 2km of hedgerow restored

100ha of woodland enhanced

5km of stream restored

5 wetland pond complexes created

### People

10,000 young people engaged

7,000 people working towards “net zero with nature”

1,000 people “Wilder for Water”



# Green Recovery Challenge Fund

## Project outcomes

105ha of land improved across 27 sites including:

- 23.5ha grassland restored
- 12.3ha of wetlands improved across 5 sites
- 69.65ha improved across 10 woodland sites
- 3km streams enhanced and capital works delivered on two sites to improve water resource management.



# Future Funding

- Projects are time limited
- Competitive
- Time intensive application process
- Short timescales – notice and deadlines
- Knowledge sharing and collaboration needed
- Evidence and data
- Project portfolio



# Re:New Nature Nature Recovery

## Four key nature recovery themes

### Making space for people and nature

Expanding habitats to be more connected and resilient and providing quality nature-rich green spaces near where people live.

### The future of farming

Harnessing current shifts in policy and economics for the benefit of the Forest's wildlife and way of life

### Coastal resilience

Working with natural processes to safeguard and expand opportunities for coastal wildlife

### River valleys

Using valleys to connect the core habitats of the Forest with those of the coast and adjoining countryside



## Action:

- Produce a **local nature recovery plan** to:
  1. maintain, restore and expand habitats so that they are resilient and support thriving wildlife
  2. mitigate recreational pressures
  3. ensure recreation takes place in the most resilient areas.
- Harness the benefits we receive from nature in the New Forest ('natural capital') to generate increased **investment and projects** to enhance nature and the services it provides.
- Help landowners, farmers and commoners move to the new **Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS)** of subsidies which rewards working with nature.

# Re: New Nature Challenge

## The New Forest is globally important for nature

The New Forest National Park can be seen as an ark for nature in southern England and has a massive role in being able to enrich a large part of the region.

Key natural processes have been sustained by the traditional commoning system and grazing by free roaming animals

The challenge is to ensure habitats are more resilient, restored expanded, connected, and maintained to enable wildlife to thrive both within and beyond the National Park

