

Love Your Network Grant Guidelines 23/24

A grant providing equipment, training and advice for small community-led projects that benefit people and wildlife, on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network in Scotland.

Communities play a crucial role in encouraging others to walk and cycle for more of the journeys they make every day, by making areas more enjoyable or interesting to travel through. The Love Your Network grant fund supports communities to make physical improvements to traffic-free sections of National Cycle Network, or to learn more about their route, by providing grants towards projects which will benefit people and wildlife.

Why fund this?

Sustrans only has maintenance responsibilities for a small portion of the National Cycle Network in Scotland, where we support maintenance volunteering. We encourage voluntary litter picking across all areas of traffic-free Network in Scotland, but we also aim to support those community groups that are already helping to look after their local routes or are hoping to begin, and those who simply want to learn more about their valuable local greenspaces.

People are much more likely to walk and cycle on attractive, interesting, and biodiverse routes; safe, clean, and green routes can make a journey more enjoyable and increase everyone's confidence in their travel. Learning more about the amazing array of wildlife species that call these routes home can also inspire more people to explore their local National Cycle Network paths.

Communities are the greatest sources of knowledge across local areas, and often provide the most acute understanding of how to improve these stretches of the route. The Love Your Network grant fund aims to aid local communities in making the most of the remarkable assets on their doorsteps and helping the National Cycle Network in Scotland to flourish.

Who can apply for a grant?

Love Your Network support is available to constituted community groups, or organisations supporting voluntary action, e.g., trusts, charities, social enterprises, etc. If you are an informal group without a constitution, but can otherwise demonstrate your organisation and action, please contact us so we can help with this.

Individuals and profit-making companies are not eligible to apply.

The projects must take place on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network, as shown using the solid orange line on the [National Cycle Network map](#).

What does the grant consist of?

The Love Your Network grant supports community groups with equipment, training, and advice. We have produced a list of options for you to choose from, but if you are looking for support that is not listed, please choose the 'other' option on the [application form](#) or get in touch and we can discuss your needs.

Litterpicking bundles	Content	Notes for application
Litterpicking 5	5 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 5 x Handihoop 5 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 10	10 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 10 x Handihoop 10 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 25	25 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 25 x Handihoop 25 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 40	40 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 40 x Handihoop 40 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking (children) 5	5 x Graptor litterpicker 5 x Handihoop 5 x gloves	
Litterpicking (children) 10	10 x Graptor litterpicker 10 x Handihoop 10 x gloves	
Litterpicking (children) 20	20 x Graptor litterpicker 20 x Handihoop 20 x gloves	
Long litterpickers	6ft Litterpicker Pro	Please specify number when prompted
Handicart Lite	Wheeled littercart with carrybag	Please specify number when prompted
Handicart Duo	Wheeled littercart for segregating rubbish and recycling, with carrybag	Please specify number when prompted
Litterpicking equipment is from Helping Hand Environmental. You can look up details here: https://www.hhenvironmental.co.uk/shop/		
Maintenance Tools	Content	Notes for application
Handtools	Pathway Broom (Greenham)	You can look up details here: www.greenham.com
	Polypropylene Broom (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Dutch Hoe (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Solid Socket Garden Spade (Greenham)	Please supply list of handtools and quantity needed from this list when prompted
	SpartanPro Solid Socket Garden Fork (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Gauging Trowel (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Pruning Bypass Action Secateurs (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Bypass Lopping Shears (Greenham)	For handtools from another supplier, please select 'Other equipment/training'
	SpartanPro Hand Hedge Shears (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Garden Rake (Greenham)	
	SpartanPro Pruning Saw (Greenham)	

Scything equipment	One Blade Scythe Set – Lawns & Meadows (Scythe Cymru)	You can look up details here: www.scythecymru.co.uk Please supply selection from this list when prompted For scything equipment not listed here, please select 'Other equipment/training'
	One Blade Scythe Set – Grass, Weeds & Rougher Mowing (Scythe Cymru)	
	Two Blade Scythe Set (Scythe Cymru)	
	'Learn to Scythe' guidebook (Scythe Cymru)	
	'Managing Grass with a Scythe' guidebook (Scythe Cymru)	
	Grass Rake	
Wildlife Identification and Recording Workshops		
Pollinator Identification and Recording training (up to 1 day)	Up to one day with our expert pollinator ID trainer to set group up with skills to record butterflies and/or bumblebees on a section of National Cycle Network through the iRecord or the BeeWalk survey.	March-July
Beginner Bird Identification and Recording training (up to 1 day)	Up to one day with our expert bird ID trainer to set group up with skills to record birds on a section of National Cycle Network through iRecord.	Year round
And more...		
Other equipment/training	Opportunity to apply for equipment or training that is not part of a bundle e.g., hi-vis vests, wildflower seeds, handtools from other supplier, bike trailer, power tools, graffiti wipes, protective glasses etc.	Please supply list of equipment training needed when prompted, including supplier, cost and website links (not to exceed £1000)

What is not eligible for a grant?

The following is not an exhaustive list. Sustrans holds the right to refuse applications which contain elements not listed here.

- Staff time or wages
- Fuel costs
- The construction of paths
- Structural repairs to existing infrastructure e.g., walls, bridges, etc.
- Installation of artwork or interpretation (please see [ArtRoots fund](#) for this).
- Areas not on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network.

Permissions

Landowner permission will be required for your project if you are making changes to land or the environment using tools, management practices, or operating machinery on their land. Please obtain this in writing in advance of applying. If you need advice on how to do this, please get in touch.

For application with large changes, you will also need to demonstrate that you are covered by public liability insurance.

Please note - Where we have maintenance responsibilities, or where there are complex land management agreements in place, we may not be able to support your application.

Community involvement

The fund exists to support voluntary action by communities on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network, so please include an outline of community involvement in your application.

Please specifically mention how your project might reach seldom-heard groups or improve access or opportunities for everyone.

Measuring impact

When writing your application, please think about how you will measure the impact of your work. Sustrans require groups to:

- Complete a feedback form within 6 months of receiving the grant.
- Provide photos and quotes from the group showcasing the impact of your project.
- Potentially become a case study for the Love Your Network grant.

Deadline for applications

Applications will be assessed monthly from May 2023 through to February 2024.

The 2023/24 funding round will close at 23:59 on 5th February 2024.

How do I apply?

You can start your application for a grant by completing the online form [here](#). Your application will be assigned to our Project Officer who will contact you for an initial discussion about your project and to arrange a site visit if your project is eligible.

Terms and conditions

By applying for this grant, you agree to:

- Sustrans contacting you about your project.
- Use the equipment and training as outlined in your application or tell us if that changes.
- Give feedback on your project using the feedback form provided.
- Share photos and quotes with Sustrans showing the impact of the grant in your area.
- Share a celebratory post on your social media once the grant has been awarded, this will help us promote the work that Sustrans does and encourage others to get involved in our cause.
- Sign up to the Love Your Network newsletter where we share news and updates about Love Your Network projects across Scotland.

If you have any queries, please contact our Love Your Network Project Officer, Laura Preston, on laura.preston@sustrans.org.uk.

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey www.sustrans.org.uk