

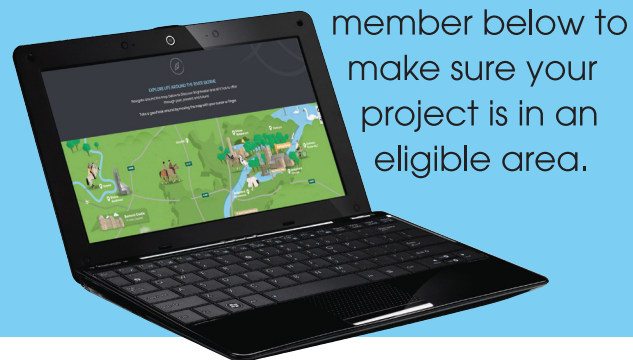


Environmental Small Grants Programme

PROJECTS MUST:

- be based within the Discover Brightwater area (The area around the River Skerne catchment)
- have demonstrable benefits to the natural environment and habitats
- show how any capital projects will be maintained in the future

Please check our map on www.discoverbrightwater.com or contact our relevant team



member below to make sure your project is in an eligible area.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of funding can you apply for?

- capital items, materials, equipment.
- coaching or training activity sessional costs (we would expect reasonable hourly rates).
- capacity building activity.
- transport costs.
- publicity costs.
- overhead/core costs related to a specific project.
- environmental surveys and permits.

Who can apply?

Any individual, organisation or group in the public, private or voluntary sector may apply providing that the project has clear environmental benefits to the Discover Brightwater area.

What can't be funded?

The programme will not directly support the following activities:

- Retail, food and drink projects.
- Renewable energy schemes.
- Activities delivered outside the Discover Brightwater area.

Size of Grant

Grants of between \$750 up to \$5,000 are available and may be used in conjunction with most other sources of funding (though please see the accompanying Environmental Grants Guidelines for Farmers & Land Managers to see exempted funds). In such cases grants may be awarded subject to confirmation that sufficient other funding has been secured to enable the project to be completed.

When to Apply

Applications may be made throughout the duration of the project depending upon available funds and will be considered by the Discover Brightwater and Durham Wildlife Trust panel as required. The panel aims to respond to applicants within 15 working days. The panel's decision is final.

How to Apply

Prior to applying to the Natural Heritage Small Grants Programme, you may wish to have an informal discussion with the Discover Brightwater Natural Environment & Access Projects Officer, Dafydd Jones **e: dafydd@bwlp.co.uk | Tel: 01325 327341** who will also provide you with a copy of the application form.



Environmental Small Grants Programme



About the Programme

The Discover Brightwater Landscape Project is a National Lottery Heritage Fund supported project that aims to reveal, restore and celebrate the heritage of the Discover Brightwater area. This includes its built, natural and cultural heritage. Brightwater refers to the land that surrounds the River Skerne and its tributary burns and which includes: Fishburn, Bishop Middleham, Sedgefield, Mordon, Newton Aycliffe, Heighington, Aycliffe Village, Houghton-le-Side, Walworth, Barmpton and surrounding areas, including those parts of Darlington close to the Skerne.

The Discover Brightwater Natural Heritage Small Grants programme aims to support local organisations and projects to achieve lasting improvements and impact in the local natural environment and run projects that help people to enjoy all the Brightwater area has to offer.

The programme has been designed to be as flexible as possible within the requirements placed upon us by our own funders including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Durham Wildlife Trust and other relevant partners.

Grant Guidelines

Environmental Small Grants will be available for groups and organisations to:

Help improve the natural resilience of the Discover Brightwater area

This could be through training or support which helps your organisation to grow or become more sustainable, or to purchase equipment and/or relevant training that would make a lasting difference to the environmental work your group undertakes. Or it could involve supporting a research, survey or environmental improvement project which will have clear valuable environmental outcomes.

It may involve the planting of appropriate indigenous plants and trees or the removal of invasive non-native species. It could also involve improvements to fencing, creation of ponds or similar projects.

Run additional activities

These could be activities that help attract new visitors, customers or members to your organisation or special events that improve natural habitats and create or restore additional green spaces in the Brightwater area.

Discover Brightwater aims to celebrates our area

Your project may have ideas for activities that help more people connect with the Brightwater area's natural environment.

Your project must show how a grant will benefit both the natural environment and people living in or visiting the Discover Brightwater area.

Need more help?

For more information about the Discover Brightwater programme visit the Partnership's website: www.discoverbrightwater.com

For more information about applying, please contact:
Dafydd Jones

Discover Brightwater, G22 Flexspace Business Incubation Centre
Durham Way South, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 6XP
Tel: 01325 327 341 | e-mail: dafydd@bwlp.co.uk

For information
Tel: 01325 327 341
e-mail: dafydd@bwlp.co.uk



Environmental Grants Guidelines

Additional notes for Farmers and Land Managers.

Please note that any grants supplied by Discover Brightwater and Durham Wildlife Trust are subject to stipulations published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in ‘The guide to cross compliance in England 2019’.

The grants provided cannot be used to fund the same improvements where a land manager has already received rural payments for:

- The Basic Payments Scheme
- Environment Stewardship
- Entry Level Stewardship (including Organic Entry Level Stewardship and Uplands Entry Level Stewardship) agreements starting on or after 1 January 2007
- Higher Level Stewardship (including Organic Higher Level Stewardship and Uplands Higher Level Stewardship) agreements starting on or after 1 January 2007
- Woodland Management Grant and Farm Woodland Premium elements of English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements starting on or after 1 January 2007.

Other areas outside of any stewardship agreements or payment scheme will be considered by the Discover Brightwater panel upon submission of an application and maps detailing the locations of proposals.

All successful applicants will be expected to follow DEFRA’s cross compliance guidelines and all Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and standards for Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAECs) when implementing their improvements.

All improvements carried out with this funding must be maintained to the appropriate specification until 2032. The following standard mandatory requirement are taken from the relevant sections of the Guide to Cross Compliance in England 2019. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/764890/Cross_Compliance_2019_rules_v1.0.pdf

Typical rates are provided in the panel on the opposite page to give an indication of the level of specification and costs the grants panel will expect for certain standard projects.

Fencing along water courses

Stock and post & rail

Specifications for fencing timber:

- Use softwood timber that is fully peeled, coated with wood preservative and pressure treated, or treated with an approved preservative - untreated durable timber can be used as set out in the Forestry Commission guide to forest fencing.
- Use straining posts that are at least 125mm by 125mm square (or have a 100mm top diameter) and are at least 1.85m long if set in concrete or 2.15m if not.
- Set the straining posts at least 750mm into the ground and no more than 150m apart.
- Place a straining post at every change of direction (horizontal or vertical) and at each end of the fence.
- Use struts that are 75mm by 75mm square, or have a 65mm top diameter, and 1.87m long.
- Set the struts at least 450mm into the ground and mortise them into the straining post.
- Use intermediate posts that are 75mm by 75mm square (or have a 65mm top diameter) and 1.75m long.
- Set the intermediate posts at least 600mm in the ground and no more than 3.5m apart.
- Make sure that all the materials meet the relevant British Standards - examine copies of the most up-to-date standards for guidance.

7 STRAND STOCK NETTING:
Fence at least 1.05m high £7.50 per metre.

3 OR 4 STRAND BARBED OR PLAIN WIRE:
2.5mm diameter barbed wire or 4mm diameter plain wire will be funded. £5 per metre

POST AND 3 RAIL:
£18 per metre.

- DO NOT:**
- Attach the fence to trees or hedgerows.
 - Block or restrict access to open access land.
- Other:**
- Set fencing at an appropriate distance from the river (bank top height or greater).
 - Align fencing parallel to flow and build in weak points at areas of risk.
 - Make provision for gated access, to allow control of invasive vegetation by topping or occasional grazing by livestock.
 - Drinking bays should be placed on the inside of meanders or protected by upstream trees and should not impede flow.
 - Access ramps should be sited on slope no more than 1:6 and should be surfaced with local stone held in place at the toe of the bank with untreated timber or similar.
 - Locate water troughs on side streams to minimise poaching near to rivers.
 - Provide hard base around the trough to minimise poaching.
 - Troughs should be used in preference to drinking bays.

Hedge Planting

In accordance with GAEC 7a in ‘The Guide to cross compliance in England 2019’:

- The rules on hedges apply to any hedge growing in, or adjacent to, any land which forms part of the agricultural area of your holding and which has one of the following:
- A continuous length of at least 20 metres, or is part of any such length
 - A continuous length of less than 20 metres where it meets (at an intersection or junction) another hedge at each end.
 - Any gap of 20 metres or less and any gap resulting from a breach of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 will be treated as part of the hedge.

- YOU MUST:**
- take all reasonable steps to keep a green cover on land within 2 metres of the centre of a hedge.

- YOU MUST NOT:**
- Cultivate or apply fertilisers or pesticides to land within 2 metres of the centre of a hedge. Fertilisers include: inorganic and organic fertiliser, organic manures, lime, slurry, sewage sludge, anaerobic digestate, slag, trace elements, calcified seaweed and human waste (not a complete list). Pesticides mean anything used for destroying pests and include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other biocides.

- You will not have broken these rules if you’ve used pesticides for the spot application to control the spread of any of the weeds listed in GAEC 1, or you’ve cultivated land for one of these reasons:
- To establish a green cover where one does not exist and the land is part of a field which is being newly created (whether by merger or division).
 - To establish a green cover where one does not exist and the land was previously outside the scope of cross compliance.
 - You have written permission from RPA to do so, in order to enhance the environment, improve public or agricultural access, or for reasons relating to livestock or crop production.

- These rules do not apply:**
- To land either side of a hedge which is less than 5 years old (you’ll need to keep documentary evidence to prove this).
 - To land forming part of a parcel of 2 hectares or less, as measured within permanent boundary features.
 - To land on the side of any hedge which is facing a dwelling where the hedge marks a boundary of the curtilage of the dwelling.
 - To the casting up of a traditional hedge bank between 1 September and the last day of February (inclusive).

- You must not cut or trim a hedge between 1 March and 31 August (inclusive) unless:**
- The hedge overhangs a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedge obstructs the passage of, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders.
 - The hedge is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted and because of its condition, it or part of it, is likely to cause danger by falling on to a highway, road or footpath; or obstructs the view of drivers or the light from a public lamp.
 - It is to carry out hedge-laying or coppicing during the period 1 March to 30 April (inclusive).
 - It is to trim a newly laid hedge by hand, within 6 months of it being laid.
 - You have received written permission from RPA to cut or trim during the month of August for the purposes of sowing oil seed rape or temporary grassland during the same August.

TYPICAL RATES:

Hedge Planting

Unfenced hedge, single width, self-planted with spiral guards **£3.50 per metre**
Fenced, double width, double rabbit fenced..... **£20.00 per metre**
Labour **£3 – 4 per metre**

Hedge laying

Dense hedge (based on 20 – 40m per day) **£15.50 per metre**

Tree Planting

Single tree, stake guard **£10**
Shelter belt (per 100m)
100 large species (oak, lime) **£60**
100 medium species (cherry, birch) **£75**
100 shrubs **£40**
100 stakes, guards & ties **£180**

Public right of way

Kissing gate (plain hoops, galvanised only) **£240**
Height – 1m to 1.2m
Maximum length in fence line – 2m
Width across hoops – 1.2m

Applications for larger kissing gates with meshed hoops will be considered where necessary for stock control.

Bridle gate (2 way, galvanised only) **£507**
Height – 1.2m
Maximum length in fence line – 1.85m
Gate leaf – 1.6m

Bridle gate (2 way, treated timber) **£237**
Height – 1.2m
Maximum length in fence line – 2.1m
Gate leaf – 1.6m
Stock proof handle can be supplied for additional **£21.50**

Timber stile **£85**
Height to top rail– 0.8m – 0.9m
Length in fence line – 1.3m
A stile and dog way can be supplied for an additional **£46**

Field gate
12ft galvanised field gate **£150**
Timber hanging and latching post, 150mm x 150mm x 2100mm **£20**
Galvanised hanging and latch kits **£30**

