

Scotland: delegated decisions May 2025

20/06/2025

[See all updates](#)

Schedule of decisions under delegated powers for Scotland at The National Lottery Heritage Fund on 22 May 2025.

[Funding decisions](#)

National Lottery Heritage Grants £10,000 to £250,000

The Tomb of the Eagles

Applicant: South Ronaldsay & Burray Development Trust

Project description: This project seeks to buy, secure and subsequently manage the Neolithic site popularly known as the Tomb of the Eagles, on South Ronaldsay, Orkney. The site includes the chambered tomb, an excavated Bronze Age burnt mound, and a visitor centre which provides a focus for the site.

Decision: Award grant of £101,607 (17%)

Catchment Futures: Training for Change

Applicant: Forth Rivers Trust

Project description: To focus on climate change adaptation and community upskilling in four communities in the Forth catchment: Raploch, Bathgate, Tillicoultry and Denny.

Decision: Reject

Dunfermline – A City Built on Heritage

Applicant: Carnegie Dunfermline Trust

Project description: To use built and natural heritage locations, and design and deliver a programme of cultural engagements, to celebrate and promote the history and heritage of Dunfermline.

Decision: Reject

Gairloch Museum's 50th anniversary. 50 Years, 50 Voices.

Applicant: Gairloch & District Heritage Company Ltd

Project description: To mark Gairloch Museum's 50th anniversary, this project aims to use W.S. Thomson's 1940s–60s postcards of Wester Ross to explore changes in local communities over the past 70 years.

Decision: Reject

Cromarty Firth Green Finance Advisory Service (working title)

Applicant: The European Nature Trust

Project description: To provide an advisory and facilitation service to landowners, land managers and project designers during the development of each project under The Cromarty Firth Catchment Restoration Initiative. The service would provide advice to assess and maximise opportunities for private investment.

Decision: Reject

River Annan Restoration

Applicant: Galloway Fisheries Trust

Project description: To focus on the river system and its associated habitats. The river Annan flows for approximately 40 miles and the project works across this entire area, with ongoing site development in the upper catchment, and site development in the mid and lower catchment.

Decision: Award grant of £61,484 (50%)

Developing Standardised Biodiversity Metrics and Financial Tools for Peatlands and Woodlands

Applicant: The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Project description: This project seeks to further develop a viable biodiversity methodology for peatland and woodland in Scotland. It will focus on data aggregation and analysis to estimate credit potential for sites, create a community similarity index to contextualise results for UK woodlands and peatlands, and refine the framework for better accessibility and uptake.

Decision: Award grant of £46,274 (51%)

Wills' Ciggy Factory, Glasgow: A People's History

Applicant: Lost Strathclyde Heritage Group

Project description: To record, preserve and share lived experiences of one of Glasgow's former industrial workplaces and capture fundamental aspects of Glasgow's heritage that affected many thousands of individuals, families and communities.

Decision: Reject

Armed Forces Day and Family Day

Applicant: Ancre Somme Association (SCIO)

Project description: This project seeks to plan and organise Armed Forces Day at Callendar Park, Falkirk, each year with the aim of bringing the community together.

Decision: Reject

Arkaig Natural Capital: Regenerative Investment in West Lothian

Applicant: Donald Andrew John Cameron trading as Achnacarry Estate

Project description: To facilitate the recovery of some of Scotland's most depleted habitats at scale and pace, and demonstrate the viability of external private investment in enabling delivery.

Decision: Award grant of £98,015 (50%)

#FIRNS Connecting Investment, Nature and Communities

Applicant: SCOTLAND: The Big Picture

Project description: This project aims to secure more private investment to finance the restoration of Scotland's nature, and move towards this becoming a self-sustaining area of their work.

Decision: Award grant of £134,947 (100%)

Developing Scotland's Market Infrastructure to support Private Investment into Delivering High Quality Water Resources for a Climate-Resilient Scotland

Applicant: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Project description: This project will review metrics, standards, methods and codes to identify how the benefits of managing Scotland's current water resources are undertaken, and identify gaps to address in supporting land managers, projects and local communities in accessing markets.

Decision: Reject

Preparing for the launch of a Scottish Rivers Fund

Applicant: Fisheries Management Scotland

Project description: This project seeks to bring a Scottish Rivers Fund (previously called the River Catchment Restoration Fund) to market. The aim is to achieve transformative catchment scale restoration action and heightened recognition of the importance of rivers supported by an innovative nature market mechanism.

Decision: Award grant of £105,826 (51%)

FNLRT Nature Finance Strategy implementation

Applicant: Findhorn Nairn & Lossie Rivers Trust

Project description: To attract and secure high-integrity private finance opportunities to the River Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie catchments, to support and enable nature recovery and connection at a watershed-scale.

Decision: Reject

Edinburgh New Gardens: Establishing a Funding and Financing Ecosystem for Edinburgh's Natural Capital

Applicant: City of Edinburgh Council

Project description: To establish a portfolio of strategic and investible nature recovery sites managed by the council. Potential investors and buyers can view the costs, values and paybacks of council-owned land across Edinburgh.

Decision: Reject

Wilder Carbon Standard for Nature and Climate

Applicant: Kent Wildlife Trust

Project description: This FIRNS market and investment readiness project aims to test the launch of Wilder Carbon's investment mechanism in Scotland and ensure that financing supports verified and measurable nature benefits through their voluntary carbon standard, the Wilder Carbon Standard for Nature and Climate (WCS).

Decision: Reject

Natural CapitALL

Applicant: Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society Ltd

Project description: To make natural capital markets accessible for farmers while ensuring the benefits of restoring Scotland's natural heritage are shared across diverse farming communities. By aligning farmer needs with supply chain buyers and institutional investors, the project aims to unlock large-scale investment opportunities.

Decision: Reject

FIRNS 3: Adapting supply chain insetting scheme Exchange Market to pay Scottish farmers for environmental and social outcomes

Applicant: Soil Association Limited (The)

Project description: The aim of the project is to develop and prepare to deploy a robust and scalable mechanism that rewards Scottish farmers for enhancing nature outcomes. Around 79% of Scotland's total land area is farmed, so improving nature outcomes from agriculture is vital to conserving nature across Scotland overall.

Decision: Reject

Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 Volunteer Programme

Applicant: Aberdeen City Council

Project description: To engage and empower approximately 400 volunteers to deliver a world-class maritime event celebrating Aberdeen's rich seafaring heritage. This initiative seeks to provide training, foster community pride and showcase Aberdeen as a global hub for culture and heritage.

Decision: Reject

Financing restoration of the River Don

Applicant: The River Don Trust

Project description: To restore the River Don, this project aims to develop a clear baseline of its current condition. This will then enable the production of a programme of enhancement activities with the aim of these being delivered in partnership with green finance partners.

Decision: Reject

Elevating Heritage: Ensuring Access for All at Thirlestane Castle

Applicant: Thirlestane Castle Trust

Project description: To create an inviting and fully accessible visitor welcome space at Thirlestane Castle. The project aims for a legacy of a more accessible, engaging and sustainable heritage site that enriches the local community and inspires future generations to value and protect Scotland's historical treasures.

Decision: Reject

Bridging Histories: The Legacy of Thomas Blake Glover

Applicant: Absafe SCIO

Project description: To celebrate and educate the community about the life and legacy of Thomas Blake Glover, a pivotal figure in Scottish-Japanese relations. The project will focus on heritage preservation, community engagement, learning and sustainability.

Decision: Reject

Developing an Investment-Ready Vision and Roadmap for Peatland Restoration at scale in Shetland

Applicant: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Project description: To co-create a shared vision for Shetland's peatlands, ensuring that restoration is locally led, economically viable and environmentally ambitious. The project aims to develop a roadmap for landscape-scale peatland restoration, setting out clear practical steps, potential funding mechanisms and long-term strategies for Shetland's peatlands to thrive.

Decision: Reject

Nith Catchment – Summit to Sea

Applicant: Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership

Project description: This project seeks to create a sustainable and resilient environment that supports biodiversity, enhances water quality and promotes community wellbeing. The project aims for a legacy of improved natural habitats, increased community engagement and a wellbeing economy that benefits all stakeholders.

Decision: Reject

The Ayrshire Coalfield Investable Peat Project

Applicant: East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative

Project description: To offer peat depth surveys, emissions and related calculations and potential restoration designs to landowners and managers in the East Ayrshire Coalfield Area for them to understand whether they have an investable peatland restoration proposition.

Decision: Reject

Linking the Lochs – Investing in Laxay salmon

Applicant: Atlantic Salmon Trust Ltd

Project description: To enhance ecological resilience at a catchment scale, ensuring the Laxay catchment can sustainably support both nature and the local community into the future.

Decision: Reject

The Restoration of Balmacara Old Mill Hall

Applicant: Balmacara Community Trust

Project description: To restore the derelict water-powered sawmill as a community gathering space. The project seeks to preserve its heritage features using sympathetic restoration techniques to create a space for people to gather and attend community events celebrating the mill's history.

Decision: Award grant of £144,497 (11%)

Provan Hall: 500 Years and Beyond

Applicant: Provan Hall Community Management Trust

Project description: To sustain the historic Provan Hall for the future, through encouraging community development and cohesion, active citizenship and raising the profile of Provan Hall's and North East Glasgow's heritage on an international scale.

Decision: Award grant of £89,972 (50%)

Orkney Junior Curators Programme (Scapa Flow Museum, Kirbuster Farm Museum and St Magnus Cathedral)

Applicant: Orkney Islands Council

Project description: This project seeks to strengthen and develop robust links with schools through a new junior curators programme. The programme is founded on the principles of inclusion, access and participation through co-creational creative practice and aims to cement the continuation of Orkney heritage into the future.

Decision: Award grant of £38,082 (100%)

Central Scotland Green Network – Delivering Biodiversity Enhancement at Scale

Applicant: Green Action Trust

Project description: To work with developers, landowners and public bodies to channel capital to projects where significant biodiversity enhancement can be delivered, funded in whole or part through developer

obligations as required by NPF4.

Decision: Reject

Dreel Burn Investment Readiness Partnership – Delivery Phase

Applicant: Fife Coast and Countryside Trust

Project description: To deliver the first purchase of a stacked ecosystem restoration code (ERC) credit on the Dreel Burn, alongside a carbon offset and enabling carbon insets – a catchment covering 5,000 hectares of mainly arable land and producers of organic meat products.

Decision: Award grant of £119,901 (43%)

Scottish School Grounds Nature Restoration Project

Applicant: The Learning Through Landscapes Trust

Project description: To restore nature to the 4750 hectares of Scottish school grounds for the benefit of schools and their surrounding communities. The project seeks to achieve this by demonstrating the viability of an innovative investment model combining commercial and philanthropic products, and highlighting opportunities for existing public environment and health funds in Scotland to work creatively together.

Decision: Reject

Our Peatland Promise Accelerator

Applicant: Highland Tourism CIC

Project description: This community-led initiative aims to restore degraded peatlands in the Scottish Highlands by developing a market-ready investment framework.

Decision: Reject

Tall Ships Races 2025: Sailing Through History – Engaging Schools, Families and Tall Ships visitors in Aberdeen's Maritime Heritage: An educational programme bringing Aberdeen's maritime history to life and its relevance to the Sea Cadets of today

Applicant: Aberdeen Unit (No2) of the Sea Cadet Corps

Project description: To focus on Aberdeen's rich maritime heritage, particularly its role in the Tall Ships Races, links to today's mariners (ie the Sea Cadets), the Aberdeen Line and its connections to the global tea trade. The city has a long history of shipbuilding, seafaring and trade, and the project aims to bring these stories to life for children, families and visitors during the Tall Ships Races 2025.

Decision: Award grant of £21,725 (92%)

Grant change

River Park Programme

Applicant: Green Action Trust

Decision: Agree change in grant percentage from 58% to 56%

Grant increase

Buckhaven Heritage Regeneration

Applicant: Fife Council

Decision: Award grant increase of £21,500 to make a total grant of £106,500