

# North York Moors National Park Authority

21 March 2016

## This Exploited Land (TEL) Grant Criteria

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek Members approval of the process developed for delivering grant via 'This Exploited Land' Landscape Partnership Scheme.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 This Exploited Land (TEL) tells the story of ironstone and early iron-making together with the development of railways during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the valleys of the northern half of what is now the North York Moors National Park. It will embed this within the wider landscape that is known today and integrate it with the area's natural environment.
- 2.2 In September 2015 Members agreed to support the submission of the detailed Stage Two bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) which was subsequently submitted to meet the 31 October 2015 deadline.
- 2.3 The paper highlighted that the TEL Programme will enhance and protect sites of ecological significance to contribute to the National Park's strategic priority relating to habitat connectivity within Rosedale and along the Esk and Murk Esk river corridors and will restore PAWS (plantations on ancient woodland sites) across the TEL area.
- 2.4 The paper set out that bespoke Section 39 Agreements would be entered into with landowners and land managers to enable the execution of the archaeological conservation works with access and maintenance obligations where appropriate and that smaller, separate agreements would be negotiated for land management work.
- 2.5 This paper intends to set out the process that has been developed, in anticipation of securing the funding, for delivering grant through the TEL scheme and seeks Members approval of this process.

### 3. Process for Delivering Grant Aid

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Authority will deliver grant secured from HLF for the TEL Programme through the Authority's existing mechanisms that have been established for grant delivery (namely Habitat Connectivity, PAWS restoration and Historic Environment Grants). These have requirements to ensure that all grants paid:
- Fulfil NP or other statutory purposes;
  - Have assurance that terms have been complied with;
  - Represent Value for Money (including, where appropriate, the requirement of match funding from the grant recipient using appropriate intervention rates);
  - And that none are paid until after work has been carried out

Where necessary to meet specific requirements of the HLF, the criteria for offering this range of grants will be amended or supplemented accordingly, but always achieving the principles above. It is proposed that any amendments or supplements will be agreed by the Chief Executive through the development and sign-off of a Grant Scheme Procedure. Authorisation limits are set out in the Financial Regulations.

- 3.2 Grant will only be available for the range of Projects identified in the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) submitted to the HLF. This will be a publically accessible document once the outcome of the HLF application is known in late March.
- 3.3 Grant offered via the TEL Programme will be within the budget outline submitted to the HLF which will, in turn be incorporated into the Authority's budget approved by Members annually.
- 3.4 Grant offered to the agricultural sector that constitute agricultural state aid will be offered in accordance with the agricultural state aid approvals that the English and Welsh National Park Authorities have in place.
- 3.5 A Community Grant element has been set out in the LCAP for delivery in years 2 – 5 of the TEL Programme. The details of this scheme are to be developed over the coming year. It is anticipated that it will follow a similar model to the North York Moors Community Grant Scheme. Members' approval for the delivery of the scheme will be sought at a later date.

#### **4. Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 4.1 The financial and staffing implications of the TEL Programme remain unchanged from those set out in the paper to Members in September 2016.
- 4.2 Subject to a second stage approval from the HLF the overall Scheme will receive £2,802,000 of HLF grant over the period 2016-2021. The National Park Authority has allocated up to £250,000 from Reserves as match funding and the Programme is reliant on in-kind time from all departments. Given reduced central resources as a result of previous reductions in core grant budget provision has been made within TEL for external specialist support where necessary, as well as appropriate and dedicated staffing to be funded through the HLF grant. The TEL programme will deliver against key conservation targets for the National Park.

#### **5. Contribution to National Park Management Plan**

- 5.1 The contribution that the TEL Programme will make to the National Park Management Plan is as identified in the September 2015 paper. The TEL Scheme will contribute to a wide range of Management Plan policies for cultural and natural heritage as well as engagement, communities and access.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The legal implications of the TEL Programme remain unchanged from those set out in the paper to Members in September 2016.

#### **7. Recommendation**

- 7.1 That: Members approve the process developed for delivering grant via 'This Exploited Land' Landscape Partnership Scheme described in paragraphs 3.1 – 3.4.

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**Background papers to this Report**

**File ref**

1. This Exploited Land.  
Report to the National Park Authority, 21 September 2015.