Coastal Wildbelt

Coastal Wildbelt Fund

(England) – Open

At Coastal Wildbelt, we're creating a celebrated, connected coast of nature recovery and thriving communities.

About the fund

With the completion of the King Charles III England Coast Path, England's coastline can now be accessed and experienced as one connected place for the first time in history.

This creates a unique opportunity to think differently about our coast – not as a series of separate places, but as one connected landscape where people, nature and communities can thrive together. Where our National Trails connects over 2700 miles of unique, dynamic and vibrant coastal places.

Stretching up to 1km inland from low tide, this connected coastal corridor has the potential to restore natural habitats at scale, improve access for people who want to use and enjoy this land, strengthen biodiversity and climate resilience and help coastal communities thrive.

We know that sometimes the priorities for people and nature don't always align. But with our new rights of access around our coastline, we have a unique opportunity to address the balance – finding positive, innovative solutions that tackle some of our stickier challenges.

We want to ensure that our nature-rich coastline is for everyone; where people can connect with and play an active role in nature's recovery. And by thinking bigger, we can support individual projects and the connections between them to develop a national network for people and nature around our coastline.

Why it matters

- **11 million people** – one in five in England – live within 5km of the coast. New access rights can help deliver England's 15 minutes to nature target.
- **The 2,700-mile King Charles III England Coast Path** creates 250,000ha of coastal margin, and has a huge potential to deliver towards England's 30 by 30 target.

With thanks to funding from Defra through the Protected Landscapes Partnership, we're able to distribute funding to projects which kick start delivering towards a joined up coastal corridor, align with our Coastal Wildbelt principles and directly address some of the challenge points when people and nature come together.

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What we're looking for

Your project idea

Do you have an idea (on whatever scale) which delivers towards to connected coastal corridor for coastal people and nature?

Or do you have a sticky issue with people and nature along your stretch of coastline? Have an idea for something to test and trial, and willing to share your learnings?

We're on the lookout for capital projects that align to our Coastal Wildbelt principles, and deliver clear, lasting benefits for people and nature around our English coastline.

Our vision is simple: We want nature to thrive, communities to prosper and more people to experience, enjoy and benefit from our wonderful coast.

We're interested in hearing from project ideas where transferable learnings can be shared around our coastline, in addressing some of the sticky challenges between coastal people and nature.

Project examples and support

Want some inspiration? Look at some of our previously funded projects over on:

www.coastalwildbelt.org.uk/projects

No project is too small!

And on the other side of the coin, if you have a very large idea – reach out to Kate Jury, our Programme Manager to discuss longer-term support by Coastal Wildbelt on

coastalwildbelt@nationaltrails.uk

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Coastal Wildbelt principles

Does your idea align with the Coastal Wildbelt principles?

Delivering for people and nature, together

Valuing people and nature equally, coordinating action and finding balance so both can thrive along our coastline.

Unlocking the transformational power of the King Charles III England Coast Path

As the connecting thread that brings people, nature and coastal places together.

Restoring nature at scale

Restoring and reconnecting habitats, creating wildlife corridors and stepping stones, and contributing to Local Nature Recovery Strategies and national targets, including 30by30.

Creating joyful coastal experiences

Creating and enhancing opportunities for everyone to experience, enjoy and connect with nature to and through our amazing coast.

Delivering in partnership

Building confidence, strengthening relationships and bringing partners together around a shared purpose.

Being impact focused

Turning ambition into measurable outcomes that support nature's recovery, strengthen communities and connect people with nature at scale.

Guided by insight

Grounding our work in evidence, learning and local voices, and openly sharing successes, challenges and lessons learned.

Innovative or scaling

Taking something proven to work, and scaling elsewhere so that more of the coast can flourish.

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Eligibility and applications

What we can't fund

As much as we'd love to be able to answer all your funding challenges, we're unable to fund:

- Projects outside of England
- Day to day running costs or non-capital items
- Maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure
- Projects which only deliver for people or nature (we're about both together, always)
- Projects that don't include the King Charles III England Coast Path or its designated coastal margin

Please note: Funding cannot make up the trail partnerships 25% match funding.

Who can apply?

Projects can be delivered by individual organisations or through collaboration between partners. We're open to applications from all:

- Environmental NGOs
- Farmers, land managers and landowners
- Community groups
- Local Authorities
- Parish and town councils
- Collaborative partnerships

How do I apply?

Fill out the CW Fund application form online, and the team will be in touch as soon as we can.

Apply online

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

For projects **up to £10,000** in total, we aim to get back to you within 10 days of applying.

For projects **between £10,000 – £30,000,** our Grants Committee will undertake periodic reviews, and we'll be in touch with you to inform you of when you will hear back.

Projects must have committed spend by **31st March 2027.**

For any further questions, please reach out to Kate on **coastalwildbelt@nationaltrails.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you!