

Miner2Major Landscape Partnership

Species Habitat Improvement Grants

Guidance for Applicants

Introduction

Miner2Major is a Landscape Partnership scheme focussed on the heritage of Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. It is led by a partnership of local authorities, conservation groups and community organisations. You can find out more by visiting the scheme website: www.miner2major.org.uk

The overall aim of Miner2Major is to engage local communities with the rich heritage of Sherwood Forest, including helping to protect its important wildlife and habitats. This is being achieved by delivering a range of partnership projects through the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

What are Species Habitat Improvement Grants?

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust leads on the Miner2Major Better Habitats and Special Species projects. A focus of the Special Species project is surveying important and characteristic Sherwood Forest species across the scheme area and using this information, alongside other data, to deliver habitat improvements that will benefit these species.

Target species include woodland and heathland birds, invertebrates, reptiles and bats including those defined in the UKBAP and the Nottinghamshire BAP [LBAP – Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group \(nottsbag.org.uk\)](http://nottsbag.org.uk)

This grants scheme is available for projects that will help to improve conditions for these species by enhancing, restoring, recreating and better connecting local habitats.

Who can apply for funding?

Farmers, rural landowners/tenants, businesses, local organisations, community groups or voluntary groups.

What are the essential eligibility criteria?

Projects must:

- Be located within the Miner2Major Landscape Partnership scheme area (see attached map).
- Provide value for money.
- Have relevant permissions in place.
- Be deliverable and have considered the risks.
- Make provision for the long-term management and maintenance of habitat improvement works after the funding has ended.
- Consider how species will be surveyed on completion of the project, and beforehand where relevant.

What sort of projects can be funded?

The potential projects that can be funded are diverse and could include:

- Scrub removal in heathland and grassland areas.

- Bracken control to improve heathland.
- Creating specialist types of habitats such as bare ground basking areas and hibernacula from log piles or rock piles for reptiles, or scrapes to attract nesting woodlark.
- Woodland restructuring such as creating glades
- Creating corridors to improve connectivity of already favourable habitat.
- Restocking woodland with characteristic oak/birch mixes or creating the conditions for native woodland regeneration.

To help inform your project ideas we have provided an overview of the broad groupings of species we want this funding to benefit, along with habitat improvements that are known to benefit them. These are detailed in the appendix below.

This is not an exhaustive list. If you are considering a project but are not sure if it is eligible, please contact us to discuss your ideas.

We strongly advise you to obtain specialist conservation advice to inform your project and support your application. We ask on the application what advice you have received and who you have spoken to.

How much can I apply for?

Grants are available up to a value of £3,000. There is no lower limit.

Projects that include match funding or in-kind support, such as volunteers or landowners helping with delivery, are particularly encouraged. Projects that work across multiple sites are also encouraged.

We will not accept multiple applications from a single applicant at the same time, however we will consider further applications once funded projects have been successfully completed. Grants above £3,000 may be considered but would need to demonstrate significant impact and value for money.

If your group or organisation is unable to manage funds you can still make an application and we can arrange to manage the project budget on your behalf.

How are projects assessed?

Project applications will be assessed by the Miner2Major Habitats and Species Working Group (HSWG) which comprises representatives from the scheme's partner organisations and wider stakeholders. The group, which meets quarterly, will check that your project meets the essential eligibility criteria as described above.

Successful projects will be allocated a point of contact to provide advice and support. Once your project is complete you will need to submit a brief completion report including photographs.

If your application is unsuccessful, we will contact you and let you know why.

Impact and sustainability

It is important that the impact of funded projects is recorded so that we can demonstrate the benefits to our partners and funders, including our core funder the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It also helps to inform our strategic approach to nature conservation work on a landscape scale.

If your application is successful, on completion of your project you will be required to complete an evaluation form. We will also ask you to submit photographs that show the work that has been completed.

On the application form we ask you to consider the management and maintenance plans that need to be in place to ensure a legacy for the work you have been funded to carry out. This would typically include details of the provision for the future management of sites and the upkeep of landscape features you have created.

We also ask you to consider how you intend to carry out ongoing surveys of the species your improvements are intended to benefit. To help you we have provided information about where survey data can be sent in Appendix below.

What do I need to do next?

Once you have completed the form, attach any supporting information which will help the HSWG when they consider your application.

Please email your completed application to M2Mgrants@nottswt.co.uk

Alternatively, you can post your application to:
Miner2Major Species Habitat Improvement Grants
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Old Ragged School,
Brook St,
Nottingham
NG1 1EA

Please do not start work until you have received a decision as we cannot offer funding for work already carried out.

Who do I contact?

For further information or to discuss your project, please contact:

Charleen Case
Miner2Major Wildlife Projects Officer
Email: M2Mgrants@nottswt.co.uk
Tel: 07872 403827

Appendix : Species lists and indicative improvements

Species group	Woodland Birds
Example species	Woodcock, Lesser spotted woodpecker, Marsh tit, Willow tit, Spotted flycatcher, Hawfinch, Redstart.
Example improvements	<p>Improving scrub understory within woodland to benefit a number of these species.</p> <p>Increasing scrub-rich, wet woodland with dead mature trees trunks for willow tit.</p> <p>Speeding up the ageing process in some mature trees to create dead and dying standing wood to benefit cavity nesting species such as redstart and lesser spotted woodpecker.</p> <p>Creating artificial nests, hole cavities in trees with advice from an expert, 'natural' bird boxes, or those designed with these species in mind, such as for redstart.</p>

Species group	Heathland Birds
Example species	Nightjar, Woodlark, Tree pipit
Example improvements	<p>Creating scrapes or bare ground for nesting woodlark</p> <p>Creating glades in woodland, and new heathland habitats for nightjar.</p> <p>Creating more diverse heathland/woodland transitional habitats to benefit tree pipit. Creating new heathland.</p> <p>Installing signage to protect ground-nesting birds, if associated with habitat creation or restoration.</p> <p>Installing dead hedges used to create barriers for sensitive areas</p>

Species group	Bats
Example species	Leisler's, Noctule and Barbastelle
Example improvements	<p>Creating crevices or holes in trees not old enough to have them as natural features ,</p> <p>Diversifying the age structure of woodlands.</p> <p>Installing bat boxes, where habitat is suitable for foraging for these species,</p> <p>Creating habitat corridors of scrub, woodland and grassland to help bats move through the landscape.</p> <p>Creating or restoring ponds to help improve feeding habitat for bats.</p>

Species group	Reptiles
Example species	Common lizard, Slow worm, grass snake
Example improvements	<p>Creating artificial hibernacula</p> <p>Clearing tall vegetation to create basking areas</p> <p>Creating habitat corridors to enable reptiles to move between known sites.</p>

Species group	Invertebrates
Example species	Hazel pot beetle, Black oil beetle, Glow worm, Clearwings and other rare moths.
Example improvements	<p>Creating south facing banks and bare areas</p> <p>Taking measures to increase deadwood, both standing and on the ground, as long term features within woodlands.</p> <p>Creating new habitats containing crucial foodplants for scarce Sherwood moth and butterfly species e.g. Common sorrel for Forester moth.</p> <p>Creating habitat linkages and stepping stones to enable scarce invertebrates to move between sites more easily.</p> <p>Creating ponds, ephemeral wetlands and wet scrapes to improve habitat mosaics for a wide range of invertebrates.</p>

APPENDIX: Species surveying

Where possible, you should monitor the target species before and after you undertake the work, these data are very important, and should be sent to the relevant recorder.

If you have a smartphone you can enter your records on i-record and they will be sent directly to the relevant recorder to be verified, you can download the app from: [iRecord | Manage and share your wildlife records \(brc.ac.uk\)](https://www.brc.ac.uk).

Or if you prefer you can send your records direct to the recorder by e-mail:

Notts Bat Recorder nottsbatrecords@gmail.com

Notts Bird Recorder nottsbirders@gmail.com

Notts Amphibian and Reptile Recorder [Nottinghamshire Amphibian and Reptile Group \(arguk.org\)](http://NottinghamshireAmphibianandReptileGroup.org)

The Recorders for different invertebrate groups are many, and the details can be obtained from the M2M Wildlife Project Officer ccase@nottswt.co.uk

Plant and habitat records can be sent to the Notts Biological Records Centre: 'Notts Biological & Geological Records Centre' <NBGRCG@nottinghamcity.gov.uk> and copied to [Record a plant – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland \(bsbi.org\)](https://www.bsbi.org)