



BranchOut
Invasive Non-Native Species

INVASIVE NON- NATIVE SPECIES (INNS) FUND

Application guidance
and eligibility

WHAT IS THE BRANCH OUT INNS FUND?

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are species that have been introduced (deliberately or accidentally) beyond their native range by people, and have a detrimental impact on the economy, wildlife or habitats of Britain.

A healthy natural environment is essential for supplying top quality drinking water. Essex and Suffolk Water (ESW) have therefore set up the Branch Out fund to help protect the region's natural environment.

The purpose of the fund is to enable local organisations, communities, and individuals to carry out INNS management within the areas we operate in.

PROJECT CRITERIA

Projects must be primarily aimed at the control/eradication (generally termed management) of INNS populations within ESW's supply area. Where appropriate, surveying of INNS populations may be carried out in support of management actions.

Applications containing one or more of the following components are encouraged:

- Target high-impact INNS with a currently limited distribution.
- Proposals focussed on widespread species, should demonstrate a strategic catchment-scale approach where appropriate.
- Carry out management in ecologically and/or culturally important habitats, or where rare/endangered native biota are being negatively impacted by INNS.
- Target strategic locations e.g. areas of high recreational use.
- Projects which contain an element of habitat restoration or otherwise include efforts to increase the long-term success of management and reduce the legacy impacts of INNS following management are also encouraged.

WHO CAN APPLY

The fund is open to organisations, community groups or individuals from the public, private, voluntary and education sectors in within Essex and Suffolk Water's supply area. Multistakeholder applications are encouraged.

PROJECT SELECTION

Submission of an application does not mean automatic entitlement to funding. All applications will be carefully considered by the Branch Out team.

Applications will be acknowledged within ten working days.

Applicants will be informed in writing or via email within five working days of the bi-annual decision meeting on whether their application has been successful, and if so, the amount of grant they have been awarded and the project-specific reporting requirements. In some instances, applicants may be asked for additional information in support of decision making.

STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For all projects granted any level of funding, the following must be delivered:

1. Project budgets cannot include support for general staff costs or core activities
2. All external communications relating to the project to be agreed with ESW's communications team before use.
3. Essex and Suffolk Water's contribution must be acknowledged in all press releases.
4. Essex and Suffolk Water's logo must be used on project material and interpretation.
5. A report on the progress of the project must be submitted to Essex and Suffolk Water's every year and /or on project completion (whichever occurs first). Project specific reporting requirements (which may include number of volunteers, volunteer hours, area managed, number of individuals removed etc.) will be discussed and agreed with successful applicants prior to the project starting.
6. Project reports must provide evidence of where the project money provided by Essex and Suffolk Water's has been spent.
7. Applicants are required to record INNS management, survey work and occurrence records on 'INNS Mapper'. If applicants foresee any issues with public reporting, this should be discussed prior to the project start.
8. All successful project applicants will sign a partnership agreement agreeing to the above terms.

RETUNING AND COMPLETING APPLICATION FORMS.

Sign, scan and email to: branchout@nwl.co.uk

www.branchout-nw.co.uk