Working Together

Community benefits work best when they are designed and delivered with local communities. They are distinct from public benefits, which extend more broadly across society. This leaflet provides examples of local community benefits.



LISTEN & ENGAGE

Understand local priorities, knowledge and opportunities.



WORK TOGETHER

Co-design proportionate benefits and agree how they will be delivered.



KEEP IT LOCAL

Create lasting social, environmental and economic value.

After the community benefits have been identified, these should be written down and agreed by all parties. There are different types of agreement to consider, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Community Benefit Agreement or Sale or Lease Agreement.

Support

The Natural Capital Community Partnership team can provide advice, resources and tailored support to identify and deliver community benefits from natural capital projects.

Get in touch

nccp@communityland.scot

Learn More

Scan the QR codes to access guidance, case studies and practical resources.

Community Land Scotland – Natural Capital Community Partnerships

www.communitylandscotland.org.uk

Scottish Land Commission – Community benefits from nature

www.landcommission.gov.scot

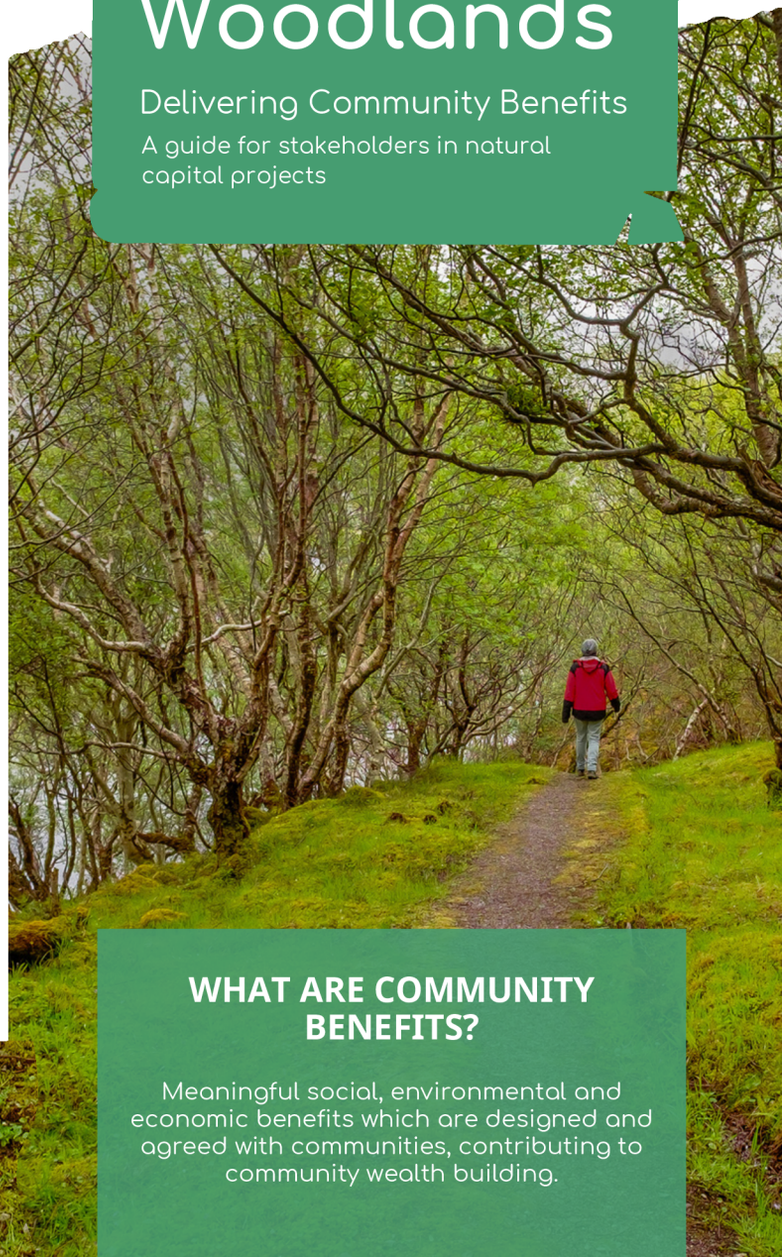
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Natural Capital Community Partnerships

Woodlands

Delivering Community Benefits

A guide for stakeholders in natural capital projects



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY BENEFITS?

Meaningful social, environmental and economic benefits which are designed and agreed with communities, contributing to community wealth building.

This leaflet applies to both commercial and native woodlands and complements existing guidance and best practice from UKWAS 5, Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Government on engaging communities in decisions relating to land.

SOCIAL

Wellbeing, education, cultural and community connection





ENVIRONMENTAL

Nature connection and environmental learning

ECONOMIC

Local jobs, skills, businesses, procurement and investment



HOW TO DELIVER COMMUNITY BENEFITS?

1. **Carry out background research**
2. **Engage with the community**
3. **Develop a written agreement**
4. **Deliver early benefits and continue engagement**
5. **Measure, monitor and report**

EXPLORE THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT ROUTE MAP

Scan the QR code to access the full step-by-step guide with tools, templates and case examples.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS

ACCESS TO LAND & BUILDINGS & MATERIALS

Access to Land & Buildings & Materials

- ☐ Provide timber and trees
- ☐ Self-build plots/Derelict building upgrades
- ☐ Community gardens/Food production
- ☐ Community woodlands/Woodland crofts
- ☐ Forest schools/Outdoor education
- ☐ Support local livelihoods and opportunities through stewardship
- ☐ Nature connection & Wellbeing: Volunteering opportunities, events, tours & activities
- ☐ Create opportunities to enhance cultural heritage, local history, Gaelic and Scots language and culture

Path infrastructure

- ☐ Link and paths/roads across landholdings for walking/cycling/horse riding
- ☐ Car parks
- ☐ Signage/Waymarking
- ☐ Create accessibility options, e.g. wheelchair users

OPERATIONS & LOCAL WEALTH BUILDING

Jobs and apprenticeships

- ☐ Provide training and skills development for local communities

Education opportunities

- ☐ Work with environmental organisations, schools and higher education institutions

Contracting and procurement

- ☐ Offer contracts/jobs offered to local businesses

New businesses opportunities with communities

- ☐ Host existing businesses
- ☐ Establish new businesses e.g. tree nursery
- ☐ Create opportunities for sustainable tourism, interpretation and visitor engagement linked to woodland restoration and management
- ☐ Deer larder – create larder in partnership with local community/business

FUNDING & FINANCE

Funding

- ☐ Funding or support for local community projects
- ☐ Feasibility work for projects such as village halls, community shops or boardwalks
- ☐ Revenue sharing – from sale of carbon/or woodland products (firewood, venison)
- ☐ Peppercorn rents for land or buildings for community use

LOCAL AGENCY & GOVERNANCE

(Ways to deliver community benefits)

Co-Design of woodlands

- ☐ Include local communities in deciding how woodlands are designed, delivered for long-term benefit
- ☐ Use local knowledge to help shape woodland plans e.g where paths/roads are created

Support community involvement

- ☐ Provide resources or payment to help local people take part
- ☐ Make engagement accessible to a wide range of people

Discuss operational plans

- ☐ Agree access arrangements during creation and management work
- ☐ Increase safety and cohesion with preferred transport routes and timings
- ☐ Discuss and manage wider risks to communities arising from land management changes on local infrastructure eg; flooding, water quality and soil erosion.

Decision-making powers

- ☐ Community representatives involved in decision making
- ☐ Community Benefit Agreements (CBA)
- ☐ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- ☐ Leases, sales or agreements for areas of land

ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS

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