

SNH Grants: Grants for Land Managers, Farmers and Crofters



Introduction

Scottish Natural Heritage works with others to conserve and enhance Scotland's natural heritage, and to help people understand, enjoy and care for it. It offers grants to help individuals and organisations carry out projects which match its aims.

Grants for Land Managers, Farmers & Crofters

SNH wants to increase the natural heritage value of land within farm, croft and estate units throughout Scotland, including those areas operating under more intensive agricultural systems. Grants are available to help land owners and managers to improve the appearance and wildlife value of their land through:

- the improvement or creation of **Landscape Features** such as traditional field boundaries, hedgerows, historic and designed landscapes, roadside, river-side or parkland trees;

- **Nature Conservation** and the enhancement or creation of **Habitats** such as natural woodlands, old hay meadows, water meadows and other grasslands with wild

flowers, heather moorland, peatlands, dune and machair systems and riverbanks, ponds and wetlands;

- the conservation or enhancement of important **Geological Features**;

- measures to conserve **Species**, such as the purchase of bat boxes, nesting boxes and nesting islands. Priority will be given to those species which are protected or endangered.

Grants are also available to assist land owners and managers to provide for and manage public enjoyment of their land through:

- **Access Provision** such as the creation, improvement or management of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways and signposting and waymarking;

- **Recreation Facilities** such as visitor reception facilities, educational and interpretive facilities, viewpoints, car parks and low cost accommodation, where these relate to enjoyment of the natural heritage;

- **Ranger Services** to help visitors enjoy and understand the natural heritage and to manage recreational activities and pressures.

SNH also supports the preparation and implementation of whole farm or estate

Management Plans for conservation and recreation, and of plans relating to specific natural heritage features or interests. However, conservation plans prepared under ESA regulations are not eligible for SNH grant.

SNH staff can advise on appropriate projects and on SNH priorities within your area. SNH is always willing to consider imaginative and innovative proposals, even when they are not covered by the examples given above.

Rates of Grant

All SNH grants are discretionary. Rates vary according to the different circumstances of each application and according to local priorities, but rarely exceed 50%.



Higher rates may sometimes be offered for a limited number of priority projects. These include upland footpath management and projects which enhance the natural heritage of designated areas (such as National Scenic Areas and Sites of Special Scientific Interest) or other land of special natural heritage value.

Please note that SNH will not normally fund projects or elements of projects which are eligible for funding through agricultural and forestry support or agri-environment programmes. The projects eligible for SNH grant and the priorities of our grants programme may change on introduction of the EU's Agri-environment Programme.

Management Agreements

Management Agreements are another mechanism through which SNH supports projects which promote the conservation, enjoyment or understanding of the natural heritage. Applicants wishing to undertake a programme of ongoing positive works may be offered the opportunity to enter into such an Agreement. This would be tailored to meet the needs of the site and could offer land managers longer term finan-



cial support plus a more structured approach to their improvement programme.

Other Sources of Funds

There are many other sources of grant aid and assistance which overlap with SNH's grant scheme, such as the Forestry Commission, SOAFD, Scottish Tourist Board, Scottish Sports Council, Historic Scotland, Local Enterprise Company or local authority. In certain circumstances, joint funding between SNH and one or more of these agencies may be appropriate. Contributions from other agencies are taken into account in setting the rate of grant offered by SNH.

FWAG

SNH supports the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, and encourages landowners, farmers and crofters to seek the advice of FWAG advisors. For further information and advice contact FWAG Scotland,

Rural Centre, West Mains of Ingliston, Newbridge, Midlothian EH28 8NZ.

Further Help and Advice

Before proceeding with an application you should read the General Information leaflet on grants (available from all SNH offices) and discuss your proposals with SNH staff. At this point, staff will be able to advise whether a Management Agreement might be a more appropriate mechanism for assisting your project.

SNH produces a series of grants leaflets and a wide range of other leaflets, information sheets, technical reports and publications as well as providing specialist advisory services. These can assist you in developing your proposals and preparing an application. Details are available from your local SNH Area office.

Scottish Natural Heritage is an independent body established by Parliament in 1992, responsible to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Our task is to secure the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's unique and precious natural heritage - the wildlife, habitats and landscapes which have evolved in Scotland through the long partnership between people and nature.

We advise on policies and promote projects which aim to improve the natural heritage and support its sustainable use.

Our aim is to help people enjoy Scotland's natural heritage responsibly, understand it more fully and use it wisely so that it can be sustained for future generations.



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for
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