



Saltscape's Community Grants Scheme

Saltscape is a Landscape Partnership Project with an aim to restore, protect, enhance and celebrate the unique salt heritage of the Weaver Valley. We work with communities along the River Weaver and River Dane, from Frodsham in the west through to the salt towns of Northwich, Winsford and Middlewich. Grants are available to individuals and groups living and working in the Saltscape area for projects that meet the aims and objectives of the Partnership. These are:

- Conserve, record or restore important features connected to the natural or built salt heritage of the area
- Celebrate the unique landscape of the Weaver Valley
- Provide opportunities for people to learn new skills and take part in training

Who can apply? You could be an individual or community group, registered charity, parish council, social enterprise or school, as long as you are working in the Saltscape Landscape Partnership area. Download a copy of our map [here](#).

Our contribution

Your project could need anything from £50 to £1000. You could use it for anything from training, and room hire to equipment and materials.

Whilst we can potentially provide the full costs of a project, applications are more likely to be successful if they can provide some match funding. This can be either cash match or volunteer time.

If you are using volunteer time, this time can have a value placed on it using standard Heritage Lottery Fund guidance:

- Unskilled: £50 per day
- Skilled: £150 per day
- Professional: £350 per day

We are happy to provide further advice and information on how the grant works in practice and your group will be able to benefit from the support and expertise of the partnership during the process.

What we will fund

We will fund projects that:



- Take place within the Saltscape area (see map) or those that work with communities in the immediate vicinity.
- Deliver the aims and objectives of the Partnership.
- Meet the conditions set out in the grant guidance.

We will support:

- Capital projects: physical works such as the conservation of buildings or habitat creation/management
- Revenue projects: activities such as events, workshops, publications or research

We will not fund day-to-day activity of the individual or organisation. Funding cannot be used to subsidise things that are already happening but is there to fund additional work or new projects. The project must have clear aims and a clear completion date.

Types of projects we could support include:

- Restoration of a habitat of special interest
- Activities that connect people with their landscape
- Preservation, restoration and enhancement of archaeological remains
- Educational initiatives on historic or ecological themes
- Interpretation of landscape features
- Oral histories
- Initiatives to train and develop people's heritage skills

For this round we would particularly welcome projects with a strong community participation element (for example a community day to celebrate a building brought back into use, development of new skills or a community art project) and a strong focus on learning about the heritage of the Weaver Valley. We are also keen to work with new groups that have not previously received Saltscape funding.

We will not fund:

- Feasibility studies
- Project with little or no public benefit
- Organisational staffing and running costs for an organisation
- Statutory obligations
- Projects of little clear heritage or environmental value
- Academic research

This list is not exhaustive.

Deadlines and decisions

Projects will be assessed by a panel on how well the application meets the aims and objectives of Saltscape, the benefits to heritage and the benefits to the community.



There is a limited budget available for community grants, and so it might not be possible to fund all eligible projects.

This is our final call for submissions, and grant applications should be received by **9am, Monday 14th August** to be considered by our grant panel. We aim to have made our decisions informed successful applicants by 18th August. Any unallocated funds will then be distributed on a rolling application.

Projects must be completed 30th September 2017.

We will look at how and whether your project:

- Supports the aims and objectives of the Saltscap Landscape Partnership
- Is an appropriate response to a need or opportunity
- Meets our priorities for conservation and/or learning
- Is well planned
- Can be delivered on time by your organisation
- Is financially realistic
- Promotes far greater levels of public benefit than private gain.

The application process

These notes aim to set out the process for applying for our community grants. We strongly recommend discussing your project idea with the programme management team before you submit your application. After these discussions, an application form should be submitted. We're here to provide advice and support at every stage and have tried to keep the process as straightforward as possible.

If your grant application is successful:

We will send you written permission to start the project together with a grant agreement which must be signed by you.

Part payment of your grant will be made in advance of expenditure, with an appropriate breakdown – e.g. 50% upfront, with the rest upon completion of your project.

If you have particular problems with cash flow, then we will discuss with you ways of working around this.

We would ask that you do not change the use of the grants without prior consultation.

When you've received your grant:

We ask that you:

- Complete your project is completed no later than 30th September 2017.
- Publicise the support of the Saltscap Partnership for your project.
- Retain evidence of spend – e.g. invoices etc.
- Provide evidence of community/volunteer involvement – e.g. photos, sign-in sheets, newsletters etc



- Provide a monitoring report on completion of your project
- If grant funding is used inappropriately we may refuse payment of the final instalment of the grant and may also demand reimbursement of funds already paid out.

For your project to be considered at our next grant panel meeting, please submit your application by 9am Monday 14th August 2017.

To apply email info@saltscape.co.uk or phone Groundwork on 01606 723 160 and ask to speak to a member of the Saltscape team.