



ESSEX & SUFFOLK  
WATER



# Branch Out

**working in partnership to reconnect habitats  
for the benefit of people and wildlife**



## What is it?

Branch Out is about working in partnership to reconnect habitats for the benefit of people and wildlife. It encompasses a number of projects with the aim of helping this region build resilience and adapt to the changing climate whilst bringing benefits to water, wildlife and communities.

The Branch Out fund exists to help people deliver projects that benefit the natural environment and their local communities.





## Why?

The natural environment is at the heart of Essex & Suffolk Water's business. The 1.8 million customers in our region who receive our high quality drinking water all benefit from us helping to maintain the natural environment in a healthy state.

The link between health and the countryside is well known and many of the Branch Out projects will encourage people to be outside, visiting sites and learning more about their local countryside.

Increasing the resilience of our ecosystems is at the heart of this initiative. Enhancing, buffering and linking habitats will help the flora and fauna using them to be better placed to deal with whatever changes in the climate occur.

The effects of improving water quality will not only benefit the natural environment but will also help reduce the cost of water treatment.





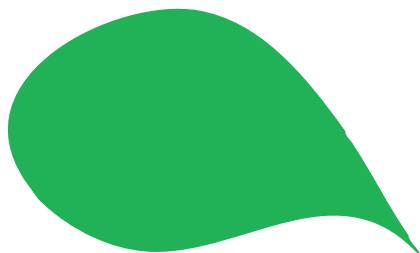
## Approach to projects

Branch Out projects will be delivered via partnership working. This can be building on existing partnerships or creating new ones. Working in partnership means benefits can be maximised by different groups of people all working towards the same aims.

Branch Out encompasses projects ranging from a landscape scale with many partners to smaller community and farm based projects.

## Who can apply?

The fund is open to organisations, community groups or individuals from the public, private, voluntary and education sectors who have projects that can make a difference to the wildlife and communities in the area that Essex & Suffolk Water operates in.





## Case study

### Hanningfield Branch Out project

The project aims to reconnect fragmented habitats by working with the local communities near Hanningfield Reservoir. During 2009 – 2010 1.5km of hedgerow was planted at Hanningfield Water Treatment Works and along a neighbouring farmer's field.

Pupils from St Peter's Primary School in West Hanningfield helped plant 200m of the hedgerow to help conserve their chosen 'flagship species' the hazel dormouse, an endangered species that is found in the local area.

Other activities have included the felling of 100m<sup>2</sup> of pine plantation and re-planting this with native hazel, and the planting of a small orchard with local apple varieties.

Involved in the partnership project are Essex & Suffolk Water, the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species, Essex Biodiversity Project, Essex Arboriculture, local landowners, Essex Wildlife Trust, local schools and RHS Hyde Hall. The project achieve the aims of Essex Wildlife Trust's Living Landscapes vision for Hanningfield.

Trust, local schools and RHS is also helping to







## Case study

### Suffolk Broads Living Landscape



With permission of Steve Aylwood

Suffolk Wildlife Trust are leading on a project to create a rich landscape of wetland habitat from Lowestoft to Beccles. Essex & Suffolk Water has been able to help support this work through Branch Out.

Other key partners are the Broads Authority, Environment Agency, Natural England and local landowners.

Reconnecting, expanding and buffering

wildlife rich sites will make them less vulnerable to water level changes and will benefit the unique Broadland species associated with the dykes and wet marshes. [www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org](http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org).

## Case study

### BTO – Tracking Cuckoos into Africa

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is running a ground breaking project aiming to over the journey that cuckoos make after leaving their breeding grounds here in the UK. This information is critical to help understand and hopefully help prevent the drastic decline that there has been in cuckoo numbers in recent years. The project is supported by the BTO raffle

2010, BBC Wildlife Fund and Essex & Suffolk Water's Branch Out initiative. Lyster, one of the five cuckoos being tracked using a 5g satellite tag is named after one of Essex & Suffolk Water's non-executive directors. [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org).



With permission of BTO



## How to apply?

Complete an application form and send it in to us. Application forms can be found at:

[www.branchout-esw.co.uk](http://www.branchout-esw.co.uk)

There is an on-line application form, and also one that you can print out, complete and send to us:

[branchout@nwl.co.uk](mailto:branchout@nwl.co.uk)

Conservation Team  
Essex & Suffolk Water  
Sandon Valley House  
Canon Barns Road  
East Hanningfield  
Essex CM3 8BD

## Further Information

Further background information, case studies, and guidance notes can be found on the website.





## Contact us:

**[branchout@nwl.co.uk](mailto:branchout@nwl.co.uk)**

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