

Green Recovery Challenge Fund Round 2

Forest Futures – Project Evaluation

Background

The Lake District Foundation, working in partnership with Cumbria Woodlands, were awarded funding from The Green Recovery Challenge Fund* grant to continue and develop the restoration of ecologically important woodlands in the Thirlmere Valley, Cumbria.

The project, delivered over 18 months (ending in March 23), is working to deliver three core activities:

- **Woodland Restoration:** Cumbria Woodlands, the Woodland Trust and United Utilities have completed assessments of some of the most important Ancient Woodland sites in the Thirlmere Valley, which are both SSSI's and Plantations on Ancient Woodland sites. Supported by the recruitment of a new Graduate Forester, the project is undertaking delivery of vital restoration work on the ground at Thirlmere.
- **Growing the woodland creation and management project pipeline:** Providing light touch promotion and advice on woodland creation and management to landowners / managers across Cumbria. This element of the project aims to increase awareness of, and generate applications to, mainstream woodland creation/management funding streams.
- **Growing Skills:** The project aimed to contribute to efforts to ensure a skills pipeline into the sector, and to encourage and develop Graduate Foresters to take their first steps on their career pathway and to deliver the Governments bold targets around woodland creation. The project involved the creation of a new full-time post, supporting a graduate forester to hone and develop their skills.

*The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a government fund developed by Defra in partnership with its Arms-Length Bodies which the National Lottery Heritage Fund are administering on behalf of Defra. Further detail on the fund can be found [here](#).

About Us

The [Lake District Foundation](#) (LDF) is a registered charity. Based in Kendal, we work across the National Park, some 2000 km of landscape, and across wider Cumbria. We work to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, and the cultural heritage, of the Lake District. This is a unique environment which is a vital space for both nature and people. LDF are the accountable body for the funding, and support project management activity.

[Cumbria Woodlands](#) is a not-for-profit organisation which is in its 30th year. Our vision is for woodland in Cumbria to thrive ecologically and economically for the benefit of everyone. Cumbria Woodlands addresses gaps in delivery within the sector across woodland creation, woodland management, training and development, and policy and advocacy and invests its surplus for the good of the people and woodlands of Cumbria. Cumbria Woodlands are managing the delivery of woodland restoration and advice provision.

Scope of Evaluation

We are looking to commission an independent evaluation of the project. Drawing on monitoring information, management information and other project resources which have been gathered over the life of the project, as well as undertaking additional research activities as appropriate such as interviews with project stakeholders, the aims of this evaluation will be to:

- Summarise the key outputs and outcomes achieved by the programme
- Assess the effectiveness of the project partnership
- Assess the initial impact of the project – in terms of the effectiveness of the project in achieving it's intended goals
- Identify elements of best practice
- Identify and highlight areas of challenge in delivery

- Identify key learning to inform the development of future programme

Outputs of Evaluation

- Summary of recommendations
- Evaluation Document

Link to Other Programmes of Work

Whilst this funded programme is concluding in March 2023, LDF and CW are also mobilising the delivery of new partnership project. This new three-year project has received funding as part of the [Trees Call to Action Fund \(TCAF\)](#) which is supporting the development of new and existing projects and partnerships helping to deliver the England Trees Action Plan. Our new project will seek to build on, and further develop elements, of Forest Futures. As such there may be potential to support the design and delivery of an evaluation of this second programme, with the opportunity to be engaged at the outset of the project to help define and shape our project monitoring and evaluation programme. A separate budget and specification will be created for this work, but we would be keen to hear from potential suppliers who may have capacity to take on a larger programme of work.

Indicative Timeframe

- **Friday 22nd July 2022** – Deadline for receipt of Expressions of Interest
- **Mid-August 2022** – Notification of contract award
- **September 2022** – Contract Start (from this date – to note project activity will remain ongoing until March 23 so further discussion upon award will take place to agree appropriate timeline)
- **27th January 2023** – Submission of final evaluation

Maximum Budget

£6000

How to Apply

To apply please send the following to info@lakedistrictfoundation.org marked: **CONFIDENTIAL GR2 Evaluation**

- Outline of proposed methodology – A maximum of three pages of A4 minimum font size 10pt (less is fine should you be able to convey your proposal in a shorter document)
- Two example(s) of a similar piece of work - A short – 1 to 2 paragraph – summary of the work, along with details of commissioner / contract value where applicable
- Number of days work
- Day Rate
- Headline (indicative) timeline for delivery

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



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