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### Helping to deliver a Green Recovery

We want to support a Green recovery where people are taking and inspiring action to address the global climate emergency and nature crisis. This also presents an opportunity to support our communities, land managers and businesses to emerge from the COVID19 pandemic, as there are many things we all will be doing differently. The connection that many of us have with our local environment and community is now even stronger.

### 1. Scheme Objectives

The aim of this grant is to enhance the tree cover within the National Park by funding planting of individual trees or small areas of woodland not eligible for other funding to deliver the first National Park Partnership Plan outcome of improving and enhancing our natural capital.

### 2. Who can apply?

The scheme is open to businesses, organisations, individuals and community or voluntary groups.

Applications from schools and other publicly-funded bodies will be considered.

Applicants do not need to be based within the National Park, provided that the project is delivered within the National Park.

Board members and staff of the National Park Authority are not eligible to apply.

Applicants must disclose whether they have any family members working for the National Park Authority, together with the relationship and proximity of the employee to the grant being sought.

### 3. Priority Outcomes

The grant scheme will support planting of trees that deliver the following priority outcomes:

- 1) Enhancement of riparian and loch shore habitats, usually within 10m of a water course.
- 2) Enhancement of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, see locations [here](#).
- 3) Enhancement of Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas, see locations [here](#).
- 4) Enhancement of the public realm and delivery of public amenity benefits, such as locations adjacent to core paths, public roads and in areas of green space used by the public.
- 5) Enhancement of tree integration into agricultural systems (Agroforestry).
- 6) Enhancement of individual tree features where they are threatened by Ash dieback (Chalara)



Applications will also be considered for other proposals that bring a biodiversity or landscape benefit.

#### 4. Eligibility

The scheme will fund:

- Planting of native tree species and appropriate non-native tree species used for landscape purposes, which would deliver the scheme's objectives. If you have any species queries, please contact our Trees & Woodland Adviser.
- Any required protection i.e. tubes, stakes or stock fencing.
- Associated labour costs will not be funded separately as they are incorporated through the use of standard costs for tree planting, see below.
- If any removal of trees is proposed to enable outcome 6 (Ash dieback) the grant application must be approved prior to any felling being undertaken. Any felling would have to be exempt under the requirement for felling permission from Scottish Forestry.

#### 5. Ineligibility

The scheme will not fund:

- Hedge planting;
- Planting in existing woodland, unless proposed planting following removal of invasive rhododendron within existing woodland.

Or any planting required as a result of:

- tree works permissions or tree replacement notice;
- felling license or other forestry requirements;
- or any other required tree planting for discharge for any other statutory obligations.

All other tree planting proposals with a claim value in excess of £1500 or projects with multiple elements including tree planting should apply to the National Park Grant Scheme.

#### 6. Conditions

If the applicant is not the land owner they must show they have consent of the land owner to undertake the proposed planting.

If a scheme requires EIA screening by Scottish Forestry or affects a designated site, the NPA will discuss this with the applicant and the appropriate competent authority. All works must be undertaken in line with UK Forestry Standard and all other legislation.

#### 7. Assessment and application deadlines

Applications will be assessed on their delivery of the Priority Outcomes and their value for money.

# Tree Planting Grant Scheme 2020-21

## Scheme Guidance



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Applications that score equally will be ranked on:

- Multiple benefits, i.e. delivering more than one Priority Outcome;
- Ratio of matched funding to grant value; and
- The order in which they are received.

Applications will be assessed every 2 months. The closing dates for applications are 17 August, 30 September and 30 November 2020. The scheme may close earlier if all funds have been committed.

We aim to assess the applications within a month of these closing dates.

### **8. Value of grant and VAT**

The value of the project will be based on Scottish Government [Standard costs](#) for tree planting.

Each grant award can be for a minimum of £600 and a maximum of £1500, inclusive of any VAT the applicant is unable to recover.

### **9. Claims**

Claims will be paid with 1 month of submission of the claim form. In certain limited circumstances, up-front payments are available to organisations which met the criteria detailed in section 3 of the application form.