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we are

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Bolton Salford
Bury Stockport
Manchester Tameside
Oldham Trafford
Rochdale Wigan

GM Nature Network – Guide Grant Conditions

13/05/2026

Full grant conditions included in the grant agreement

1. Purpose of the Grant

- 1.1. The Grant must be used solely for the purposes set out in the approved application, namely the creation or restoration of new wildlife-rich land or enabling works that will support land to become wildlife-rich in the future and which contribute to delivery of the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- 1.2. The Grant must not be used for maintenance of existing wildlife-rich habitats or for any activities listed as ineligible in the GM Nature Network Grant Guidance.

2. Grant Period

- 2.1. The Grant-funded activity must not begin before the Grant Funding Agreement has been signed by both parties.
- 2.2. All Grant-funded activity must be completed, and all expenditure incurred, no later than March 2027.

3. Approved Site and Location

- 3.1. The Grant may only be used on the specific site(s) approved as part of the application.
- 3.2. All Grant-funded activity must take place within the Greater Manchester Nature Network, as defined in the Grant Guidance.
- 3.3. Any material changes to the approved site or location must be agreed in writing by GMCA in advance.

4. Landowner Permission and Access

4.1. The Grant Recipient must hold **written permission from the landowner** (or evidence of ownership) covering:

- delivery of the approved works; and
- access for monitoring and maintenance for a minimum of three years following project completion.

4.2. The Grant Recipient must retain this permission for audit and monitoring purposes.

5. Use of the Grant

5.1. The Grant may only be used for **eligible costs** as set out in the Grant Guidance and approved application, including agreed capital works, professional fees, surveys, labour and limited project management costs.

5.2. The Grant must not be used for costs that are:

- incurred before the Grant agreement start date
- recoverable VAT
- already funded from another source; or
- listed as ineligible expenditure in the guidance

6. Delivery and Monitoring

- 6.1. The Grant Recipient must deliver the project **in accordance with the approved application and agreed outputs.**
- 6.2. The Grant Recipient must engage with GMCA-led three milestone **project meetings and monitoring activity and site visits**, including providing updates on progress and outputs as reasonably requested.
- 6.3. The Grant Recipient must notify GMCA promptly of any risks, delays or material changes affecting delivery.
- 6.4. The Grant Recipient must complete GMCA LNRS action delivery monitoring framework to receive the grant.
- 6.5. Applicants must demonstrate that habitat creation or restoration funded through this grant will be secured for a minimum of 3 years post delivery. Through a written landowner agreement committing to retaining the habitat for this period and confirmation that no actions will be taken which would significantly degrade or remove the habitat within that timeframe.

7. Payment of the Grant

- 7.1. GMCA will pay up to 50% of the grant up front and the balance on completion of the project, following submission of appropriate evidence. Grant recipients will need to provide the GMCA with evidence of spend in respect of the grant, in the form of invoices and be subject to repayment if underspent or funds not used as set out in the application or as agreed with GMCA.
- 7.2. GMCA reserves the right to withhold or recover Grant funding where conditions are not met.

- 7.3. If a project cannot be achieved or is abandoned due to viability or feasibility issues then the applicant should notify GMCA and agree the return of any unspent funding.

8. Publicity and Acknowledgement

- 8.1. The Grant Recipient must acknowledge GMCA support in any reasonable publicity or communications relating to the project, in line with guidance provided by GMCA.

9. LNRS Monitoring

- 9.1. Recipients of the Grant must complete the GM LNRS Monitoring Framework by December 2026.

10. Compliance

- 10.1 Recipients of the grant must ensure that projects funded are compliant with any relevant legal requirements, standards, guidance, decision or assessment frameworks and best practice, as well as any permits and licences or existing plans when creating or restoring habitats (example: 'Decision Support Framework for Peatland Protection').

11. Subsidy Control

- 11.1. The Grant is awarded subject to UK Subsidy Control requirements and may be withdrawn if it is subsequently found to be non-compliant.

11.2. The Grant Recipient must provide any information reasonably required by GMCA to demonstrate compliance with Subsidy Control legislation.

12. Record Keeping and Audit

12.1. The Grant Recipient must keep clear and accurate records of expenditure and outputs relating to the project.

12.2. GMCA reserves the right to audit or review Grant-funded activity during delivery and for a reasonable period after project completion

13. Clawback

12.1. GMCA may require repayment of all or part of the Grant where:

- the Grant is not used for the approved purpose;
- false or misleading information has been provided; or
- the project is not delivered in line with agreed conditions.

12.2. If a project cannot be achieved or is abandoned due to viability or feasibility issues, then the applicant should notify GMCA and agree the return of any unspent funding.