

'Access for All: Removing Barriers' Funding Guidelines

Our goal:

'Access for All: Removing Barriers' is now in its fourth year created by the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra) to improve physical and digital infrastructure, making Protected Landscapes more accessible for people of all ages and abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds. Each project helps to remove barriers that residents and visitors encounter when accessing and enjoying the East Devon National Landscape.

Funds available:

In 2025/26 financial year DEFRA have indicated we will have £94,301 to allocate in East Devon National Landscape.

We encourage you to consider match funding for your proposal, either in kind or in cash, as this will be considered in the assessment of your application though we will consider 100% funding if the project is exceptional.

Eligible projects:

Grant funding will be for capital spend only in the 2025/26 financial year.

Capital spend is a one-off itemised cost where funding is provided to purchase or invest in a physical item or asset (capital item) to achieve a stated outcome, in this case to improve accessibility for all users.

Some examples of what would be classed as capital expenditure:

- Access infrastructure, buildings, machinery and equipment, for example:
 - Disabled toilet facilities
 - Replacement of gates to accessible gate
 - Additional seating areas
 - Improved access to waterways for the mobility-impaired
 - Widening and resurfacing of paths for multi-user use
 - Adapting a minibus or visitor centre
 - Purchase of trampers, mobility scooters, electric bikes and storage/charging facilities
 - Purchase of specially adapted tools and personal protective equipment for volunteers
 - Provision of accessible signage and visitor information, physical and digital
 - Staff time which directly contributes to creation of asset.

- Research and development. DEFRA defines this as *creative work done on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge, and use of this stock of knowledge for the purpose of discovering or developing new products, including*

improved versions or qualities of existing products, or discovering new or more efficient processes of production.

Not classifiable as capital:

- Removal of a stile- unless it's being replaced by an accessible gate
- Hire of a minibus
- Staff time that is not directly attributable to creation of asset

Key things to consider

- Consult with disability representatives for any planned works. Adopt a pan-impairment approach and consider what the barriers to access are for all disabled people.
- Any accessibility infrastructure change or intervention should be accessible for all users, and, where possible to do so, should avoid the requirement of extra tools to use (for example, gates locked with RADAR keys) and consider safety, value for money and sustainability.
- Spend must improve public access to and within the protected landscape and should serve the broader interests of the Grant Recipient and their communities.