



Create a community and events nature barn

Our vision is for a sheltered, creative and nurturing space for community groups and volunteers to connect, learn and work with nature.

“Engaging with nature has huge benefits for mental and physical wellbeing, but unfortunately many people face all kinds of barriers preventing them from doing so. HEAL’s plan to create an accessible nature barn would be an enormous help for our work, along with many other local organisations, working to enable disadvantaged and vulnerable people to get involved in therapeutic programmes of nature conservation and seasonal crafts.” - Zak Gratton from Froglife

We would like to use a large existing barn space on our site, to become an accessible and flexible indoor/outdoor nature barn which would be partly enclosed and protected from inclement weather. This would be an essential additional events space for us as charity, providing an informal location for both community and income-generating events.

The nature barn would provide a sheltered, creative and nurturing space for community groups and others to connect with nature and to learn and share knowledge and ideas around rewilding and the beneficial impact it has on climate change and our wellbeing through increased access to nature.

In addition to the materials required for the barn, we are seeking funding to cover the furnishing of the barn including weather-proof beanbags, benches, tables and hammocks alongside a wood burner, nature library and two compost toilets for the use of workshop and event leaders and attendees.

The barn will be an important base for nature engagement activities with local community groups, including children and young people and our partners who support people living with dementia, on low income, poor mental health, additional needs or disabilities.

Alongside the community events, this space would also allow us to hold income-generating workshops on a larger scale than our existing events space allows. Events would be informal in format and style but would be well considered in terms of learning outcomes and in meeting our organisational objectives.

Audiences for these would range from those working, or interested in working, towards tackling the climate and biodiversity crisis to nature and wildlife lovers wanting to find out more about specific habitats or species. The space would also serve those interested in the benefits of access to nature to our own wellbeing as well as those of our communities.

Any income generated from these events would be go towards achieving the aims of the charity and in developing the rewilding work carried out on site and would include further investment into our free community event offering within the same space.

The improved and weather-proofed space would also incorporate a farm and garden workshop and farm vehicles store to support land-based activities and volunteer involvement in all practical aspects of the maintenance and evolution of the Heal project.

**Impact**

Improved wellbeing of our underserved community groups through better access to meaningful nature engagement.

Legacy

This space will be well maintained and funded through income generating events to ensure that it is here for the use of the community in decades to come.