



House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Sarah Champion**  
**Member of Parliament for Rotherham**  
**Shadow Minister for Preventing Abuse and Domestic Violence**  
**Wednesday 27th July, 2016**

### **Sarah Champion MP urges Rotherham communities to apply for HLF funding for their local natural heritage, as part of the Yorkshire's Back Garden campaign**

THE Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched a campaign to encourage grant applications from smaller community groups on a wide range of natural heritage topics, such as citizen science, geodiversity, recording and managing species, and river projects, as well as traditional habitat and species projects.

Sarah Champion MP is urging her constituents to consider applying to HLF for community projects to explore the natural heritage on their doorsteps. The 'Yorkshire's Back Garden' campaign is highlighting awareness of our beautiful landscapes and wildlife - and helping local people to connect with them.

HLF and Sarah Champion MP want to encourage applications for funding from all champions of natural heritage, particularly small, local and community groups with projects that help raise awareness of the wildlife and nature to be found close to home. From monitoring bats, birds and beetles to exploring the hills and dales of Yorkshire – no project is too large or too small.

Sarah said: "I'm delighted that HLF is raising awareness of the region's wealth of beautiful parks, gardens and wildlife sites, and I urge my constituents to get in touch with them to raise awareness of the natural world in Rotherham and help local people protect it for future generations."

Drew Bennellick, Head of Landscape and Natural Heritage at HLF, said: "Nature is everywhere but few have knowledge of the vital role nature plays in sustaining our lives. From microscopic beetles, to fungi, bats, bees, birds and mammals, all play a part in running our planet and we can't survive without them. HLF funding offers a great opportunity to fund projects to re-connect people to nature and to explore this fascinating if often hidden world around us."

HLF has granted more than £2.3million across many different projects for the Yorkshire's Back Garden campaign which promotes funding for natural heritage projects of all sizes across the region. This includes 72 projects in parks - which is the equivalent to 172,653 back gardens.

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:**

**Heritage Lottery Fund** - Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk) @heritagelottery @HLFYandH  
HLF press office: contact Felix Gott on 020 7591 6138 or [felixg@hlf.org.uk](mailto:felixg@hlf.org.uk)