

Nature Towns and Cities



Introduction Webinar

11am, Tuesday 8 October 2024



National Trust



Heritage
Fund



Agenda

Part One: Introduction to Nature Towns and Cities

11:00-11:05 Welcome and Housekeeping

5 minutes

11:05-11:15 Programme Overview

10 minutes

11:15-11:30 Leading Change: Transforming Urban Green Infrastructure

15 minutes

11:30-11:45 Q&A on Programme

15 minutes

Break

Part Two: Deep Dive on Grant

11:50-12:10 Grant Overview

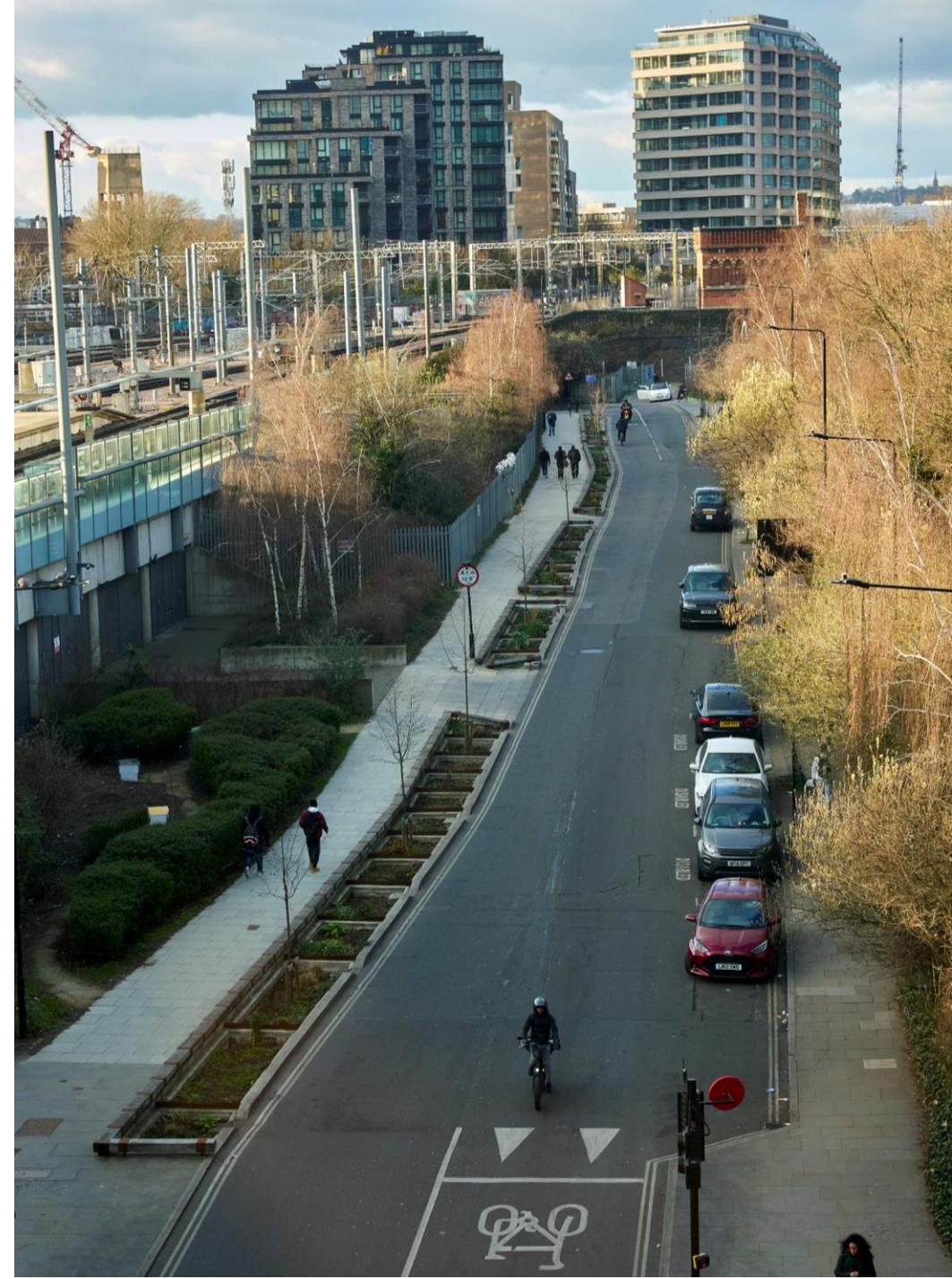
20 minutes

12:10-12:25 Q&A on Grant

15 minutes

12:25-12:30 Close and Next Steps

5 minutes



About this briefing

By the end of the session, attendees will:

- Hear key details about the Nature Towns and Cities programme and how to get involved
- Understand the key dates to join events or take action
- Hear detailed information about the grant scheme and expression of interest process
- Have an opportunity to ask questions

Helpful Information

- If you have any questions for speakers, please submit them using the Q&A feature throughout the presentations.
- Questions about the grant will be saved until the second half of the session
- Automatic captioning is turned on, you can adjust this in the settings at the bottom of your screen.
- If you have any technical questions or issues, please let us know the details in the chat and we can help you.
- This session is being recorded and will be available via our website in the coming days.



Who will you hear from

Partners from Heritage Fund, Natural England and National Trust will be presenting today, as well as two case studies from Camden Council and Plymouth City Council.



Matilda Cornwall-Jones,
Project Manager



Victoria Bradford-Keegan,
Delivery Director



Ollie Jones,
Director of Recreation,
Camden Council



Kat Deeney,
Head of Environmental Planning
Plymouth City Council



Lorraine Robinson,
Project Manager
National Lottery Heritage Fund



Drew Bennellick,
Head of Land, Sea and
Nature Policy, National
Lottery Heritage Fund



Sadie Hobson, Principal
Officer Urban Greening and
Nature Towns & Cities,
Natural England



Ellie Robinson, Head of
Urban Green Space,
National Trust

Introduction to Nature Towns and Cities



What is Nature Towns & Cities



- A programme to help 100 towns and cities across the UK transform access to green space
- Overall goal is for millions more people to be able to enjoy time outdoors in nature close to home
- Help address the challenges facing towns and cities in C21st
- Create greener, fairer, healthier and more connected towns, cities and neighbourhoods
- Access support to put green infrastructure at the heart of future plans, priorities and investment
- Unlock further investment to help councils and communities achieve their ambitions
- Founded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, Natural England & National Trust
- Working closely with NatureScot, Natural Resources Wales & Northern Ireland Environment Agency.
- Seeking wider strategic partners and funders
- Builds on Future Parks Accelerator and more
- An invitation to join in, shape it, lead for change

Inclusive Network



A series of network taster events are available online this autumn

Sign up to the events via the website www.naturetownsandcities.org.uk

Designed to build confidence, capability and connection

Open to all, and free to be a member.

- Provide access to knowledge and successful solutions
- Connect with experienced professionals, range of fields
- Enable collaboration and partnership
- Access to specialist support and advice to solve problems and unlock opportunities
- Help to lead for change, tap into collective wisdom
- Part of something bigger

For local government, community organisations, charities and professionals across the UK.

You'll be helped by your peers, sharing what works and able to take part in varied programme of events, cohort activities and training, a library of resources, as well as tailored support.

This is an open invitation to join the Nature Towns and Cities Network.



Get in touch if you're interested in helping us test and improve the pilot accreditation scheme via our website

www.naturetownsandcities.org.uk

- An **accreditation scheme** will be piloted in England in early 2025 to benchmark progress and provide assurance.
- Potential funders and investors will have confidence your place/programme/projects are a good 'investment'.
- You will need to show that you've laid the foundations for change, including strong partnerships; community empowerment and participation; effective leadership; cross-sector delivery partnerships, and coherent improvement and investment plan
- We hope this will unlock the financial resources your place needs to implement its plans.



A **grant** to create headspace and capacity in local partnerships

- Space to develop ambitious place-wide strategies, project pipelines and the case for investment
- Will enable work towards new operational and delivery models with communities and other local partners
- Will support creation of new funding mechanisms and business models
- £15million available across the UK
- You will hear more detail in Part Two of this webinar

Plymouth Nature as an Asset

Kat Deeney
Head of Environmental Planning
Plymouth City Council



Where we started

‘Ambition to transform how we as a City collectively care, use and value our parks and urban green spaces’

Funding through new innovations and making the most of new market opportunities

Where we are

Increased ambition and continuing to embed nature solutions across the City

- **Ocean City Nature – Habitat Bank**
- **Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest**
- **Plymouth Sound National Marine Park**
- **Public/private investment plans**



 Plymouth
Sound
National Marine Park



Why has it helped?

- All facing similar challenges - strength in collective action.
- Nature can help meet our greatest challenges.
- Working with others provides support, inspiration and resources.
- Being part of something bigger provides interest and focus.



Camden Council

Nature Towns and Cities

October 2024



Our project: Parks for Health

- Parks for Health was a **collaborative project** between the Camden and Islington Parks and Open Spaces teams and the shared Public Health team, **determined to ensure that parks are used, enjoyed and maintained as health assets** for their local communities
- Between the boroughs we received £800k in funding and a wealth of in-kind support
- The project also leveraged in time and focus from a wealth of stakeholders and groups



What we have learnt

- We had an idea, without the funded project we really wouldn't have got to where we are
- Internally
 - We have changed our practice with a new focus
 - We have a language that is understood across the Council
 - The project has increased our recognition and understanding of the service
- Externally
 - Positive discussions with our communities
 - We gained contacts locally, regionally and nationally
 - Direct support and involvement from so many sectors



Why you should apply

- Making new connections and learning from everyone
- A development grant at a time when the purse strings are very tight helps to explore big changes that make a difference
- It's not just the Council that will benefit

"it's a powerful thing, if you're a voluntary sector organisation, particularly a small group and you're trying to raise some funds and you know that it's kind of been endorsed by two parks departments and Public Health, your activity to take place in the park, that's powerful stuff for a funder."



Q&A

Please use the Q+A feature to ask your question. We ask that you hold questions about the grant to the second Q+A session.

Panel



Victoria Bradford-Keegan, Delivery Director, **Chair**



Ollie Jones, Director of Recreation, Camden Council



Kat Deeney, Head of Environmental Planning Plymouth City Council



Drew Bennellick, Head of Land, Sea and Nature Policy, National Lottery Heritage Fund



Sadie Hobson, Principal Officer Urban Greening and Nature Towns & Cities, Natural England



Ellie Robinson, Head of Urban Green Space National Trust

Break

A woman with long, curly hair, wearing a denim jacket over a red and white patterned dress, stands on a decorative white metal bridge. The bridge has ornate railings with vertical posts and decorative finials. In the background, there are lush green trees and a man in a red shirt walking away. The scene is set in a park-like environment with a path visible in the distance.

We will be back in 5 minutes.

Visit www.naturetownsandcities.org.uk to sign up to our mailing list to be the first to hear more information about the programme.

Grant Overview



Capacity-building grant



- £250,000 to £1million
- £15m in investment in total
- Spread across the whole UK
- Mandatory Expression of Interest (Eoi)
- Single-round application process
- One application window
- Standard Heritage Fund process with additional considerations detailed in SI guide
- 2 to 3 years delivery
- 5% partnership funding for up to £1million
- The four Investment Principles will apply

Saving heritage

What we mean

Our support will ensure heritage remains accessible, relevant, sustainable and valued.

What we will do

- Protect, conserve and revitalise heritage at risk
- Invest in places to connect people with the heritage of their natural and historic environment
- Invite proposals to develop the skills, capacity and innovation to sustain and manage heritage

Organisational sustainability

What we mean

We will support organisations to develop the skills and capacity to ensure a sound long-term future and encourage new heritage investment that benefits communities and economies

What we will do

- Support financial sustainability
- Support heritage skills development
- Provide flexible funding
- Champion the use of more diverse income sources

Protecting the environment

What we mean

We will support natural heritage and environmentally sustainable projects that help the UK meet its nature recovery targets and mitigate the impact of climate change on heritage.

What we will do

- Increase our support for landscape scale projects
 - Invest through partnerships to help halt and reverse the loss and decline of habitats and species
- Support heritage projects that reduce adverse environmental impacts and help heritage adapt to our changing climate
 - Collaborate to bring stakeholders together to mitigate climate risks and being about positive behaviour for change

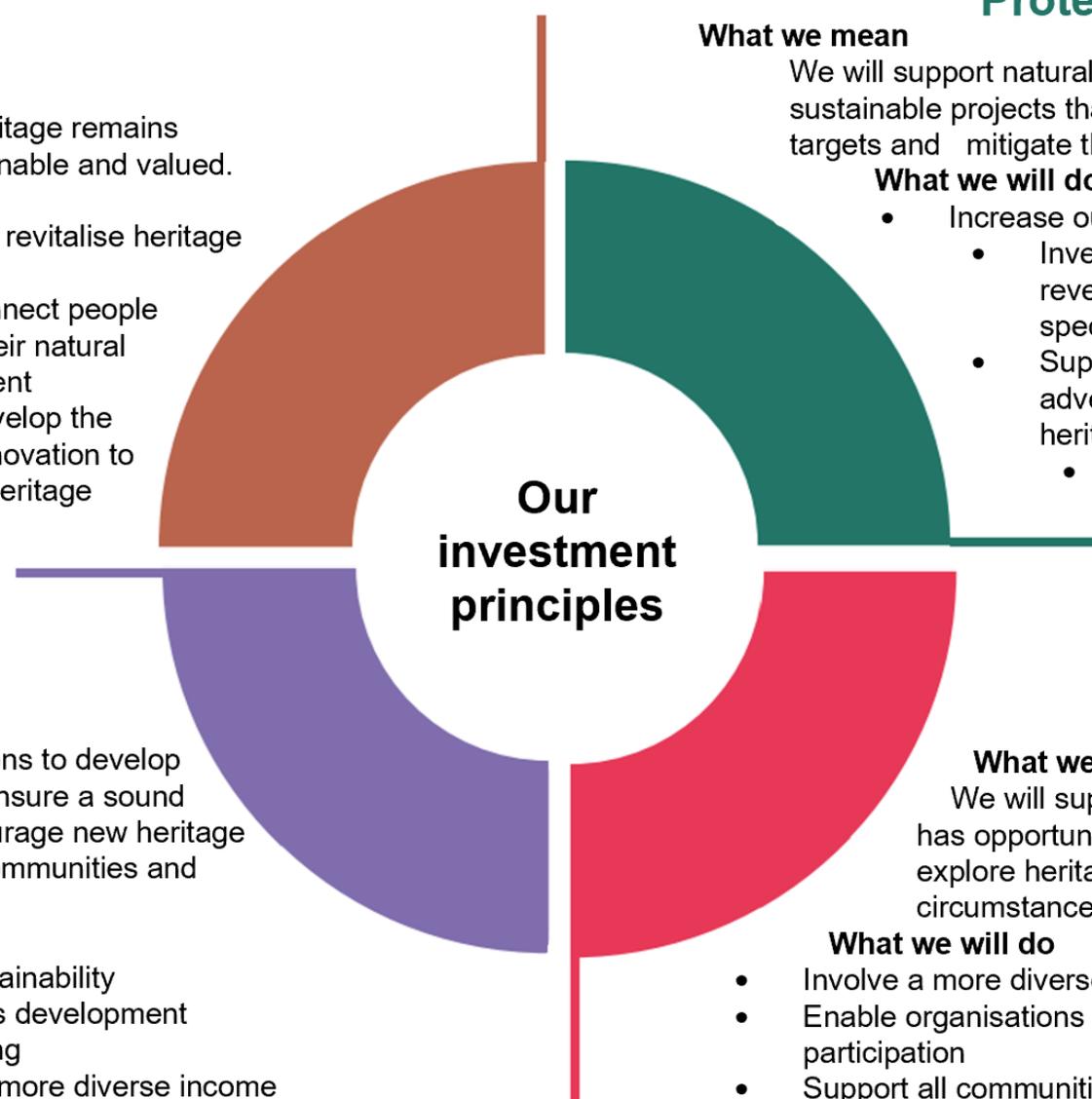
Inclusion, access and participation

What we mean

We will support organisations to ensure everyone has opportunities to learn, develop new skills and explore heritage, regardless of background or personal circumstances

What we will do

- Involve a more diverse range of people in heritage
- Enable organisations to remove barriers to access and participation
- Support all communities to explore and share their heritage
- Support accessible digital heritage resources



What is the grant for?



NOT intended for capital projects

Focus on towns or cities NOT single sites

Transformational plans for change

Provide headspace and capacity in stretched teams and organisations:

- Collaborate & partnership across sectors, organisations and departments
- Think long-term about strategy and future development of urban green space
- Invest in skills and the next generation of leaders
- Foundations for ambitious change
- Learn from others
- Innovate where there are no existing solutions
- Create new financial and operational models
- Support places to be part of an active peer network

What are we looking for?



- Focus on all the public urban green and blue spaces across an entire place
- Set out how you will lead for ambitious change
- Demonstrate partnership working benefits and impact
- Identify what resources or support you will need
- Allocate resources and capacity to join regular online network events and cohort learning sessions

Who can apply?



We encourage you to work with other people to develop and carry out your project

- Applications are open to not-for-profit organisations, and partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations, from across the UK
- If you plan to work with any other organisations to carry out a significant proportion of your project, you must formalise your relationship with a partnership agreement
- If you are making a joint application, you will need to decide which organisation will be the lead applicant
- We usually expect the owner of the heritage (the public green space) to be the lead applicant. If the lead applicant is not the owner of the heritage, we usually ask them to sign up to the terms of grant
- If private owners or for-profit organisations are involved in the project, we expect public benefit to be demonstrably greater than private gain

Expression of interest (EOI)



Mandatory stage

Online form approximately 1-2 page long

Bespoke help notes provided on EOI questions

Who, why, what and how ready they are to take part

Open for EOIs on Tuesday 01 October 2024

Close to EOIs 12 Noon Tuesday 12 November 2024

It is estimated that 30/40 will be invited to full application - outcome communicated via email mid-December

Fixed application window to apply – 16 December 2024 to 12 Noon 07 March 2025. Decisions June 2025.

Hashtag identifier **#NTC**



Bespoke help notes provided on EOI questions

Additional supporting document:

- Email us a Word document containing the following information:
 - a list of partners and organisations you intend to work with
 - an Ordnance Survey type map of the total area across which you intend to work
 - an estimation of the total area of public green space that you intend to work across in hectares
 - the total population that lives within your project area

The document should be no longer than two A4 pages. Please email it to: NTC@heritagefund.org.uk.

Top Tips



- Submit an EOI before 12 Noon Tuesday 12 November 2024
- Follow the Nature Towns and Cities EOI help notes
- Start your project title with **#NTC** so we can identify it as part of this strategic initiative
- Ensure you email us the additional supporting word document
- If you have a question, please get in touch with your local Heritage Fund engagement team

Q&A

Please use the Q&A feature to ask your question about the grant

Panel



Victoria Bradford-Keegan,
Delivery Director,
Chair



Lorraine Robinson,
Project Manager
National Lottery Heritage
Fund



Drew Bennellick,
Head of Land, Sea
and Nature Policy,
National Lottery
Heritage Fund



Liz Bates, Head of
Investment (Midlands
and East), National
Lottery Heritage Fund

What can you do now?

1) Complete a grant expression of interest before 12 November 2024.

2) Book a place at the other webinars from now until December to get a taste of what's to come from the programme.

3) Sign up to the mailing list to be the first to hear more information about the programme including resources and events.

These are all accessible via the website:
naturetownsandcities.org.uk

If you need support, please email
info@naturetownsandcities.org.uk

