**Fishery and Habitat Grants – Kennet Catchment 2018**

**Guidance notes for applicants**

**Introduction**

The Kennet Catchment Fisheries and Habitats grant is for projects that deliver habitat and fisheries improvement focussed on the better recruitment of fish stocks, community benefit and angling access to the Kennet river system between Newbury and Reading.

Projects costing between £3k and £5k are eligible. Exceptional projects to a maximum value of £8k, and joint partnership bids will be considered. Projects that engage volunteers and projects that can attract additional funding will be encouraged where this is possible.

Many improvement works on rivers will require an Environmental Permit for flood risk activities or will require registration as an exempted activity. It is critical that you secure permissions as early as possible. Advice and support to help you with this are available from ARK’s lower Kennet project officer Martin Kent (martin.kent@riverkennet.org or 07850450695).

**What types of project would we like to fund?**

We are interested in projects that improve river habitat for fish and other wildlife. Projects which aim to increase participation in angling will be welcomed.

The grant may fund 100% of the project costs but we will give weight to projects which mobilise volunteers, encourage community participation and include funding from other sources. We suggest that you work through your application with Martin Kent before submission.

**Who may apply?**

Any organisation, community group, club or society seeking to achieve the aims of the grant.

**What can we fund?**

Eligible items include, but are not limited to:

* Machinery hire
* Capital items and equipment
* Contractor time
* Staff time
* Overheads directly linked to the project e.g. post, phone
* Cost of securing consents

Items we cannot fund:

* Fish stocking
* Work already completed
* Projects that can’t be completed before April 2021

**Grant payments**

Payment will be made in stages. 50% on project award, 30% on commencement and 20% on completion.

We will ask to see receipts for purchase of materials or services over the value of £100.

**Match funding (including volunteer time)**

Match funding is not necessary but we encourage you to match our funding in some way. This might be volunteer time, loan of machinery donations of goods or other grants.

The following monetary equivalents are a guide to estimating the value of the time donated by your volunteers.

* Unskilled labour - £50 per day
* Semi-skilled labour - £75 per day
* Skilled labour (e.g. project manager) - £150 per day
* Professional (e.g. architect/lawyer) - £300 per day

**Application must be submitted by:** 1st May 2018

**Projects must be complete** within 3 years of grant decision.

**Terms and conditions**

A variety of approvals or consents may be needed before you start work. These may include planning permission and environmental permits. Ultimately responsibility for securing these consents lies with the grant holder but ARK’s project officer will work with you to identify and secure them.

We will ask you to help us monitor the success of your project. This could simply be a series of before and after photographs. Weight will be given to projects that commit to ongoing monitoring, for instance fish catch records, monitoring of visitor numbers, or riverfly monitoring.

If you are successful in obtaining an award we will ask you to promote the project on your website or social media.

We will contact you once your project has begun to arrange a visit to inspect the work.

We intend to let applicants know whether they have been successful within 8 weeks of the application deadline.