

Defra Trees Call to Action Fund – Expression of Interest guidance

This guidance helps applicants submit an Expression of Interest form in the Defra Trees Call to Action Fund through the online application portal.

The Expression of Interest form (EOI) is mandatory for anyone thinking of applying to the Trees Call to Action Fund. We will use the information you provide in the EOI to decide whether or not to invite you to submit a full application. An invitation to apply does not guarantee a grant from us but does indicate that we see potential in your initial proposals.

We will aim to respond to all EOIs within ten working days of the deadline. If we decide to invite you to apply, you will then have seven weeks to submit a full application.

You **must** read the [Trees Call to Action Fund guidance](#) before submitting this form.

If you are not already registered on the portal you will need to register prior to submission.

To submit, please complete the form on our [application portal](#). If you decide to copy and paste text from a word document directly into your EOI form, please review your application before submission and make changes where necessary to ensure you do not exceed the stated word count limits. You will be able to save this form as you work on it.

EOI questions

Please note, the National Lottery Heritage Fund uses a single EOI form for all of the programmes that we administer. Some questions need to be answered differently for the Trees Call to Action Fund, so read this guide to understand what information is required where.

1. Have you spoken to anyone at The Fund about your idea?

If so, tell us their name. If you have spoken to anyone in Defra or the Forestry Commission, please tell us their names and job titles also.

2. Describe what you will do during the project

What sites or areas the project will work on: location, size of project area, and any designations.

Who your partners are and the current status of the partnership. Tell us if you plan to bring further partners on board, and if so, who. How will you build local consensus around your project aims and activities?

Summarise what the project will do (capital work and activities).

200 word limit.

3. Do you have a title for the project?

A short descriptive title (maximum 10 words), starting with #Defra.

4. What outcomes do you want to achieve?

Tell us which of the England Trees Action Plan objectives you plan to achieve and how (projects will be prioritised if they meet multiple objectives):

- Expanding and connecting our trees and woodlands.
- Trees and woodlands as part of the green economy (skills and knowledge).
- Protecting and improving our trees and woodlands.
- Connecting people with trees and woodlands.

Indicate your target KPIs (e.g. hectares of woodland creation enabled by 2030; £s raised for woodland creation by 2030).

Tell us how the partnership will leverage other public and private funding for future project delivery.

200 word limit.

5. Tell us about the heritage of the project

Briefly describe the potential for woodland creation in the landscape or region where your project will take place, including the current level of tree coverage, communities and landowners you will be working with. Your project activity must take place in England.

100 word limit.

6. What is the need for this project?

What work have you done that shows the potential benefits of the project? Tell us about links to current strategies and your track record in contributing to these. What consultation and partnership building work has taken place to date?

200 word limit.

7. How long do you think the project will take?

Tell us an estimated start and end date.

Include key milestones by which you will measure your progress.

You should hear the outcome of your application by end March 2022. All funding must be spent (including evaluation and final financial reporting) no later than March 2025.

50 word limit.

8. How much is the project likely to cost?

Provide a short breakdown of headline items of expenditure, indicating costs per partner. Costs can be estimated. Please see the fund guidance for full information on eligible costs, including signposting to other Defra and Forestry Commission grants for the costs of tree planting and woodland management.

Tell us your estimated level and source of match funding (note all projects must contribute a minimum of 5% cash match funding).

200 word limit.

9. How much funding are you planning to apply for from us?

This figure should be between £250,001 and £500,000.

Your Expression of Interest will be rejected if you indicate a sum outside of these limits.

10. When are you likely to submit a funding application, if asked to do so?

The deadline for applications will be 12 noon 20 January 2022.

50 word limit.