



Dorset
National
Landscape

Welcome to Nature Buddies

This guide outlines the roles, responsibilities, and steps involved in becoming a valued Host Organisation within the Nature Buddies Network. Our aim is to embed Nature Buddies into your existing offer, with minimal additional workload.

Your input is vital to shaping the network—please review this document and share any feedback, we will listen and adapt, as needed.

1. Roles & Responsibilities

Host Organisations (of volunteers and participants)

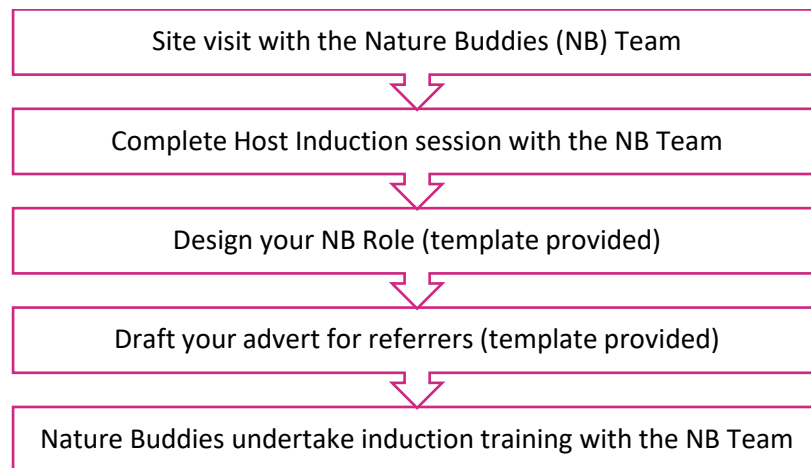
- Coordinate Nature Buddy volunteers and oversee their activities.
- Receive referrals and match individuals with suitable Nature Buddies.
- Promote the Nature Buddies initiative locally.
- Support evaluation by collecting feedback and sharing insights.
- Engage in the wider Nature Buddies network.
- Provide timely updates on progress and challenges.

Nature Buddies Project Team

- Offer support to increase capacity - advice, funding for resources, training to upskill volunteers & staff.
- Provide Nature Buddies with ideas and resources for nature-based activities.
- Work in partnership to build a cohesive, trusted offer for assisting people to access nature.
- Organise and deliver networking opportunities to create a Nature Buddies Network.
- Lead on promoting Nature Buddies on behalf of, and in conjunction with partners.
- Create an effective evaluation that can be shared widely, including carrying out interviews.
- Work to identify additional funding to widen the offer.

2. Your pathway to joining the Nature Buddies Network

All organisations who wish to join the Network will follow the same pathway as detailed in the chart below. Once these steps have been completed, we will promote your Nature Buddy role to Social Prescribers working in the local area. A Referrer will be asked to contact you directly if they have a client who is interested in joining in your activity, supported by your Nature Buddy.

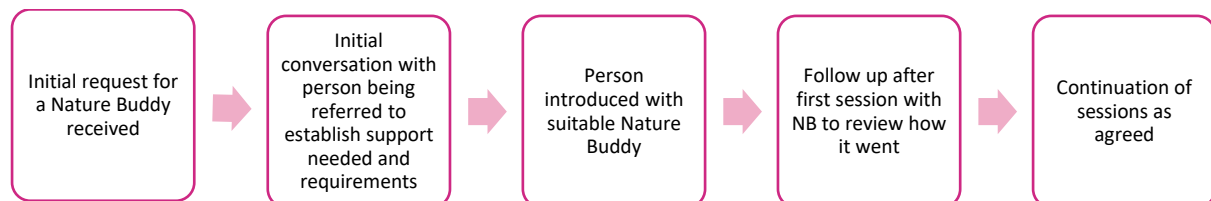


3. Designing your Nature Buddy Scheme

There is no one size fits all and there are a number of things each organisation will need to consider when designing their scheme; these should include:

- What **activities** will your Nature Buddies support?
- How many **sessions** will be offered per participant?
- Is your site **accessible and inclusive**?
- What **support needs** can you accommodate?
- How will you **match** referrals to volunteers?
- Do you need **additional resources**? (We may be able to help)

The diagram below outlines how the process might work to match potential clients to volunteers that you may wish to follow.



4. Nature Buddies Induction training

Induction training for all new buddies will be delivered by the Nature Buddies team either in person or online and will cover: overview & purpose of the role, required skills & experience, benefits, goal-and boundary setting, staying safe, further training opportunities and resources.

5. Promotion

We will develop the following marketing & promotional materials:

- Flyers with organisation contact details for both volunteers and participants
- Social Media campaign

- Website presence on Dorset National Landscape, with links to organisations offering the service.
- Volunteer Centre Dorset / Help & Kindness page listing organisations offering Nature Buddies (in development)
- Logo to be used on any promotional materials

6. Feedback & Evaluation

To help us to improve and celebrate success we will

- Send a **monthly feedback form** to capture progress and challenges
- Provide a '**Jar of Joy**' for volunteers to share highlights and stories
- Conduct **short, informal interviews** (in person or online) with:
 - Nature Buddy participants,
 - Volunteers,
 - Host Organisation staff

Thanks for your interest in joining the Nature Buddies Network, if have any queries, please get in touch.

Kate Townsend & Julie Hammon

Stepin2nature@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

01305 228246