



Access to Nature - Guidance Note 2

Education, learning and volunteering

Please read this guidance note in association with Access to Nature General Guidance Notes which can be found on:

www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature

One of the outcomes of Access to Nature is to provide more opportunities for learning about the natural environment and to gain new skills. The associated target we aim to reach is that 125,000 people will benefit from improved information and have increased opportunities to participate in and learn about the natural environment.

The imaginative use of environmental education delivered either through formal or informal ways can stimulate a life long interest in the natural environment. Volunteering too, in all its variety, can bring about social as well as environmental benefits.

The list below outlines just some of the wealth of opportunities that can be included in an application to Access to Nature. The list is not definitive and all proposals can be discussed with a regional or national adviser.

Potential activities that can be funded:

- Volunteering and volunteer leadership programmes to engage local communities with the natural environment. This could take the form of volunteers undertaking environmental works such as the creation of otter holts and species surveys, leading guided walks or undertaking other training related to these activities e.g. Health and Safety or First Aid.
- Support of life long learning programmes and the development of apprenticeship schemes such as traditional countryside skills, volunteer rangers and field skills such as species identification.
- Conservation and site management activities by beneficiaries to develop community and social skills.
- The development of environmental education programmes to add value to out-of-school learning linked to natural places.
- Support of natural play and experimental learning programmes aimed at engaging children and young people with the natural environment.

- Outreach work where there is potential to ‘build bridges’ between communities (e.g. schools, housing estates, youth clubs etc) and the natural environment.

Ineligible activities that cannot be funded under Access to Nature:

- Activities based within school grounds (e.g school nature areas etc) or projects involving physical works to school grounds
- Outdoor learning that does not connect people to the natural environment, e.g. some formal sports.
- Activities that do not meet Access to Nature Outcomes.

