

The Carnaby Wind Farm Tree Planting Fund

Guidance Note for Applicants

Introduction & Scope

The Carnaby Wind Farm Tree Planting Fund is open to private and public landowners for the purposes of delivering tree planting activity in the vicinity of the Carnaby Wind Farm development. For the purposes of this fund, tree planting shall be interpreted to include the following.

- Establishing new areas of native woodland
- Creating new native hedgerows
- Planting new clusters of individual native trees

It is the intention that projects supported under this fund will be significant in scale, rural in nature and offer wide benefits to the local area. We do not envisage the fund to support work in domestic gardens.

Grant Awards

The fund will award grants of no greater than £1,000 to each successful application. However, this amount may be greater in exceptional circumstances where it can be fully justified by the applicant. There is no restriction on multiple applications for separate schemes from the same landowner, but please be aware that it is our intention to distribute the benefits of the Carnaby Wind Farm Tree Planting Fund as widely as possible throughout the area surrounding the wind farm development.

Prioritising Applications to Receive Funding

All schemes submitted to the Carnaby Wind Farm Tree Planting Fund will be prioritised in relation to their proximity to the development. It is envisaged that proposals forthcoming shall be within an approximately 3km radius of the Carnaby Wind Farm site.

Once the schemes have been prioritised, they will be considered against a series of criteria to ensure that applications seek to maximise the benefits that the funding can bring to the wider area.

Funding Criteria

Each scheme will be considered on its merits and in accordance with a set of criteria based on the following factors: -

- Deliverability
- Value for Money
- Benefits/Outcomes
- Sustainability

Fulfilling the Criteria

The schemes should attempt to comply with all, or some, of the following criteria against which they shall be considered.

- That the scheme is of sufficient scale to make a beneficial impact to the area.
- That any tree planting activity comprises of solely native species appropriate to the area
- That the scheme will deliver a clear benefit for wildlife (i.e. species and habitats)
- That the scheme will deliver a clear enhancement to the local landscape
- That the scheme offers a screening benefit, preferably from a public highway or other public right of ways, or from a settlement

Schemes are not expected to fulfil all of these criteria, but applicants should bear in mind that the funding will be awarded on a competitive basis, and that those schemes that can demonstrate the maximum benefit are more likely to receive support.

Evaluating Schemes

Where there are sufficient funds to do so, all suitable schemes will be supported where demonstrable benefits can be identified in accordance with the above criteria. A small, informal grant panel will be organised to oversee the evaluation of projects, and this panel will be made up of representatives of the local authority, environmental organisations and local Parish/Town Councils.

Please note that should the fund be over-subscribed, some schemes which fulfil the above criteria will inevitably not be able to receive funding. The grant panel will have the duty of deciding how to prioritise schemes received. Unsuccessful applications will be recorded on file and landowners contacted should further funding become available in the future.