**Press release: Tarka Country Trust - Biodiversity Awards 2022**

The Tarka Country Trust are pleased to launch the Biodiversity Awards for this year. The Awards are for individuals and community groups to carry out projects to help local wildlife. Each award comes as a package, which includes a grant of up to £1,000 and individualised support from the trustees.

The awards cover two themes:

* Addressing the loss of localised biodiversity
* Reversing the decline of Devon’s primroses

The Trust would be pleased to receive applications from

* owners of land, which is of poor value in terms of biodiversity which would benefit from improvement.
* groups working together to improve biodiversity within the local area.
* individuals who want to to improve the quantity and diversity of local wildlife

In the 2022 awards there are:

Four awards of £500 and one of £1,000 to be spent on efforts to improve land for wildlife

Batches of 100 primrose plug plants for planting in suitable locations.

For each award, as well as funding, each successful applicant will be assigned the dedicated support of one of the trustees of the Tarka Country Trust to provide expert advice and support.

The Tarka Country Trust are keen for schools to get involved with primrose planting this year. Richard Prowse, Chair of the Trust, said

“The primrose was chosen by the public to be the County flower and certainly Devon has some wonderful displays of primroses in hedges and meadows. But there are so many places where the addition of a few primrose plants would bring a great show of colour in the spring and be great for pollinating insects too. Many schools have suitable planting places and what better way of getting children involved with doing some thing really positive for wildlife.”

The deadline for these applications is 31/08/2022. To find out more and to apply for an award go to the Tarka Country Trust website at <https://www.tarkacountrytrust.org.uk> and complete the application form.

The awards are an annual event and previously some excellent projects have been carried out including new ponds, birdboxes and community primrose planting.

**Notes for Editors**

1. Tarka Country Trust was set up in March 1999. Following a successful application to the Millennium Commission, the Trust ran the Tarka Country Millennium Awards from 2000 to 2004.
2. The Objectives of the Trust are:
* To preserve for the benefit of the public the natural features of northern Devon whilst respecting any historical features.
* To advance the education of the public about conservation and the protection of the environment in northern Devon.