



Expression of Interest

Notes

The Expression of Interest form (EOI) is mandatory for anyone thinking of applying for a grant above £250,000. We will use the information you provide in the EOI to decide whether or not to invite you to submit a development phase application. An invitation to apply does not guarantee a grant from us in the future but does indicate that we see potential in your initial proposals.

We aim to respond to your EOI within 20 working days of receipt. If we decide to invite you to apply, we will contact you to discuss next steps.

You must read the application guidance before submitting this form. This can be found on our website.

You will be able to save this document as you work on it.

If you decide to copy and paste text directly into your application, please review your application before submission and make changes where necessary to ensure you do not exceed the stated word count limit.

Summary

Name of your organisation

Cotswolds Conservation Board

Project reference number

OL-18-06274

Project Title

Please choose a title which you think best describes your project.

The Green Ribbon of the Evenlode Valley

Date submitted

Section One - Your Organisation

1a. Name and address of your organisation

Name of your organisation	Cotswolds Conservation Board
Address line 1	Fosseway
Address line 2	Northleach
Address line 3	
Town / city	Cheltenham
County	Gloucestershire
Postcode	GL54 3JH

1b. Is the address of your project the same as the address of your organisation?

Yes

1c. Details of main contact person

Name

Simon Smith

Position

Project Development and Business Planning Officer

Is the address of the main contact person the same as the address in 1a?

Yes

Daytime phone number, including area code

01451 862 031

Alternative phone number

Email address

simon.smith@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Tell us about any particular communication needs this contact has.

Please note that there is a limit of 50 words for this question.

For projects based in Wales, which language should we use to communicate with the main contact?

- English
- Welsh
- Both (Bilingual)

1d. Legal status of your organisation

Please select one of the following:

Other public sector organisation

1e. Do you consider your organisation's mission and objectives to be:

Please select the options that apply

- Black or minority ethnic-led
- Disability-led
- LGBT+-led
- Female-led
- Young people-led

And in Northern Ireland only:

(none selected)

1f. Where did you hear about us? Please pick from list or specify below.

Previous application to us

Section Two - Project Proposal

2a. Please tell us about your project. In particular, please try to cover:

- Heritage focus
- What will the project do (capital work and activities)
- What programme outcomes you are hoping to achieve. Please note that we expect all projects to achieve the outcome 'A wider range of people will be involved in heritage.'
- Why you want to do this project (what is the need and demand)
- Feasibility or options work done so far
- Timescales
- Overall cost including a short breakdown of key items of expenditure

This section of the form has a total word count of 800 words. Please note that dashes in the text count as whole words.

The river Evenlode is at the heart of a unique green valley cutting through the high wold dip-slope of the internationally important Cotswolds AONB. With its watermeadows and woodlands, in summer it looks like a green ribbon running through the higher brown coloured arable and limestone grassland landscape.

Its course is one of the most natural in Britain having avoided modern widespread canalisation and hard engineering works. The river valley offers a concentrated small scale mosaic of historic and natural features. Old water meadows about historic mills and ancient woodlands. Curlew and lapwing nest on the wet grasslands where meadow clary can still be found and there are tree sparrows in the hedgerows. The limestone valley sides have old quarries and tufa springs as well as ancient grassland which includes the rare downy woundwort.

Engagement from the local community is strong, people feel passionately about their valley and this engagement is expressed through a myriad of voluntary environmental and educational activities.

Time has not been kind to the Evenlode valley weakening its character and sense of place

- Hedgerows have been lost or poorly managed becoming gappy.
- Walls have been replaced by wire fencing
- Hedgerow trees are being lost and not replaced
- Ancient grasslands are fragmented, isolated and difficult to manage
- Wet meadows have been drained, ploughed or sub-divided for horses
- The river has become disconnected from its floodplain, suffers from sedimentation and riparian habitat loss
- Woodlands have fallen into disuse
- Riverside trees left unmanaged and with no successors
- The integrity of the historic landscape has been weakened and features damaged or lost
- Scattered development with new people arriving who want to become involved with the local area but don't know how or have the opportunities to

The green ribbon has become a landscape in decline with a growing population that is becoming increasingly disconnected from it. There is an opportunity for a programme to restore the landscape through involving people before it is too late.

Coordinated by the Evenlode Catchment Partnership this project will take a holistic approach to the landscape. An advisory element will improve the take up of existing opportunities according to a menu of priorities specific to the green ribbon. The main purpose of the project though is to go further than existing (often statutory) schemes and do things they don't cover. A key feature will be the engagement of local people in landscape restoration.

Hedgerows will be restored and replanted and new hedgerow trees will grow up. Volunteers will undertake hedgelaying, hedge/gap planting and hedgerow tree tagging. Gardeners will grow on locally important trees for reintroducing into the landscape, particularly Alder from locally collected seed.

Field margins and new wildflower grasslands will be sited and managed to better link up existing wildflower grasslands. Volunteers will help with local wildflower seed collection and distribution and species that don't

respond well to distribution as seed will be grown on by local people and planted as plugs.

Woodlands will be re-coppiced and in time hurdles made again. People will purchase local hurdles for their gardens understanding their connection with the local mixed farming.

Wet grasslands and watermeadows will be restored and rewetted reconnecting the river with its floodplain. People will have adopted stretches of river and streams to monitor and look after.

All of these habitats will be reconnected into a robust local ecological network delivering in this one green ribbon the recommendations of the Lawton review. Lapwings and Curlew will return in greater numbers. Redshank will nest again in the watermeadows and nightingales will sing again from the thick hedges and coppice regrowth.

The project will provide interpretation and educational activities including citizen science projects, so people of all ages will have a greater understanding of the green ribbon and its management, past and future. It will reach out to communities throughout the area, including people in nearby Oxford who face barriers to accessing the benefits of a high quality environment. The often wet and muddy access will be improved so more people can reach the green ribbon all year round as well as become involved in its management.

The local community will become better connected to a restored landscape, something they will wish to celebrate.

This project will directly support most of the NLHF project outcomes other than wellbeing and economy which it will also support indirectly.

Development stage application May 2020. Full application September 2021. 4 years delivery.

Budget

Development

Development staff costs £91,000

Consultancies, pilot work and investigations £80,000

Contingency 17,100

Total £188,100

Delivery

Landscape restoration £650,000

Access and interpretation £200,000

Officer costs £600,000

Volunteer Costs (Inc. equipment) 100,000

Activity costs 80,000

Management costs (Inc. evaluation) 90,000

Contingency £172,000

Inflation £ 51,600

Total 2,131,700

2b. How much are you likely to ask for from us?

£1,855,840

2c. When are you likely to submit a development phase application if invited to do so?

Please note that there is a limit of 200 words for this question.

This project has been developed in partnership with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership. A partnership of over 20 organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. They work to monitor and conserve the green ribbon. They are currently developing a strategic plan which will also inform the development of projects for inclusion in a development phase application. We envisage submitting this in May 2020.

Section Three - Submission

Your local team may wish to use your email to send you invitations to workshops or events they are running for potential applicants, or other useful information about our grant programmes. Please tick this box if you would like to receive this information by email. You can unsubscribe at any time.

✕