



Contract Opportunity:

Woodland Connectivity – Opportunity Mapping

Background

- 1 Native Woodland fragmentation reduces ecological resilience and biodiversity connectivity. Scotland has national ambitions for the creation of nature networks and wildlife corridors.
- 2 Fragmentation can be mitigated or reversed by planting of connecting corridors that link remaining native woodland sites. This is in addition to the variety of wider benefits provided by trees in the landscape.

Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands

- 3 Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands (DGW) was established as a charity in 2023 (SC# 052525) with the aim of supporting trees, habitats and the people that depend upon them in the region.
- 4 Activity to date has been primarily responding to landowner interest and requests for advice and support. This has supported native woodland creation and management activities across the region.
- 5 Using funding from NatureScot's Nature Restoration Fund, supported by the Solway Coast and Marine Landscape Connections Project (SCAMP), we are now able to approach the topic more proactively, identifying areas that we believe will deliver maximum woodland connectivity benefit – in terms of ecological resilience and biodiversity connectivity.
- 6 To do this, we have been analysing publicly available data layers, including the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (<https://www.forestry.gov.scot/native-woodland-survey-scotland-data-explorer>) and the Ancient Woodland Inventory (<https://opendata.nature.scot/maps/ancient-woodland-inventory>) to identify potential Woodland Connectivity opportunities.
- 7 We are now in a position to advertise **THREE** contracts to pick up on this initial work and open dialogue with landowners on the potential for Woodland Connectivity identification and discussions.

Contract Opportunity

- 8 We are now seeking **THREE** contractors to engage with landowners across Dumfries and Galloway to explore the appetite and capacity for Woodland Connectivity projects.
- 9 This will result in a pipeline being established of potential native woodland connectivity projects across the region that are supported by landowners and can be used to develop costings and a potential delivery timetable.

- 10 For geographical and logistical ease, we are advertising three contracts, each with a maximum value of £10,000, with a focus within Dumfries & Galloway of 'West', 'Central' and 'East'.
- 11 The £10,000 maximum contract value includes mileage (at 45p/mile), any other costs incurred, and VAT.
- 12 Timescale: The ambition is that contractors will be in post by the end of July 2026 and the work will run to 16/11/26.
- 13 The output of the contract will be a 'pipeline' spreadsheet of Woodland Connectivity Opportunities – identifying potential opportunities, landowner capacities and constraints.
- 14 These pipeline spreadsheets will form the content of a subsequent application to the Nature Restoration Fund for a multi-year delivery project.
- 15 This work will also align with other similar projects underway in the region, including the Buzzing Coastal Communities Pollinator project, and the Glenkens Nature Restoration project.

Expressions of Interest

- 16 Expressions of Interest are sought to undertake this work that will identify Woodland Connectivity projects in the region. We aim to award three contracts of £10,000 each.
- 17 Expressions of Interest should include:
 - A copy of your CV outlining your native woodland skills + experience
 - An outline of your initial thoughts on the key approach and work you'd undertake during the contract, and how you would deliver these – approx. 3 paragraphs is sufficient.
 - An indication of your daily rate and therefore potential breakdown of the £10,000 contract value.
 - Clarification of whether you are applying for the 'West', 'Central' or 'East' contract, or any variation of this.
- 18 **Expressions of Interest to be submitted to mcnabb.laurie@dgwoodlands.org by 9am on 27/07/26.**

Contract Administration

- 19 The contract will be overseen and managed by Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands.
- 20 Payment schedule would be a monthly invoice based on costs incurred, unless otherwise sought.
- 21 Timeline:
 - Award Contract + Contract kick off meeting: August 2026
 - Meeting project partners: Morning of 07/08/26
 - Contract Completion: By 16/11/26
- 22 Any queries about the contract or making an expression of interest, please contact mcnabb.laurie@dgwoodlands.org.