

Land of Lead and Silver

Community Fund guidance



About the fund

Led by the North Pennines National Landscape, the Land of Lead and Silver is a major project to conserve, enhance and celebrate the lead and silver mining and processing heritage of the North Pennines. The project was developed with local communities and organisations, and in 2024 the scheme was awarded funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We have set aside £100,000 of this to fund community initiatives over the four delivery years, 2024-2027. There is £25,000 available for community grants in each calendar year of the project. Any unspent grant money will be rolled over into the following calendar year until the end of the project (December 2027).

Grants are available for groups, organisations, and individuals who are involved in community projects with a strong lead or silver mining and processing theme, and that benefit the sustainability and well-being of North Pennine communities.

Grants under £2000 can be funded up to **100%** but grants over £2000 can only be up to **80%** of total costs of the project. The minimum match funding for grants over £2,000 is 20%, which can be made up of cash contributions from fundraising etc., volunteer time, or a combination of both.

This guidance provides details about what can be funded, who is eligible to apply, any restrictions and what you need to provide with your application form. It applies to all grants unless otherwise stipulated.

The Community Fund is administered locally and the assessment panel is made up of members from the project team with advice from the project Advisory Group. This means funding decisions are made by people with a good knowledge of the subject matter and its needs.

Before applying it is important to contact project staff who will take you through a simple checklist to make sure you are eligible. They will then be able to help you work up an application for submission.

For further information contact:

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Who cannot apply?

The following are **not** eligible to receive funding:

- Organisations that themselves distribute funds / assets among their members
- Projects that do not have a strong theme of lead and silver mining and processing
- Projects that will not benefit the North Pennines area or would be detrimental to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage or the well-being of communities.

Applicants may apply more than once per application period, but funding must be for a separate project and the previous project must have been completed before submitting another application.

Fund Priorities

Applications which help to achieve the project vision and deliver its outcomes are more likely to succeed. Applications must meet at least one of the below objectives.

The Land of Lead and Silver is an ambitious project focussing on protecting North Pennines lead mining heritage through support for volunteers and engagement with new audiences. The project will also support the future of important sites through consolidation works and a focussed training & volunteer support programme.

- More and a wider range of people have engaged with heritage
- North Pennines lead and silver mining and processing heritage is in a better condition
- More and a wider range of people will have learned about heritage
- More and a wider range of people will have volunteered time
- More and a wider range of people will have developed skills

What we can fund

- Capital costs e.g. equipment, building works.
- Revenue costs e.g. events, workshops, training.
- Projects in, partly within or demonstrating a clear benefit to the lead and silver mining and processing heritage.

What we cannot fund

- Recoverable VAT (if you are not VAT registered, then VAT can be applied for).
- Retrospective costs.
- Core costs, including staff time/salaries
- General appeals.
- Activities promoting religious or political beliefs.
- Activities that are a statutory responsibility.
- School, youth group or community transport costs up to £200 as you can apply to the Levelling Up Grants Fund. Any costs over £200 or not relating to a school / youth group may be eligible if it forms part of a wider project with a priority theme.

Organisations can apply if they:

- are based in, or the project will be delivered within, the North Pennines National Landscape boundary +1km. The map showing this [can be found here](#).
- are a 'not for private profit'.
- have a governing document, for example, a constitution, set of rules, or terms of reference etc.
- a bank account in their name with at least two signatories who are not related or co-habiting.

Examples of eligible organisations:

- charities.
- CIC's, CIO's etc.
- heritage trust's and historical societies.
- community groups.
- uniformed groups, for example Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies etc.
- residents' associations

Examples of ineligible organisations:

- PFA/PTA groups, **unless** they can clearly demonstrate a wider community benefit and the request is not for national curricula activities or items. We have a separate grants scheme for schools and a schools programme. Please contact us for more details.
- faith groups, **unless** they can clearly demonstrate a wider community benefit **and** a strong link to lead mining heritage.
- private or commercial sector organisations.

Individuals can apply if they:

- are based in or the project will be delivered within the North Pennines National Landscape boundary + 1km. The map showing this [can be found here](#).
- can provide bank details of a UK bank.
- have at least one element of community involvement with the project and can demonstrate how this project will benefit that community

Examples of eligible Individuals:

- private individuals can apply where the grant is used entirely for the public benefit **and** that project is about the lead and silver mining heritage of the North Pennines.

Types of activities/events/equipment that may be funded

Applications for funding should demonstrate an ability to deliver a wider benefit, contributing to the understanding and sharing of the lead and silver mining and processing heritage and engagement of the North Pennines communities.

It may be a workshop or event that will teach people new skills; this could include local history, archaeology, oral history, the arts and natural heritage with a theme of lead and

silver mining and processing. Or the event may be a way of sharing with others a community activity linked to the heritage of the North Pennines area.

It may be equipment to manage infrastructure such as fencing, new paths or gates to provide better access or planting to improve biodiversity or the visitor welcome.

It may be funds to help support interpretation or understanding of the heritage in a community space.

It may be funds to help a group or organisation outside of the North Pennines National Landscape to visit the area and learn about the lead and silver mining heritage.

How are funds allocated?

- For grants under £2,000 there are no set deadlines for grant submissions. Send us your application and we will be in touch within 30 days.
- For grants over £2,000 we have quarterly deadlines. Please speak to the Interpretation and Engagement Officer for the next application deadline. Following the deadline, we will be in touch within 30 days.
- All grants must be concluded within 12 months. Each grant year runs from January until December until funds have been allocated. Any unallocated funds in each grant year will rollover into the next funding year until the end of the Land of Lead and Silver project.
- It is a prerequisite that a proportional report should be submitted at the end of the grant period.

How we will deal with your application

1. The first stage is to contact us so that a project team can take you through a simple checklist to make sure you are eligible to apply.
2. Complete the grant application form and submit it with any supporting documentation.
3. Once submitted, the project team will check the validity of your application and supporting documentation. If any alteration or additional information is required, you will be invited to submit this. Failure to do so may result in your application being rejected at this stage.
4. Once validated, the project team will assess your application against this guidance and score it using the matrix below:

Criteria	Score
How many of the project objectives does their proposal meet?	
How well does the project link to lead and silver mining?	
Plan for how they will engage chosen audience	
Evidence of public liability insurance?	

5. They can either award, partially award, request more information or refuse applications. They may also impose conditions on the decision and will

stipulate whether these need to be discharged by the group or delegated to officer level. The decision cannot be appealed however you may be able to revise and resubmit your application for further consideration.

Applicants must not submit the same application more than twice. This does not exclude applicants submitting a significantly revised application or a new application for a different element of the same project.

Assessing an application

Who is responsible for approving or rejecting grants?

- The Land of Lead and Silver project team will assess grants between £100 - £2,000. The Land of Lead and Silver Advisory Group will advise on grants over £2,000.
- If an application is only partly supported or rejected then organisations will be provided with feedback.

What information should be used when assessing an application?

- Does the project fulfil the Land of Lead and Silver aims and objectives listed in the application?
- Is the project inclusive for everyone regardless of their background and protected characteristics?
- Is the project/activity duplicating a service already being offered in the locality?
- Does the project demonstrate value for money? Is the amount requested reasonable?
- Has the applicant provided a budget breakdown? Are the costings realistic?
- Has the applicant demonstrated they/their organisation are qualified to deliver the activities for which funding is being requested?
- Has the applicant identified evidence of need or demand for the project?
- Has the applicant identified other sources of funding if the total cost of the project is higher than the amount being requested?

Terms, payment and monitoring

If successful in your application, you will be sent a copy of your Terms and Conditions of Grant which must be signed and returned before any award is made. This will outline your responsibilities and what happens if anything goes wrong i.e. unexpected increase in costs or delays, group folds etc.

Grants will need to be spent within 12 months of being awarded.

For grants under £2,000, 100% of the grant fund will be paid upon your application being successful. For grants over £2,000 50% of the grant fund will be paid upon your application being successful with the remaining 50% being paid at the mid-way point of the project.

Your end of project report should:

- describe how you have contributed to the fund’s vision and aims;
- describe the community and/or heritage impact of your project
- provide evidence that your project has taken place, e.g. photographs, publicity, attendance sheets;
- provide evidence of final expenditure and match funding, including in-kind contributions.

Publicity

As a condition of North Pennines National Landscape funding, we are required to acknowledge the source of our support in all public-facing activity and publicity. This also applies to anyone receiving a Community Fund grant as part of the Land of Lead and Silver project and will form part of the terms and conditions of your grant offer.

Communications activity includes:

• Press, including trade press	• Websites and blog content
• TV or radio	• Exhibitions
• Social media	• Print, signage and interpretation
• E-newsletters	• Video or audio

In the first instance, any media and communications activity should be initiated by the North Pennines National Landscape team. Upon successful application, you will be put in contact with the North Pennines National Landscape communications team and provided with guidance.