

# Natural Capital Community Partnerships

## Background

The Natural Capital Community Partnerships (NCCP) project launched at the beginning of 2025 to build partnerships between Scotland's community, private and public sectors. Led by Community Land Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Land Commission, the project is helping deliver Scottish Government expectations that communities are involved in decisions and benefit from Scotland's land.

## What do we mean by community benefits?

Community benefits are specifically for the local geographic community and are distinct from public benefits. They consist of meaningful social and economic benefits that promote the sustainable development of communities (as described by [Community Wealth Building](#) approaches).

Community benefits should be proportionate to the scale and impact of a natural capital project, without compromising the practical or commercial viability.

They require meaningful engagement with the community and should align with local strategic plans where available. They are tailored to the community's needs, agreed upon through deliberation and should be monitored and reported on publicly.

### Examples Include:

- Employment and resources – supporting local jobs, contracting opportunities, and access to local materials such as timber, fuel, or food.
- Access to land for local food and agriculture – such as regenerative grazing or community growing schemes.
- Education and skills development – including training, apprenticeships, and local learning opportunities.
- Favourable lease or ownership terms – including nominal rents, community leases, or shared land ownership models.
- Access to land and buildings – for affordable housing, community facilities, or small-scale enterprise.
- Financial benefits – through direct funding, profit sharing, or reinvestment of project surpluses in community priorities.
- Shared governance and decision-making – such as partnership structures or MOU that outline local agency and community participation.
- Health and wellbeing benefits – through improved access to greenspace, recreation, and nature-based activities.

## Support Package

Through this project and the direct support of the Natural Capital Community Partnership advisers we can provide:

- Practical support for all parties to agree community benefits from natural capital investment.
- Advice and resources to support a broad understanding of community benefits for all stakeholders and the context for why they matter.
- Facilitated discussions within and between parties to explore the opportunities and establish realistic, suitable and fair benefits.
- Support to improve understanding of the needs, constraints and ambitions of all parties.
- Tailored support and advice to landowners and project suppliers to identify and support progress towards embedding community benefit.
- Advice on appropriate agreements and governance mechanisms to help delivery of agreed benefits.
- Creation of bespoke plans for each project to identify, discuss and agree community benefits.
- Signposting for specialised advice and support (for example on nature restoration project design, natural capital investment, community ownership).
- Providing insights and examples from practice elsewhere to inform strategic and operational considerations of supported projects.
- Evidence based resources and tools to help with practical application.
- Capturing of learning from the supported projects to create case studies to inform wider best practice and leadership in the field of community benefit from natural capital investment.

[Natural Capital Community Partnerships – Community Land Scotland](#)

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Key Scottish Land Commission guidance:  
[Community Benefits Routemap \(Full version\)](#)  
[Community Benefits Routemap \(1page\)](#)  
[Good Practice Checklist Poster](#)