

Darwin Plus Local – Award paperwork and Summary of Grant Terms and Conditions

Project Reference	This is unique to your project and should be used on all correspondence so we can identify the project you are referring to.
Award letter	<p>This is tailored to your project and includes specific details to be agreed including the project title, the total award amount, the start and end date of your project. It also contains contact details for the Award Administrators as well as your own contact details which you should check are correct.</p> <p>A summary of the Terms and Conditions annexed to this document is provided below, but it is best practice to read all materials before signing documents. The summary is not exhaustive and the full Terms and Conditions apply to your award.</p>
Grant Acceptance Form (GAF)	This second document sets out the same project details as the award letter but requires additional action to complete and return it. Once it is returned with the Supplier Form (see below), your project will be activated for payments.
	Section A confirms the project details.
	Section B1 confirms all the materials which are part of the award paperwork.
	Section B2 confirms what you are required to do during the project.
	Section B3 should be completed with the contact details of the person leading and managing the project.
	Section B4 should be completed with details of the signatories approved for submitting claim forms.
	Section B5 should be completed with name and contact details for the main person responsible for project finances.
	Section B6 sets out the agreed award total.
	Please complete the signature section with the required details. This can be signed electronically or on paper, then scanned and returned in PDF. The whole document should be returned.
	Section C should be completed with your bank details where the claims should be sent. Please ensure you only complete one section, and provide additional routing information as necessary.
Supplier Form	Please complete with your bank details. This is required as a second check and should be returned with the GAF document above.

Summary of Grant Terms and Conditions (T&Cs)

Definitions	A summary of a lot of the terms used in the T&Cs – one of the most useful parts of the document to read
	You can only use the grant for the work outlined in your application and associated documents.
	The budget should be spent as outlined in your application and associated documents.
	If there are significant changes to any parts of the project as agreed, please contact the Administrators for advice if it is not clear what you need to do.
Payments	<p>Details of when to claim and other requirements will be set out in Annex 1. The full T&Cs set out requirements about your bank account and internal management of the funds noting that all payments will be in GBP and you should retain records showing the GBP values alongside any local currency used.</p> <p>Defra cannot increase an award figure once the award is accepted.</p> <p>If you do not spend all the funds awarded with the project dates, any balance will be surrendered to Defra.</p> <p>You can submit a claim, but will not be paid, in advance of the project start date.</p> <p>You are required to submit a final project claim outlining how you have spent all the award and showing any balance still to be paid.</p>
Eligible and ineligible expenditure	There is a list of items that are acceptable for project spend, alongside a list of items that are not acceptable. Please ensure you have read this section to avoid spending funds on items that cannot be reimbursed.
Reporting	You will be required to provide a final report on your project along with any supplementary materials including videos, photos or other appropriate outputs in order to provide evidence of what you have achieved.
Financial information	You are required to retain all information about your project for up to 7 years after the end of the project in case there are any questions about project spend. You are also required to respond to reasonable requests for information about your project, even once it has ended.
Legal Compliance	You must at all times comply with all applicable legal requirements relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption, fraud and other irregularities.
Confidentiality	Defra may wish to publish information about your project, but will ensure that any personal information will be removed in advance.
Statutory Duties and Data Protection	Any legal requirements to share information about your project must be met, including those relating to Data Protection legislation
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	IPR created by the project remains your property.
Safeguarding	If you are aware of a safeguarding issue you must take appropriate action as soon as is reasonable, including contacting details provided.
Environmental requirements	As far as possible you should aim to reduce waste and plan sustainable approaches for your project.

Assets	You must keep a record of any significant items (exceeding £1,000 per item) bought by the project and record where they are kept and what will happen to them when the project ends. This should be to ensure the work the project started is able to continue. If items are sold the funds must be returned to Defra, unless this is agreed otherwise.
Insurance	You should ensure you have insurance relevant to the work you are doing.
Assignment	You cannot assign parts of the grant to another organisation or individual unless this is part of the agreed award.
Publicity	Where appropriate, you should refer to Darwin Plus Local as the source of project funding and use the Darwin Plus logo.
Changes to requirements	We will let you know if any reasonable changes are required by Defra during the project and you must be willing to make reasonable changes.
Default etc	If you do not use the grant as set out in the application and subsequent correspondence, Defra has the right to request funds to be returned. This includes the submission of claims and reporting as appropriate. You will be given time to remedy these issues and final action will not be taken without trying to resolve the issue.
Dispute resolution	If an issue cannot be worked out between yourself and the grant administrators, then the issue can be referred to Defra to be resolved.
Liability	You are responsible for your project and your actions running the project. Defra cannot be held responsible for your actions.
VAT and Taxes	You are responsible for payment of any relevant local taxes associated with your project.
Code of Conduct	By accepting the award you confirm that you will follow Defra's Code of Conduct and ensure that your partners are also required to do so.
Governing Law	This award is governed by the law of England.

ANNEX 1 – PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Note: the details here are correct unless a Special Condition is noted in the Offer Letter.

1. The Grant is payable on actual costs which you must account for at project end.
2. Advance payments will be agreed for 85% of the award, but a balance of 15% or £3,000 (whichever is greater) will be retained until the project has ended and provided an account of all project spend, as well as any relevant project reporting.
3. The final claim **must be submitted by** 30 June 2025, but can be submitted any time after your project has ended.
4. Payment of the final claim depends on the submission of a satisfactory final report where applicable.
5. If a satisfactory final report is not submitted within one month of the agreed end date of the project, or a later date by specific agreement, Defra may not be able to pay the final Claim.
6. If the Project does not start on 1 April we will advise you when you can make your first claim. This cannot be paid in advance of the agreed start date.
7. Additional information about managing finances for Biodiversity Challenge Fund grants can be found in the Financial Information Guidance available on the Darwin Plus website. The Financial requirements for Darwin Plus Local follow similar principles to the other funds.