

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Redberth Croft CIC

#PJWGP6CHJ6 submitted on 6 November 2024

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

Redberth Croft CIC's Branching Out project helps veterans find inner peace by connecting with nature and learning conservation skills, which improves mental well-being and fosters a deep commitment to environmental stewardship. This project supports local biodiversity and provides vital rural skills training that empowers participants and addresses the climate emergency, creating a peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable community

Tell us more about your project and the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and how it will bring about significant change

Branching Out aims to support those affected by war by fostering a supportive community where they can learn new skills, develop a sense of accomplishment, and build social connections. Through structured workshops, veterans will learn essential rural conservation skills, including traditional hedgelaying, tree planting, and basic woodland management. Each activity is led by experienced instructors and involves up to six participants per session, ensuring personalized guidance and an engaging, hands-on learning experience.

Workshops are designed to be both therapeutic and practical, promoting mental well-being through connection to nature while teaching employable skills. Many veterans face challenges reintegrating into civilian life, and Branching Out provides a pathway to reconnect with the natural world in a way that is restorative, purposeful, and empowering. Additionally, the project's conservation efforts contribute to local biodiversity and align with environmental priorities to combat climate change through reforestation and ecosystem restoration.

The project is expected to create significant positive change in the lives of veterans by addressing mental health, skill-building, and community inclusion. Working outdoors and engaging in physical activities are shown to have therapeutic effects, improving both mental and physical health. Many veterans report a strong sense of calm and fulfillment when participating in conservation work, which offers a means to release stress and engage in mindful, meaningful activity.

By learning conservation techniques, veterans not only gain valuable skills but also a sense of purpose and accomplishment that can be transformative for their self-confidence and resilience. Completing a hedgelaying project, for example, provides immediate, tangible results, giving participants a sense of ownership and pride in their work. The project's certification component, offered through Lantra, provides participants with an accredited qualification, adding to their employability and helping them transition into new roles within the rural economy if desired.

Moreover, Branching Out fosters a strong sense of community among participants. Veterans often miss the camaraderie of military life, and the supportive, team-based environment of this project helps rebuild these bonds. Through social interaction, teamwork, and shared achievements, participants regain a sense of belonging, which is essential for mental well-being. The project also builds connections with local organizations, such as The VC Gallery and The Tenby Project, which support veterans and adults with additional learning needs. These partnerships extend the project's reach and ensure a broad support network for participants.

Beyond direct participant impact, Branching Out benefits the wider Pembrokeshire community by

addressing the need for environmental stewardship and contributing to local biodiversity. Activities such as hedgerow planting and woodland creation provide habitats for native wildlife, support pollinators, and enhance the beauty of the countryside. Hedgerows and trees are valuable for carbon sequestration, making them crucial elements in local climate resilience efforts. As the project progresses, it will contribute to reforestation and habitat restoration targets, creating lasting ecological benefits.

Additionally, by engaging veterans in conservation work, Branching Out promotes environmental awareness and sustainable practices. Many participants will carry the skills and knowledge gained into their daily lives, adopting eco-friendly habits and becoming advocates for conservation. This ripple effect strengthens the community's commitment to sustainability and helps build a greener, more resilient Pembrokeshire.

The combination of mental health support, skill development, and environmental conservation in Branching Out creates a model that fosters significant change for individuals and the community. Veterans leave the program with a renewed sense of purpose, increased employability, and greater mental well-being. Through nature-based therapy, the project addresses the specific needs of veterans in a way that traditional support services often cannot.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

D - Peace work connected with climate breakdown

1.3d Peace work connected with climate breakdown

–

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

No

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

We'll monitor Branching Out through participant feedback, attendance tracking, and environmental assessments. Regular surveys and informal discussions will gauge participant satisfaction, mental well-being, and skill development. Biodiversity and habitat improvements will be evaluated by tracking hedgerow growth and wildlife presence. Quarterly reviews with partners like The VC Gallery will ensure the project meets veterans' needs and aligns with conservation goals, allowing for adjustments as needed.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Workshop and Training Staff Fees	£2,400	We will hire seasoned professionals and staff specializing in rural conservation skills at £120 per day to lead 20 days of training. These sessions will provide foundational training in hedgerow restoration and woodland planting. Participants will learn traditional hedging techniques, tree planting, and habitat management, skills that support conservation efforts and are valuable for future employability in rural settings.
Student Certification Fees and Lantra Accreditation	£600	To provide formal recognition of participants' achievements, we will cover certification fees and an annual registration with Lantra for a customized rural skills award,

		supporting up to 36 students. This accredited certification ensures that participants gain industry-recognized credentials that enhance employability and align with conservation standards.
TOTALS	£3,000	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Match funding received from The Tree Council to cover the cost of mulch, compost, saplings and tree guards	£2,500	£2,500	This grant has been secured
Match funding for Tree packs totalling 420 saplings from the Woodland Trust	£1,000	£1,000	This grant has been secured
TOTALS	£3,500	£3,500	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£5,000

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£24,300

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Redberth Croft CIC

52855362

30-99-50

3.1 Your name

Daisy Irene Coleman

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07823772278

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Founder/Director

3.4 Your email address

redberthcroft@gmail.com

3.5 Organisation name

Redberth Croft CIC

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

Community Interest Company

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

Redberth Croft CIC is a community-focused social enterprise promoting mental well-being and environmental sustainability. Through therapeutic activities like gardening, animal-assisted therapy, and conservation skills training, we support veterans, adults with Additional Learning Needs, and vulnerable individuals. Our inclusive programs foster personal growth, community connections, and environmental stewardship, creating a positive, lasting impact on participants and local biodiversity in Pembrokeshire.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

The Croft, Redberth, Tenby. SA70 8RW

3.9 UK telephone number

07823772278

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

–

3.11 Year established

2024

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://www.redberthcroft.com>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559308107402>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Local CVS (Council for Voluntary Services)