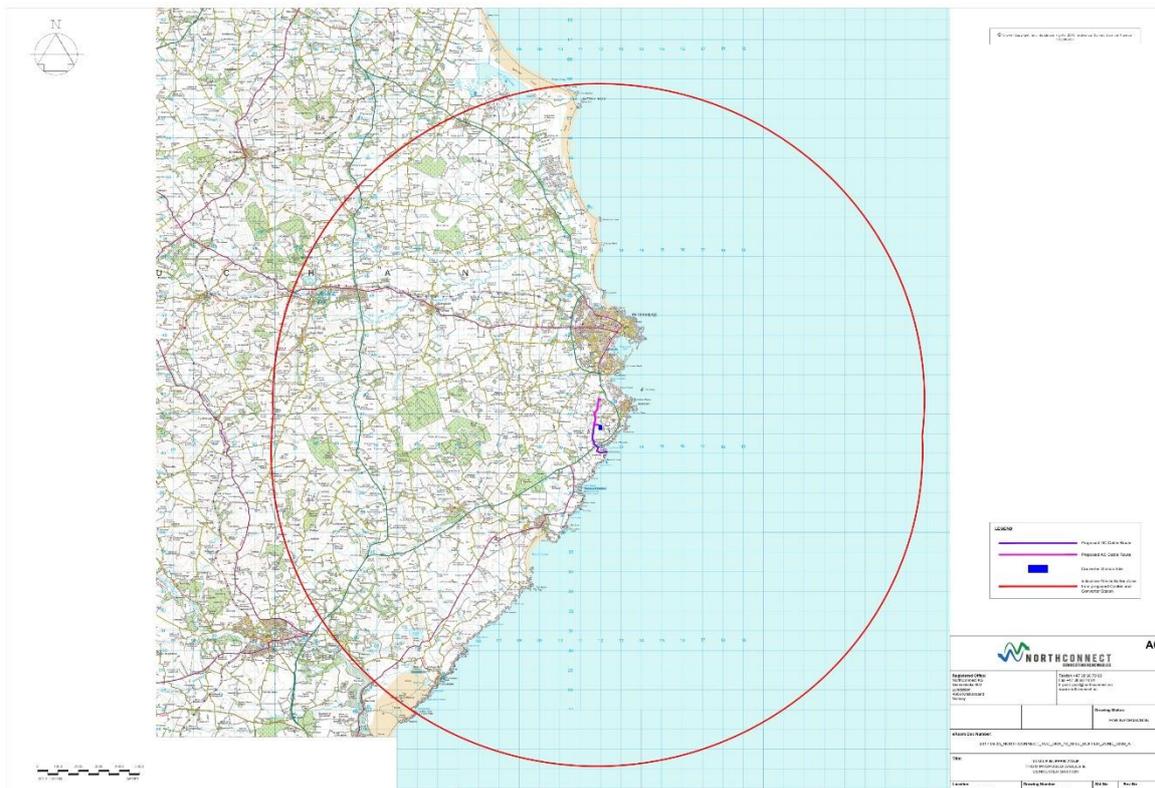


# NorthConnect Legacy Fund Fund Factsheet 2020

## What is the NorthConnect Legacy Fund?

The NorthConnect Legacy Fund is provided by NorthConnect, a joint venture company, set up to develop an electrical interconnector between Scotland and Norway.

The Fund is a charitable fund to support community projects that benefit residents living within a 10 mile radius of the planned interconnector ("the Area of Benefit"). The Area of Benefit is set out in the map below:



A resizable version of the Map can be accessed at

[https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/media/684804/20170904\\_NORTHCONNECT\\_AREA\\_OF\\_BENEFIT\\_MAP.pdf](https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/media/684804/20170904_NORTHCONNECT_AREA_OF_BENEFIT_MAP.pdf)

## What is Foundation Scotland?

The NorthConnect Legacy Fund is managed by Foundation Scotland, which has a strong track record of administering community benefit funds across Scotland. Foundation

Scotland is a charity (no. SC022910) dedicated to strengthening communities by awarding grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people. It runs a range of grants programmes – including others linked to community benefit funds like this one – which support the work of groups and organisations across Scotland.

### **How much 'community benefit' will the Fund have to distribute?**

The fund available in 2020 will be a total of £10,000.

### **Who makes decisions on grants?**

For this Fund, a panel has been appointed comprising one representative of NorthConnect, and at least two other local members not associated with NorthConnect.

Foundation Scotland will assess your application, a report will be provided to the Panel, and the Panel will decide on your application. The Panel will normally meet around six to seven weeks after the deadline for applications and will also guide the overall Fund strategy. If money is not fully spent by the Panel, it will roll over to the next year, and will not be lost.

### **What is the purpose of the Fund?**

The Fund will provide grants to community groups to support charitable activities.

The aims of the Fund are:

- To provide sustainable support to the communities and stakeholders living, working and playing in the vicinity of the NorthConnect infrastructure including: the converter station, HVAC and HVDC cabling both on and offshore.
- To support sustainable energy use and production.
- To support sustainability, energy, environment, health and wellbeing education.
- To increase participation in and access to contemporary culture, events and recreational activities in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- To preserve and enhance the natural environment for residents and visitors to the area.

These priorities may change over the lifetime of the Fund, as determined by the Panel, in order to meet the changing needs of the local area. Grants from the Fund will pay for both revenue items (e.g. running costs), and capital items (e.g. to buy some equipment).

The Fund cannot support:

- Activities generally understood to be the responsibility of statutory authorities.
- The advancement of religion or party politics.
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
- Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application can be made).
- Projects not benefiting people who are primarily living, working, visiting and playing in the Area of Benefit;

- Activities contrary to the interests of or likely to bring the Foundation, NorthConnect or any member of the NorthConnect Group into disrepute.

If your project includes an overseas trip then please contact Foundation Scotland prior to making an application.

### **What type of activity can be funded?**

Please see a list of the projects in the Funded Projects document, towards which the Fund has given a grant.

### **Who can apply?**

Unconstituted groups, constituted organisations and individuals working to benefit people in the Area of Benefit can apply for a grant. The group must be set up on a not-for-profit basis, but the group does not need to be a registered charity to apply. Activities carried out by individuals must be charitable in nature and must be for the benefit of the community.

### **When does the Fund open for applications?**

Application deadlines are contained on the Fund web-page at:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/northconnect/>

### **How much can you apply for and how do I apply?**

The maximum figure is £1,500. You apply by completing an application form. From the Fund opening date you will be able to download a form at the Foundation Scotland web-site at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/NorthConnect/>.

### **When do we get the money?**

If the Panel makes an award, the applicant will then receive an email offer of award which sets out the conditions on which the grant is made. The applicant needs to confirm the grant acceptance by email to Foundation Scotland before payment can be made. Payment is made to the applicant by BACS transfer in advance of the project starting, once any pre-payment conditions have been complied with e.g. the provision of alternative quotes for items being purchased.

### **Can a community group make more than one application?**

Yes, although in order to ensure that the limited resources available to the Fund are allocated fairly, it is likely that only one award will be made to any group, however, partial awards may be made to differing projects being applied for by the same group.

### **Can a community group have more than one grant at a time?**

Yes, this is feasible where the grants are being used for different projects, and where they were awarded in different Fund years. All applications are subject to an assessment by Foundation Scotland so the application will be assessed even if the group is already in receipt of a grant.

### **Can we apply if we have previously received a grant?**

Yes, although in order to ensure that the limited resources available to the Fund are allocated fairly, the Panel will take into account any previous grant awarded in coming to a decision.

### **What happens at the assessment stage?**

Part of Foundation Scotland's role is to ensure that the project being proposed is feasible and that the group can manage the grant and the project. At the end of the project the group needs to report back to Foundation Scotland about the Funds spent. Foundation Scotland is also regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) so needs to demonstrate that the NorthConnect Legacy Fund – which is a charitable fund – is providing public benefit and being used charitably.

An appointment will be arranged with the main contact from the group for a telephone interview to take place (daytime or evening to suit the applicant) – this can be anything from 5 minutes to half an hour, depending on the complexity of the application. If there are any errors in the application form, then they can be remedied at this stage e.g. incomplete information, errors in adding up project costs, etc. While community groups are expected to fill in the forms to the best of their ability, for some groups filling in forms is an ordeal, so do not worry if something is incorrect – this will be picked up at the assessment stage and should not prejudice your application. The assessment stage is proportionate to the size of the application and Foundation Scotland will help rather than hinder!

### **Can we get help with preparing the application?**

Contact Foundation Scotland at the address below, and someone will be assigned to help guide you through the process by telephone.

### **Are grants available only to community groups?**

No. Grants are available to organisations with a constitution, to informal groups without a constitution, and to individuals carrying out work for the benefit of the community.

### **Where can I find out more?**

Please call Foundation Scotland on the number below for more information:

Foundation Scotland Communities Team

0131 524 0300

[communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk)

