



Activity Fund Guidelines

About the Programme

Throughout history woodlands have provided food, shelter and timber for tools, homes and fuel. The modern forestry industry has become very focused on large scale plantations, however the majority of woodlands in County Durham are small, and in multiple, private ownerships.

The Durham Woodland Revival (DWR) programme will help woodland owners and communities reconnect with this natural heritage, bringing neglected woodlands back into active management and enhance this valuable resource for future generations. Management will increase the biodiversity and amenity value, as well as creating local business opportunities.

Communities will learn how to survey and understand their woodlands and be supported to take an active role in the care of these sites; enabling good, future management decisions to be made. Woodland owners and contractors will be upskilled and given help with grant applications and management plans, with the aim of restoring ancient woodlands.

More than 81 hectares of new woodlands will be planted, an area the size of the historic Durham city centre. All of this will strengthen the resilience of this area against the effects of climate change.

Durham Woodland Revival is a partnership between Durham County Council, Forestry Commission, Northwoods, Wear Rivers Trust and Woodland Trust, supported by National Lottery players through The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Fund guidelines

The Activity Fund provides the opportunity for a wide range of organisations, community-based projects and initiatives to participate in DWR and to deliver activities that spread the reach of the programme.

Who can apply?

The following groups can apply to the Activity Fund:

- Charities
- Community or voluntary groups with charitable aims
- Community/parish councils
- Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Local schools
- Social enterprise organisations



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- Other not for profit organisations or partnerships led by not for profit organisations.

To be eligible, your organisation must:

- Have an annual turnover under £100,000
- Be a constituted organisation
- Deliver the funded activities within our area. Please check [our map](#) to make sure your project is in an eligible area.

Size of fund

Awards worth up to £500 are available; you may apply for a further award once a previous one has been spent and reported against, however priority will be given to new groups. Organisations should not expect to receive repeat awards for the same project from the scheme.

What will we fund?

The Activity Fund is aimed at creating greater community harmony, cohesion and understanding the natural heritage of our woodlands, whilst having fun at the same time.

Examples of the types of activities we will support include the following delivered in or linked to your woodland:

- Mini festivals
- Arts and crafts events
- Green woodworking
- Music, drama or other community arts
- Camping events
- History research projects, eg oral history

We will not support:

- Promotion of religious activity
- Capital improvements
- Anything not linked to the natural woodland heritage of DWR
- Activities begun before the grant has been awarded
- Activities delivered outside the DWR area.



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Volunteer time

If successful, you will be asked to record and share with DWR, volunteer time spent on your project as a contribution towards our Lottery funding. This could include volunteers' time spent planning and running your event or activity.

Volunteer time is valued as:

- Unskilled tasks at £10 an hour, such as litter picking or marshalling.
- Skilled tasks at £20 an hour, such as planning and leading an education workshop or similar activity at a public event.
- Professional tasks at £50 an hour, such as providing architectural plans, writing a business plan or creating an interpretation strategy.
- A volunteer day is 7 hours.

Delivering safely during Covid-19

If your activity involves bringing people together you will need to consider how to do this safely in light of the Covid-19 restrictions at the time of delivery. All activities must be delivered in accordance with current regulations.

Legacy

You will need to demonstrate how your activities will continue to have a positive impact after they are completed.

When to apply

The Activity Fund will be available from November 2020 until the end of the programme, or until the funding pot is exhausted, whichever comes soonest. This is a rolling programme, there are no application deadlines.

You will usually receive a decision within two to three weeks of submitting your application, however this may occasionally be longer. Please note, you won't be awarded a grant, DWR will purchase materials/equipment or book activity providers as requested, which may take a number of weeks from a decision. Please allow plenty of time between submitting your application and the date of your activity.



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How to Apply

Prior to applying to the Activities Fund, you must have an informal discussion with the DWR Community Engagement Officer. This expression of interest will ensure that your project is eligible and you will be sent the application form.

Durham Woodland Revival

Tel: 03000 265671

Email: durhamwoodlandrevival@durham.gov.uk