Nature Recovery Grant Scoring Methodology

Scoring Criteria and weighting (%)

Theme 1. Ecological Assessment

1. (10%). The community has had limited previous engagement with nature recovery initiatives and has had lower levels of participation in SCDC grant programmes

2. (20%). The community currently has limited access to nature and rank lower on the indices of multiple deprivation.

3. (30%). The project aligns with the aims of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Climate and Nature Strategy 2026-2030 and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy LNRS priorities and principles (bigger, better, more, more joined up), including reference to priority habitats and/or species.

4. (30%). The applicant has robust plans to utilise the ecological survey and is committed to future actions for nature recovery.

5. (10%). The project contributes additional value and co-benefits (e.g. funding contributions or match funding; volunteer time/expertise from other sources; collaboration between organisations, and/or evidence of local and/or Member support; communication of the project to the local community).

Theme 2. Project Implementation

1. (20%). Evidence demonstrating a thorough exploration of ecological potential and options (such as a Community Nature Recovery Plan, other parish-level plan, or actions based on an ecological survey)

2. (40%). Evidence demonstrating expected ecological benefits of the project, including increased resilience and adaptation to climate change.

3. (30%). The project aligns with the aims of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Climate and Nature Strategy 2026-2030, and LNRS principles (bigger, better, more, more joined up) and recommendations, including benefits to priority habitats and species.

4. (10%). The project contributes additional value and co-benefits (e.g. funding contributions or match funding; volunteer time/expertise from other sources; collaboration between organisations, and/or evidence of local and/or Member support; communication of the project to the local community).

The following conditions additionally apply to the allocation of the SCDC Nature Recovery Grant (also set out in the grant guidance document):

- The fund will be split based on demand for each theme, funding approximately 5 ecological assessments and 5 shovel-ready projects.
- Each applicant can apply for up to two projects.
- Multiple applicants can collaborate on a single project.
- The allocation of funding will take into account the aim of achieving a good geographical and thematic spread of funding across the district.