

Biodiversity Challenge Fund (BCF) – Round 2 Project summaries

The table below lists the projects which were successful in the second round of the Biodiversity Challenge Fund. Project summaries are updated as funding contracts are finalised.

Organisation	Project	Project summary
Tweed Forum	Upper Yarrow Landscape Initiative	To restore a previously straightened part of the Little Yarrow tributary of the River Tweed, creating a natural, meandering river channel, within a 12 ha floodplain, restored to a mosaic of natural wetlands and native woodland.
RSPB Scotland	Enhance, Create and Pollinate - creating pollinator friendly habitats across Scotland	The purpose of this grant is to create approximately 91ha of pollinator friendly habitat in various locations across Scotland.
Galloway Fisheries Trust	Water of Luce and Tarf Water headwaters climate resilience fish project	To undertake a range of in stream works, riparian planting and planting of willow stakes at the headwaters of the River Luce and upper Tarf Water tributary to improve instream habitats, reduce erosion and sediment washout and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change.
Woodland Trust Scotland	Loch Arkaig – Glen Mallie Forest Edge Restoration	Fell-to-recycle all non-native trees across 88ha at Glen Mallie, Loch Arkaig to enable the recovery of the native woodland habitat, through creating space for regeneration and reducing the shade and persistent litter created by non-native conifers.

Scottish Wildlife Trust	Protecting and enhancing species rich grassland	The purpose of the project is to deliver tangible biodiversity benefits to species-rich grassland and other priority habitats through appropriate management techniques. This will be achieved through purchase of materials and improvements to infrastructure to allow more effective site management.
Spey Fishery Board for the Spey Catchment Initiative	Re-wooding the River Calder	Establish up to 20ha of riparian woodland along 3.5 km of the River Calder, an upland tributary of the Spey (SAC), by installing deer fencing to remove grazing pressure, planting with native tree species and encouraging natural regeneration.
Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)	Cairngorms Wetlands	To deliver key wetland habitat and species conservation actions from the Cairngorms Nature Action Programme, particularly: improving breeding and foraging habitats of red and amber listed waders, mammals and invertebrates and restoring Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations within the River Spey catchment trialling host fish encystment.
Trees for Life	West Affric Montane Woodland Habitat Expansion	Extend three existing native woodland enclosures by a total of 61 hectares on the NTS West Affric estate to secure the seed sources they have generated, plant 15ha with appropriate, native, montane tree species at a density of 500 per ha to increase the seed source for montane species and improve montane woodland habitat connectivity.
Dee District Salmon Fishery Board	Garbh Allt & Upper Muick River Restoration Project	To restore and enhance instream and riparian habitats along two sub-catchments of the River Dee through removal of artificial embankments, reconnection of backwater channels and reintroduction of woody structures to create habitat for a range of aquatic species and reduce flooding impact.
Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust	The Endrick Legacy Project	Undertake control measures for Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and American skunk cabbage, American mink and American signal crayfish in the Endrick catchment.

		<p>Undertake a number of small scale riparian tree planting schemes in key spawning / juvenile habitat areas.</p> <p>Improve access for migratory fish to spawning habitat through improving/replacing water gates, unblocking streams and removing other man-made restrictions.</p>
RSPB Scotland	Clyde Valley Waders - Enhancing Landscapes in South West Scotland	<p>The RSPB led project in partnership with 17 Landowners and SAC Consulting Solutions will give direct action to improve habitat and species management and improve the survival rates of upland waders as well as study these successes to allow promotion of better practice. The project will result in increased connectivity between breeding sites in the landscape scale in the area around Crawfordjohn.</p>
Woodland Trust Scotland	Eisg Brachaidh Biodiversity Restoration Project	<p>To restore the health of 2,000ha of various habitats in SSSI/SAC on Eisg Brachaidh estate through reducing the deer grazing pressure and some supplementary planting. This involves erecting a 17.1km fence, installing a cattle grid and undertaking deer control.</p>
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority	Inversnaid Invasive Non-native Plant Species Control Project	<p>The initial treatment principally of invasive Rhododendron as well as small populations of Japanese knotweed and American skunk cabbage around Inversnaid on east Loch Lomond. As part of this the Park will train volunteers in the safe use of herbicides and will purchase appropriate equipment, PPE and herbicide.</p>
RSPB Scotland (on behalf of Inner Forth Futures Partnership)	Inner Forth Futures Wetland Habitat Network	<p>Wetlands at five sites around the Forth will be improved with new habitats created, degraded habitats improved, hydrology and saline lagoons managed, and invasive species removed.</p>

Forth Rivers Trust	Revive the Allan	To undertake an initial phase of the Revive the Allan project that will enhance the riparian corridor between Milton of Panholes and Deaf Knowe, reconnecting the floodplain to the river using a pre-railway channel, creating new wetlands and undertaking green banking in support of natural flood management solutions.
North Isles Landscape Partnership	North Isles Habitat Management and Restoration Project	