

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

WILD DURSLEY - 'WILDur' CIC

#TXKWKMZG4Z submitted on 23 December 2021

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We wish to facilitate the creation of a Local Nature Reserve in Gloucestershire. We aim to create a series of contiguous open spaces for nature to flourish and people to enjoy nature from source to sea along the River Cam and seek funding to help build consensus amongst a wide range of organisations and people.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

The River Cam Local Nature Reserve concept seeks to create a contiguous ribbon of protected open spaces alongside the River Cam in Gloucestershire. Thousands of people live close to the river from the parishes of Uley and Owlpen through the market town of Dursley, the dormitory village of Cam and out towards Coaley and Slimbridge with its world famous wetland centre. Yet access to the river and places for nature and other amenities is often poor. See Cam's "Cammunity Plan": <https://www.camparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/cam-ndp-rererendumv8-lowres-1.pdf>

During the last 50 years the population of this once quiet corner of the Cotswolds and Severn Vale has risen exponentially and is now recognised as a centre of growth, but developments have not been closely aligned with climate change mitigation and adaptation. As has happened elsewhere in the UK and beyond it is little surprise that there is such a disconnect between people and communities and the natural world around them.

Where once the area was renowned for its Cotswold characters and charm it is now more synonymous with marginalisation within the otherwise affluent Cotswolds; Dursley has been branded the "Charity Shop Capital of the Cotswolds" and, tragically, in 2021 the Everlands, Cam sports ground bore witness to a fatal teenage stabbing.

By proactively developing a suite of nature reserves to form an ecological corridor between the Cotswolds protected landscape and the Severn Vale, the project aims to reverse people's disconnect from the wonderful wild spaces on their doorsteps as well as creating habitats and spaces to mitigate and adapt to current and future impacts of climate change.

The initial stage of the project is all about establishing a consensus between the local parish councils, local landowners and businesses such as Cam's woollen mill, nature conservation bodies such as Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and other organisations and most importantly the views and involvement of the community as a whole. Some of the local spaces for nature are already well managed by local people and organisations, some are in private ownership, others by local businesses, but they are all viewed as discrete sites.

The challenge is to bring people together to regard these numerous spaces for nature as a single network that could be better managed to benefit local biodiversity and people and therefore the environment as a whole. This will increase people's pride in where they live and work and an overall sense of well-being. Wonderful wildlife should be experienced right on people's doorsteps - people shouldn't have to drive many miles or pay expensive entrance fees to walk the dog in a special place or enjoy some of its natural spectaculars.

We hope to achieve a consensus that will lead to better management and possibly acquisition of local nature spaces, leading to long term protection of wild places at the heart of the local communities. By increasing connectivity of both wildlife sites and people's links to them, this will increase the ability of local ecosystems to function and flourish in the face of rapid and extreme pressures from a changing climate.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

D - Climate change mitigation

F - Sustainable development

1.3d Climate change mitigation

The project aims to address current and future impacts from climate change by enhancing and creating new spaces for nature in the River Cam catchment. This is important as approximately 3500 new houses are due to be built in the next few years within the River Cam corridor and this will put increased pressure on local ecosystems.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

Having reached local consensus about the creation of a corridor of local nature spaces and the production of an action plan, it will then be possible to take these plans forward to draw up appropriate management strategies including land acquisition to better protect local wildlife and increase people's access and enjoyment from the nature on their doorsteps.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

Project success will be measured by the level of support for a catchment wide network of places and spaces for nature and people. The external consultants will assist key stakeholders in evaluating whether consensus has been reached within the community which will allow next steps to be taken to purchase land to mitigate climate change impacts, protect wildlife and promote access and health and wellbeing.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Wildur staff costs at £250 per day for 15 days	£3,750	for time spent building consensus amongst local councils, nature conservation bodies, local landowners and individuals and developing proposals with the wider community
External consultancy costs for event and report	£2,375	Expertise required for consultation with wider community and public and report to include land acquisition potential, views of local community integrated with agreed policies within the Neighbourhood Plan and overall evaluation of proposals
Other support costs - IT support to include production of opportunity maps, baseline surveys, event promotion	£1,500	May have to commission the Gloucestershire Environmental Data Unit (GEDU) to produce opportunity maps; events may have to be virtual rather than face to face following

		Covid-19 Risk Assessments
Travel costs - 500 miles at 45ppm	£226	
Venue Hire	£250	May be required if face to face consultations are to be held
TOTALS	£8,101	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Cam Parish Council grant	£500	£0	
Local community fundraising	£500	£0	Successfully raised around £250 towards Wildur hay meadow creation project in 2021 through collaboration with St George's Church, Cam annual fundraising event
TOTALS	£1,000	£0	

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

£7,101

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)

£2,888

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

WILD DURSLEY - 'WILDUR' CIC

50669885

01-06-34

3.1 Your name

Julian Jones

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07716 720891

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Director

3.4 Your email address

JulianWildurCIC@outlook.com

3.5 Organisation name

WILD DURSLEY - 'WILDur' CIC

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

Community Interest Company (CIC)

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

Wild Dursley - 'WILDur' CIC is helping, through direct activities and supporting others, to reverse declines in local biodiversity. Working with a range of other organisations and individuals we are trying to create a wilder Dursley valley, with more wildlife in more places - a place where people of all ages and abilities will encounter a lot more wildlife. At a very local level this is helping to address the nature and climate emergencies.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

32 Everlands
Cam
Dursley
Gloucestershire
GL11 5NL

3.9 UK telephone number

07716 720891

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

N/A

3.11 Year established

2021

3.12 Website (if applicable)

No bespoke website created yet, but example of recent Wild Dursley - 'WILDur' CIC project work can be found at:
https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2021/rare-wild-plant-introduced-to-churchyard/?utm_source=Dioce+of+Gloucester&utm_campaign=2c6029d7ab-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_08_01_27&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_69ea2ab3ba-2c6029d7ab-149183001

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

N/A

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

Internet