



**BRANCHOUT**  
NORTHUMBRIAN WATER

# **INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES (INNS) FUND**

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Application guidelines and  
supporting information

*living water*

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

## WHAT IS THE BRANCH OUT INNS FUND?

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are species that have been introduced (deliberately or accidentally) by people, which are having a detrimental impact on the economy, wildlife or habitats of Britain.

A healthy natural environment is essential for supplying top quality drinking water. Northumbrian Water (NW) set up the Branch Out fund in response to the need to build resilience and help protect the region's natural environment.

The purpose of the fund is to enable local communities, land managers, other organisations and individuals to address INNS risks within the catchments where Northumbrian Water operates.

## PROJECT CRITERIA

- Projects must involve actions for prevention or management and control or eradication of INNS within NW catchment areas.
- Applicants must describe how their proposal will deliver benefits to NW operations, assets, landholdings (land or water) or customers. For example, this may be directly related to reducing the impacts and/or effects of the operation of assets or discharges, or involve 'upstream' or other work that could reduce the burden or risk on NW assets.
- Priority will be given to projects that have a clear link to the following:-
  - The protection and/or enhancement of a statutory environmental protected site, such as Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), European Protected site (Natura 2000 sites), and/or
  - Actions included in the River Basin Management Plans to contribute to meeting the Water Framework Directive objectives.
- Projects must deliver environmental improvements, but can involve survey work, education and community engagement.
- Project budgets can include support for project officers and costs directly related to delivery.
- Project budgets cannot include support for general staff costs or core activities.
- The benefits must include some aspects that are quantifiable and measurable.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

The fund is open to organisations, community groups or individuals from the public, private, voluntary and education sectors in within the catchments where Northumbrian Water operates. Multi-stakeholder applications are also encouraged as combining interests, resources and capabilities will improve environmental outcomes.

## PROJECT SELECTION

Submission of an application does not mean automatic entitlement to funding. All applications will be carefully considered by the Branch Out team.

Applications will be acknowledged within ten working days.

Applicants will be informed in writing or via email within five working days of the bi-annual decision meeting on whether their application has been successful, and if so, the amount of grant they have been awarded.

Applicants may in some instances be asked to provide further assistance to allow a final decision to be made. Funding decisions will be made at the end of May and November each year. However these timescales will be subject to change depending on the number of applications received.

## STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL SELECTED PROJECTS

For all projects granted any level of funding, the following must be delivered:

1. All external communications relating to the project to be agreed with Northumbrian Water's communications team before use.
2. Northumbrian Water's contribution must be acknowledged in all press releases.
3. Northumbrian Water's logo must be used on project material and interpretation.
4. A report on the progress of the project must be submitted to Northumbrian Water every six months and /or on project completion (whichever occurs first).
5. Project reports must provide evidence of where the project money provided by Northumbrian Water has been spent.
6. Project reports must provide information on specific measurable project outputs as agreed with Northumbrian Water before the project starts.
7. All successful project applicants will sign a partnership agreement agreeing to the above terms. Where a medium or large fund is granted, additional requirements will be agreed specific to each project.

## RETURNING COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

Sign, scan and email to: [branchout@nwl.co.uk](mailto:branchout@nwl.co.uk)

Or sign and post to:  
Conservation  
Northumbrian Water  
Baldon House Wheatlands Way  
Pity Me  
Durham DH1 5FA

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