



Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme

Community Fund criteria

Application terms and conditions

This fund will provide grants to organisations, parish councils, community groups and individuals who wish to develop practical projects that enhance, conserve and develop the Solway Plain, complementing the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme. The Scheme's vision, aims and objectives are below:

Vision

This project's vision is to restore, protect and celebrate the natural habitats and heritage of the Solway Plain to invigorate the ancient wetland landscape.

Aims

Increase community involvement and understanding of the landscape and work with landowners to create a landscape suitable for their and the environment's needs

Conserve the unique biodiversity and heritage character of the project area

Objectives

Extend existing managed wetland areas through working with landowners to create a patchwork of wetlands

Consolidate existing peat mosses to mitigate against the effects of climate change through carbon sequestration and flood prevention

Conserve or replace built landscape features such as gate stoops and kested hedgerows and utilise existing older buildings for community purposes of training, education, volunteer bases and interpretation

Provide new intellectual access and interpretive facilities, alongside improved physical access opportunities to enable better understanding of the landscape, especially its role in carbon sequestration

Create new opportunities for training and skills through apprenticeships, placements, the events programme and working with Newton Rigg

Empower local people to become involved in conserving the landscape and make decisions about its future

Ensure close partnership working to share resources and embed this way of working in order to secure the environmental future of the area after the project ends

Furthermore applicants can be from outside the project area as long as the project benefits and is inside the area.



Projects must support the concept of sustainable development, having no negative impact on the environment and providing benefit into the future.

Cash grants are available up to £10,000, in exceptional circumstances. It is expected that the value of each project is comprised of at least 25% from other sources eg in kind voluntary time or other cash. If at least 25% of the total value is made up of voluntary time then grants up to 100% of the total cash value may be given.

Organisations, community groups, parish councils and individuals may apply as long as the outputs are of benefit to the area socially, environmentally, economically and use natural resources carefully.

Grant is subject to the following conditions:

1. Special conditions of the grant offer must be met
2. No grant will be paid for work prior to the offer letter date
3. If the project cash cost and/or overall value increases the grant cash amount stays the same. If the project value and/or cash cost decreases the grant value will decrease proportionally. The grant rate and the percentage offered will only be paid out against the project's cash expenditure; in kind values are not eligible.
4. Projects should conform to the plans submitted. If they change contact the project unit straight away
5. Work must conform to statutory obligations
6. Grant will normally be paid on completion and after forms detailing spend have been completed but interim claims may be negotiated
7. All printed material shall incorporate logos of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, Allerdale Borough Council (the host authority) and the Heritage Lottery Fund, and shall be submitted to the Landscape Partnership Scheme in draft form for approval
8. Competitive quotes are required for contractor work, and their evidence retained
9. Grant will be paid after satisfactory inspection of the work by the grants scheme officer or their nominee
10. The Partnership will be able to reclaim the grant amount if: the outcomes are not achieved in the agreed timescales; any of the Terms and Conditions are not met; and state aid rules are breached
11. Receipts must be submitted with any grant claim
12. Claims must be submitted on or before the claim date provided in the offer letter.
13. Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership staff are entitled to inspect sites and any record or accounts relating to the project
14. Projects must complement the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme's projects and objectives
15. Projects must be sustainable economically, environmentally and socially and have local community support or involvement
16. Not breach State Aid rules and will need to answer the following:



Applicants may be eligible for grant aid support under de minimis regulations. There is a maximum threshold of £7,500. Any 'de minimis' aid granted over the £7,500 limit may be subject to repayment with interest. If you have received any 'de minimis' aid over the last three years (from any source) you should inform us immediately with details of the dates and amounts of aid received. Furthermore, information on this aid must be supplied to any other public authority or agency asking for information on 'de minimis' aid for the next three years. The Regulation states that an individual business may receive public assistance under de minimis in any 3 year period. With these restrictions in mind please confirm in your application whether you consider yourself eligible for de minimis aid. YES / NO

Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis with deadlines before each quarterly Steering Group (dates tbc). In the assessment we may take into consideration the need to have a fair geographical spread over the project area and the need for a variety of projects. Applications will go in front of a panel consisting of members from the Steering Group and will be marked against the criteria set out in the application form.

The Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme reserves the right to publicise funded projects and will consult applicants on text or images used.

Grants will not be offered:

- For work fulfilling statutory conditions or obligations applied to a planning application
- For works the applicant is obliged to do
- For works already underway
- For ongoing revenue costs
- For works that do not have the agreement of the owner of the land which the project will take place on
- For projects where the benefit cannot be maintained for a minimum of 10 years from completion
- For works that conflict with the aims of the Solway Coast AONB, RSPB, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency, Tullie House Museum, the Diocese of Carlisle or West Cumbria Tourism.
- For individual business development which do not have a wider community benefit
- For existing staff time, although this can count as up to 10% in kind contribution to match funding.

For further information please contact the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme on 016973 33055 or info@solwaywetlands.org.uk