



Capercaillie Habitat Grant Scheme

Funding work to improve and create more habitat for capercaillie in the Cairngorms National Park

- Do you manage land in the Cairngorms National Park?
- Are there some quick wins for capercaillie on that land?
- Could you achieve them by July 2023 with up to £5,000 and some advice and support?

The Capercaillie Habitat Grant Scheme is designed with small landowners in mind, and landowners and managers who want to undertake locally relevant actions to help capercaillie that are not funded through other schemes.

The following actions are funded through this scheme:

Habitat expansion

- Restructuring woodlands, e.g. removing non-natives
- Controlling invasive species, e.g. bracken, to improve the field layer
- Blocking man-made drains with coir to restore forest bogs
- Providing grit piles and exposing bare ground

Reduce disturbance

- Creating brash piles and natural screening along tracks

Reduce mortalities

- Marking fences over 1km from an active lek
- Maintaining fence marking
- Controlling foxes and crows over 1.5km from an active lek

If other potential actions to help capercaillie on your land are not listed, please get in touch as we may be able to accommodate them.

Guide to applying

What's the aim of the scheme?

To survive in Scotland, capercaillie need more habitat.

This grant scheme is for anyone who can help to create more habitat for capercaillie in the Cairngorms National Park. Specifically it's for anyone wishing to undertake locally relevant habitat work for capercaillie which is not currently funded by existing schemes, like the Forestry Grant Scheme. It is also designed to enable smaller landowners to access funding to create more habitat for capercaillie.

What will the scheme fund?

Grants can be used to help cover the cost of machinery, equipment, materials and contractors required to deliver the following actions for capercaillie:

- Restructuring woodlands, e.g. removing non-native trees
- Controlling invasive species, e.g. bracken, to improve the field layer
- Blocking man-made drains with coir to restore forest bogs
- Providing grit piles and exposing bare ground
- Creating brush piles and natural screening along tracks
- Marking fences over 1km from an active lek
- Maintaining fence marking
- Controlling foxes and crows over 1.5km from an active lek
- Got an idea that is not listed above? Please get in touch.

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for a grant of up to £5,000.

You can request a grant that will cover 100% of the costs involved in the proposed work. However, your application will be stronger if it includes match funding; this could be cash or in-kind. If core staff undertake the proposed work, for example, this can count as match funding.

Can I apply more than once?

Yes. All applications will be assessed as part of a competitive process and judged on their merit and benefit to capercaillie.

Should I get in touch before I apply?

It's not mandatory, but we want to ensure your application is successful, so please do get in touch before applying. Contact us via email at capercaillie@cairngorms.co.uk.

What are the key dates?

2021

- 15 April – Application window opens
- 15 June – Application window closes
- 15 July – Successful applications announced
- 15 August – Permission to start work

2022

- 1 February – Application window opens
- 1 June – Application window closes
- 15 June – Successful applications announced
- 15 August – Permission to start work

2023

- 15 July – All works must be completed in full and payments processed

Who is eligible to apply?

- Unconstituted and constituted groups
- Registered charities
- Public bodies
- Business partnerships and individual businesses

What are the eligibility criteria?

- The habitat work must be delivered in the Cairngorms National Park.
- You must be able to demonstrate that it is not viable to fund the work (or fund the work in full) through other schemes.

What are the assessment criteria?

1. Will the work be completed by 15 July 2023?
2. What's the level of risk and can the risks be managed?
3. Is the work considered good value for money?
4. Will the work clearly benefit capercaillie?
5. Will the work be of wider benefit?
6. Can the work be monitored and evaluated?
7. Will the work be managed and maintained?

What else will strengthen my application?

We will use the scoring matrix on pages 5 - 7 to assess your application. The matrix outlines what a really good application looks like, so please use it as a guide. Applications must score at least 2 for every assessment criteria.

If your proposed work could disturb capercaillie, please state clearly in your application how you will mitigate this disturbance as far as is possible.

Can I get help to do some of the things you're asking?

Yes. We recognise that smaller landholdings may have limited capacity to do some of the things we've outlined, so we're here to help.

We can help you to monitor and evaluate your proposed work, for example. Or help you to recruit and manage volunteers if you feel there's an opportunity for volunteers to get involved. We're ready and able to work alongside you if you need some extra hands, so please do get in touch.

How will my application be assessed?

- Your application will be assessed and scored by project staff. We may call you at this point if there's anything we need to discuss in more detail.
- Your application will then be reviewed by the project's Operational Management Team. If successful, the team will recommend to the Project Board that you are awarded a grant.
- If your application is unsuccessful, we'll work with you to review the reasons why.

What will happen if I'm successful?

- A member of the project team will become your single point of contact.
- They will feedback from the assessment process and work with you to respond to any recommendations from the Operational Management Team.
- They will work with you at all stages of the proposed work, depending on the support you need. They could, for example, provide ongoing advisory support, undertake baseline surveys or ongoing monitoring work for you as required.

When will funds be received if I'm successful?

Our standard approach is to pay the grant once the work is fully complete and you have sent us proof of payment/s. However, we recognise that you may need some funds upfront. If this is the case, we will work with you to create a payment schedule that meets your needs.

Apply online at www.cairngormscapercaillie.scot/grant-application

Scoring matrix

Applications must score at least 2 for every assessment criteria.

	Will the work be fully finished before July 2023?	What's the level of risk and can the risks be managed?	Is the work considered good value for money?	Will the work clearly benefit capercaillie?	Will the work be of wider benefit?	Can the work be monitored and evaluated?	Will the work be managed and maintained?
1	<p>Not sure from the application form.</p> <p>High – medium risk of not completing.</p>	<p>Not sure from the application form.</p> <p>Considerable level of unmanageable risk.</p>	<p>There is no clear explanation of how the work will benefit capercaillie or that it will enhance other work for capercaillie.</p> <p>The breakdown of costs is basic. It includes no explanation.</p> <p>Contingency has not been considered.</p> <p>No match funding is included.</p> <p>The work is eligible and considered viable for other funding schemes.</p>	<p>Not sure from the application form.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the work will benefit capercaillie.</p>	<p>Not sure from the application form.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the work will be of wider benefit.</p>	<p>Not sure from the application form.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the work can be monitored and or any meaningful evaluation conducted.</p>	<p>There is no clear explanation about the management and maintenance of the work.</p>

2	<p>A clear work programme is in place.</p> <p>Permissions are in place or in train.</p> <p>Low risk of not completing.</p>	<p>The applicant has considered risk and provided a good explanation of how risk will be managed.</p>	<p>The work will benefit capercaillie.</p> <p>It could help to enhance the success of other work for capercaillie.</p> <p>The breakdown of costs is explained and linked to activities.</p> <p>The need for funding is explained and where match funding might come from.</p> <p>Contingency has been considered.</p> <p>The work is not eligible or considered viable for other funding schemes.</p>	<p>The benefits to capercaillie are explained.</p> <p>The work will address one of the following issues: fence collisions; human disturbance; predation; lack of suitable habitat.</p>	<p>The work will be of wider benefit for people and capercaillie.</p> <p>It is part of a plan.</p> <p>It has the potential to enhance other work for capercaillie in the area and benefit other species.</p>	<p>The applicant has given an explanation of how the work will be monitored and evaluated.</p>	<p>The applicant has given an explanation of how the work will be managed and maintained where relevant.</p>
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3	<p>A realistic work programme in place with clear timescales and flexibility.</p> <p>All permissions and insurance are in place.</p> <p>Very low risk of not completing.</p> <p>No or limited dependencies.</p> <p>Proven ability to deliver similar work on time.</p>	<p>The applicant has considered risk in detail and given a clear and realistic explanation of how the risks will be managed.</p>	<p>The work will clearly benefit capercaillie.</p> <p>It will help to enhance the success of other work for capercaillie.</p> <p>There is a detailed breakdown of costs with clear explanation and link to activities.</p> <p>All costs are well researched and estimated and all are deemed reasonable.</p> <p>Contingency has been included.</p> <p>A competitive tendering process will be employed where relevant.</p> <p>Match funding is included.</p> <p>Need for funding is clearly shown & backed up by evidence.</p> <p>The work is not eligible or considered viable for other funding schemes.</p>	<p>The benefits to capercaillie are clearly explained and backed up by evidence.</p> <p>The work will address one or more of the following issues and the proposed approach fully embraces best practice: fence collisions; human disturbance; predation; lack of suitable habitat.</p>	<p>People can play an active role through delivery, monitoring and maintenance.</p> <p>The work will help people to learn more about the plight of capercaillie and how they can help.</p> <p>It is part of a strategic, long-term plan.</p> <p>It complements and strengthens other work for capercaillie in the area.</p> <p>It provides opportunities to learn, generate new knowledge, and share information.</p> <p>Other species will benefit, in addition to capercaillie.</p>	<p>The applicant has given a clear and realistic explanation of how the work will be monitored and evaluated.</p> <p>The work will be independently monitored post project.</p> <p>Local people can be involved.</p> <p>Post project, data generated will be shared with relevant partners.</p>	<p>The applicant has considered how the work will be managed and maintained (where relevant) and given a clear and realistic explanation of how this will be achieved.</p> <p>The work will be independently managed and maintained post project</p> <p>Local residents can be involved.</p>
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