



Community Grant Scheme

The River Don is a river back from the dead. From Mexborough at the upstream end to Thorne at the downstream end, this stretch of river is the focus of All Hands on the Don project.

We want to unlock the enormous potential of the lower River Don corridor as green-blue infrastructure and as a source of health and wellbeing for local communities. It's time to stop being down about the past industrial degradation of the Don and start celebrating and injecting positivity into a wonderful river that is special for its wildlife, history, and because it connects so many communities.

The All Hands on the Don project will deliver a wide range of activities and interventions in the river corridor to get a diverse group of people involved and help restore ecosystem health. One way in which we intend to do this is through a community grant scheme so that we can work hand-in-hand with the many local groups who wish to improve, protect and enhance the River Don. The All Hands on the Don project is running from 2023-2026.



The All Hands on the Don Community Grant Scheme is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are grateful to the players of the National Lottery for their support!

This document outlines the details of the All Hands on the Don Community Grant Scheme. It is important that you read this whole document including the terms and conditions.



1. What are the priorities of the community grant scheme?

The purpose of the All Hands on the Don Community Grant Scheme is to help local organisations undertake projects which focus on the River Don and/or its tributaries. This includes:

- Bringing communities or individuals within a community together, to take action for the River Don and its tributaries, who wish to open up or improve riverside access
- Projects which will assist wildlife within the river corridor through;
 - Habitat creation and improvement
 - Tackling pollution
 - Tackling invasive non-native species
 - Providing environmental education
- Projects which will preserve or enhance historic heritage within the river corridor.
- Projects which work with those who would not usually engage with nature.
- Projects connected to the River Don and/or its tributaries, with a strong element of public access or inclusion, such as volunteer involvement.

Grant applications must contribute to at least one of these priorities.

2. Grant amounts

- Maximum award per organisation, per project year £3,500
- Minimum award per organisation, per project year £250

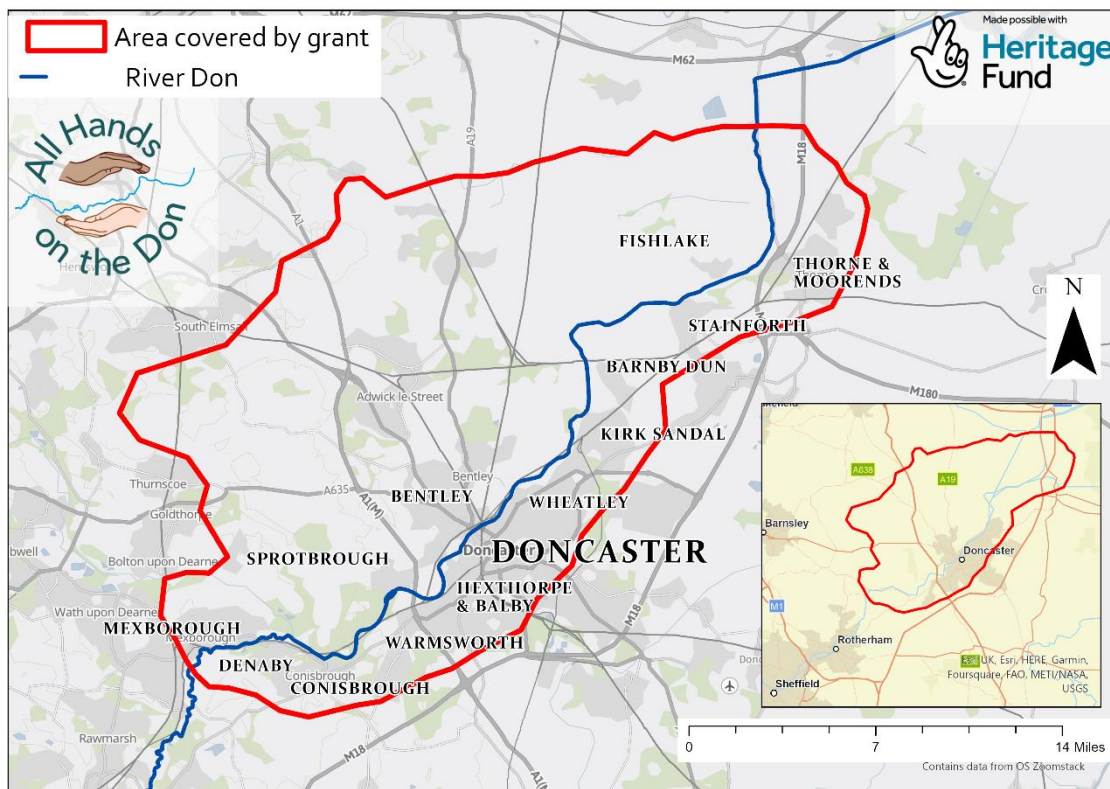
A total of £21,000 will be distributed across three years and organisations can only make one application per project year.

Timescales

- Any project funded under the scheme must be completed by **1 June 2026**.
- Final reports and evidence must be received by **1 July 2026**.
- Funds (other than those listed in any maintenance plans) must be spent by **1 July 2026**.
- Funds under management and maintenance plans must be spend by **28 September 2026**.

3. Who can apply for the grant?

Only organisations which are based and primarily undertake work which falls within the project area can apply for the grant. The project area map (see below) roughly outlines the project area.



If you are unsure as to whether or not you would fall within the project area, please contact Don Catchment Rivers Trust before submitting an application.

The grants are available to;

- Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Community or voluntary groups
- Companies limited by guarantee
- Local not-for-profit organisations
- Registered charities
- Volunteer organisations

4. What the grant will not fund?

- Organisations who will not undertake work within the project area
- Organisations that do not meet the priorities of the grant scheme
- National or regional organisations
- Organisations that have already received a grant from the Don Catchment Rivers Trust under the community grant scheme within the last year
- For-profit organisations
- Core costs of an organisation such as office costs or other overheads
- Project management charges, feasibility studies, tender costs
- Items of personal kit or equipment such as tablets or telephones
- Work that has already taken place
- Projects that are purely for research
- Projects that intend to acquire land, buildings or heritage items
- Any application that does not meet the terms and conditions of the All Hands on the Don Community Grant Scheme, including the maximum and minimum grant award.

5. How will the grants be decided?

The grant applications will be assessed by a panel made up of staff and trustees of the Don Catchment Rivers Trust, and by an independent assessor selected by Don Catchment Rivers Trust, such as a volunteer or young person on work experience.

Grants will be awarded to the projects that best meet the priorities of the scheme. Favour will be given to projects which can evidence the benefits that the award will bring and to projects with a strong element of public access or inclusion, such as volunteer involvement, or that create habitats.

6. What is the deadline?

Grants will be awarded until funds are spent or until the **1 May 2026**.

Applications must be received by **31 March 2026**.

7. How do I apply?

The enclosed application form and a covering letter should be sent by email or post to:

Email: grants@dcrt.org.uk

Post: Don Catchment Rivers Trust
Churchill Business Centre
Churchill Road (off Wheatley Hall Road)
Doncaster
DN2 4LP



8. What happens after I apply?

After you have applied. The Grant Panel will consider your application.

Grant Panel Procedures

Applications will be assessed by a panel made up of staff and trustees of the Don Catchment Rivers Trust and by an independent assessor selected by Don Catchment Rivers Trust, such as a young person undertaking work experience, a Don Catchment Rivers Trust volunteer or a youth group.

Where an independent assessor cannot be obtained, decisions will be made by including another staff member or trustee of the Don Catchment Rivers Trust.

Before the panel meets, members will receive copies of the applications or, a summary report produced by the All Hands on the Don Project Officer, of the applications received.

If your application does not meet the terms and conditions of the All Hands on the Don Community Grants Scheme, your application will not be forwarded to the Grants Panel.

Assessment criteria such as, value for money and if the application meet scheme objectives, are discussed by the Grant Panel.

Decisions are usually made by consensus but there is provision for a vote to take place with the chair of the panel having the casting vote in the event of a tie.

All applications that meet the criteria and the quality threshold are awarded a grant if there is sufficient budget. The panel reserves the right to use a scoring system in the event of the grants scheme becoming competitive and not being able to make an award to all qualifying applications.

The decisions that the panel can make are as follows:

- Reject application.
- Make recommendations and suggest a resubmission.
- Make an award but impose additional conditions to the standard grant conditions.
- Make an award without additional conditions.
- Offer a lower amount.

Rejected applications

You will be issued a rejection letter or email, with a reason for the decision

Resubmissions

Where we wish you to resubmit your application, we will phone you and explain:

- The reason for our decision.
- What needs to be addressed and (if the points we raise are addressed) invite you to resubmit.

You will also receive confirmation of our decision by letter or email.

Approved applications

If your application is approved, we will:

- Phone you to provide the good news
- Discuss relevant conditions if any
- Discuss payment details and schedule
- Discuss your project's timetable and key milestones
- The progress report and claiming
- How to record volunteer time if applicable



You will also be sent a letter or e-mail congratulating you on your approved application as well as:

- A document outlining the terms and conditions of the award
- A request for bank details

When bank details and any due diligence required have been received we will then:

- Make payment of the award if in advance
- Agree when your payment(s) will be received

Payment of grant

Successful applicants will receive 50% of the grant upon approval. You will then need to provide evidence that the project has been completed and provide relevant invoices relating to project costs. You will then receive the remaining 50% of the award.

If appropriate evidence is not received, payment will be withheld and ultimately may not be provided.

9. Terms and Conditions

By making an application to the All Hands on the Don Community Grants Scheme, you automatically accept the following terms and conditions:

1. *All applications will be considered on their own merit and the assessors' decision is final.*
2. *That there is no right to appeal any application which is rejected.*
3. *That your project will contribute towards the priorities of the community grant scheme.*
4. *That your project is not undertaking work on predominantly private land.*
5. *That your organisation will undertake work in the project area (see map).
Parts of Doncaster are not covered within the scheme as they do not fall within the River Don Catchment (land which drains into to the River Don or its tributaries).*
6. *The panel reserves the right to use a scoring system in the event of the grants scheme becoming competitive and not being able to make an award to all qualifying applications.*
7. *The decisions that the panel can make are as follows:*
 - a. *Reject application*
 - b. *Make recommendations and suggest a resubmission*
 - c. *Make an award but impose additional conditions to the standard grant conditions.*
 - d. *Make an award without additional conditions.*
 - e. *Offer a lower amount.*
8. *That you are one of the following;*
 - a. *Community Interest Company (CIC)*
 - b. *Community or voluntary groups*
 - c. *Company limited by guarantee*
 - d. *Local not for profit organisations*
 - e. *Registered charity*
 - f. *Volunteer organisation*
9. *That you are not one of the following;*
 - a. *Company limited by shares*
 - b. *Public Limited Company*



- c. A for-profit organisation
 - d. A local authority such as City of Doncaster Council
 - e. A national or regional organisation
10. That regardless of the above, the assessors of the All Hands on the Don Community Grants Scheme have the final decision as to whether your organisation is eligible for the scheme.
 11. That you will provide the following documents with your application form;
 - a. Copy of your organisation's constitution (formal rules).
 - b. Copies of deeds, leases, mortgages or other proof of ownership if your project involves work to land, buildings or heritage items.
 - c. Copy of recent accounts or last three months of bank statements.
 - d. A small selection of photos or drawings that will help illustrate your project.
 - e. Letter(s) of support (no more than six) from other organisations. They should be specific to the project rather than general letters of support.
 - f. Job or role descriptions for any new positions created as part of your project.
 12. That you have the relevant insurances and permissions to undertake the project (you will need to provide evidence of these if requested).
 13. Any grants awarded in relation to capital works on private land, buildings or heritage items, will include a secure management and maintenance of the capital works for 10 years from the expected date of the works' completion. Management and maintenance costs beyond the **28 September 2026** cannot be covered using funds from the Community Grants Scheme and will need to be raised by you.
 14. Successful applicants will receive 50% of the grant upon approval. You will then need to provide evidence that the project has been completed and provide relevant invoices relating to project costs. You will then receive the remaining 50% of the award.
 15. That you will provide an update every four months either via sending a brief progress report with photos, or by DCRT staff visiting the sites, or a combination of both.
 16. That you will complete an end of project form which evidences the work you have undertaken (to be provided by DCRT). This will also capture information about your project, as well as before and after photographs of the work that you have undertaken.
This is so that we can ensure the grants have been awarded correctly and so that the good work you have undertaken can be captured and publicised.
 17. If insufficient evidence is received that the project has been completed, or if suitable invoices are not received to evidence costs, payment of the grant may be withheld.
 18. If Don Catchment Rivers Trust is not satisfied that the project is progressing, it reserves the right to recover any grant amount awarded.
 19. That information about your project may be publicised.
 20. That information, photographs and other media about your project, will be provided to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and any relevant match funders.
 21. When publicising information about your project, you will need to acknowledge the All Hands on the Don project, the Don Catchment Rivers Trust, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and any relevant match funders.



22. *That you will provide a final evaluation report once the project is complete (including your plans for future maintenance i.e. repairs made several years after the initial works have been completed).*
23. *That you will allow Don Catchment Rivers Trust to publicise your project through various means, i.e. social media, newsletters and general publicity.*

