



Future of UK Treescapes grants

Announcement of Opportunity

Issued on: 2 September 2020

Full Proposals deadline: 4pm on 8 December 2020

1. Summary

NERC, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Welsh Government and Scottish Government are inviting proposals to this call for large interdisciplinary research projects under the Future of UK Treescapes Programme.

Treescapes are terrestrial landscapes in which trees play a significant role. Treescapes can be found in different settings, ranging from forest to plantation, and in agricultural and urban environments. The UK Treescapes programme aims to deliver new environmental, socioeconomic and cultural understanding of the treescapes of the UK with respect to (i) the type and extent of these treescapes and the beneficial functions and services they provide for the environment and to society; (ii) plausible social, economic, cultural, technological and environmental pathways to enhance the extent, quality and adaptive capacity of these treescapes for the benefits of the environment and society; and (iii) their vulnerability and adaptive capacities give current and future global changes.

Proposals must take an interdisciplinary approach that crosses research council boundaries. Any proposals that only involve collaboration between researchers within the remit of single research council are out of scope and will be rejected.

The funders expect to support a balanced portfolio of awards that collectively address the following three research themes. Each proposal must address one or more theme:

1. Forms, functions and values of UK Treescapes
2. Opportunities, barriers and pathways for expansion of UK Treescapes
3. Resilience of UK Treescapes to global change

NERC, AHRC and ESRC have allocated up to £10m for this call. In addition, Defra, Welsh Government and Scottish Government will provide up to £900k to support Forest Research (FR) to collaborate with eligible research organisations and submit joint research proposals.

Up to six projects are expected to be awarded. Each proposal may request up to £2m (80% FEC).

Projects must start by 1 August 2021 and have a duration of no longer than 36 months.

The funders intend to use virtual events and online platforms to facilitate networking and building collaboration between researchers interested in this call. [Programme ambassadors](#) will be appointed to support community engagement in the programme. Successful projects will also be required to engage with the programme ambassadors and attend a minimum of three programme events developed and by the ambassadors and funders to add value and enhance the impact of the projects and programme. Further details will be published on the programme website in due time.

2. Background

2.1 Strategic context

Landscapes across the UK will be changed dramatically by 2050. They need to become more resilient to pressures such as changing climate, pests and disease, and competing land use demands, in order to reverse the decline in biodiversity and environmental quality.

Alongside deep cuts in anthropogenic carbon emissions, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recognises the potential of treescape management and expansion to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation¹. The UK government has committed to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and afforestation is expected to play a key role in delivering the final and hardest part of this target². The UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommends planting at least 30,000 hectares per year (90-120 million trees) of broadleaf, mixed or conifer woodland – an immediate and substantial acceleration from the current 9,000 hectares per year – which will increase UK forest cover from 13% to at least 17% by 2050³.

Biodiversity is in long-term decline in the UK and this is of significant concern to Government(s) and wider society. The UK is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and is committed to taking urgent and effective action to halt biodiversity loss to contribute to the goals and targets in the global strategic plan. Trees and treescapes have a critical role to play in promoting biodiversity, recovering nature and meeting biodiversity targets in the post-2020 biodiversity framework. Defra's Tree Health Resilience Strategy⁴ recognises the need for four environmental goals – extent, diversity, connectivity and condition – to enhance the resilience and health of our treescapes.

Radical planned changes in UK agricultural policy are expected to introduce a “public money for public goods” approach⁵, which favours the range of “public goods” delivered by multipurpose landscapes. The 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP) espouses a move from existing biodiversity net gain to a broader “environmental net gain” requirement that

¹ [IPCC \(2019\) Special Report on Climate Change and Land](#)

² [CCC \(2019\) Net Zero: The UK's contribution to stopping global warming](#)

³ [CCC \(2020\) Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK](#)

⁴ [Defra \(2018\) Tree Health Resilience Strategy](#)

⁵ [Defra \(2018\) Health and Harmony: the Future for Food, Farming and the Environment in a Green Brexit.](#)

recognises the diversity of benefits, trade-offs and synergies of landscape changes. The Natural Capital Committee (NCC) has advised the government to consider both the type of ecosystem services and benefits that should be compensated for and location of that compensation⁶. The NCC have emphasised the potential for using trees in such net gain schemes and the potential for providing benefit to those who experience the lowest quality environments. For example, the £640 million Nature for Climate Fund announced in the Budget 2020 will invest in projects including the Northern Forest, which will plant 50 million trees in community forests in the north where woodland cover is substantially lower than the England average⁷.

Forest and woodland management must be responsive to different future societal needs and consider community, cultures, and histories with regards to the changing UK treescape. National and devolved nation policies addressing international climate change and biodiversity goals (e.g. the proposed Environment Bill) emphasise the enhancement and expansion of their treescapes, while simultaneously setting ambitious targets to create regionally-specific cultural, social, and economic goods.

A common theme across all these policies is the need to recognise the multiple environmental, social, economic, and cultural benefits which improved treescapes can deliver. They also have the potential to drive innovation and delivery of a bio-economy contributing strongly towards energy production, food security, material science, public health, community assets, including heritage preservation, and recreation.

Opportunities to meet these challenges must work with the UK's diverse climate, geology, topography, and land use, whilst aligning with national and local policies to ensure that many different types of treescapes are envisaged and supported by stakeholders for the future. These opportunities include resilient commercially productive forests, as well as semi-natural woodlands, trees on farms, riparian woodlands, and urban trees and woods.

2.2 Future of the UK Treescape programme

Trees provide multiple goods and services that support the UK's economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing. There have been early attempts to assess the ecosystem value of parts of UK treescapes, many of them initially driven by commercial or carbon value, but now also encompassing water and flood management, cultural services, and benefits to physical and mental health. However, many of the functions and services provided by trees in different landscapes remain poorly understood or quantified, particularly with respect to how they change over time and their effectiveness in patchy landscapes.

These treescapes will be exposed increasingly to interrelated environmental stresses including climate change, water scarcity or excess, biodiversity decline, pests and pathogens, air pollution and changes in rates of nutrient deposition, as well as economic, cultural and societal drivers from the development of the built environment for a growing population (e.g. housing) and the demand of the materials industry (e.g. timber). As a result, treescape structure and function may undergo changes of uncertain character, rapidity, and magnitude, with significant impacts on ecosystem service delivery. The benefits treescapes provide and what we want them to provide must remain in sync; strategies to keep

⁶ [Natural Capital Committee \(2019\) Advice to government on net environmental gain](#)

⁷ [The Northern Forest](#)

ecosystem services and societal requirements in lock-step are key to this programme. At the same time as treescapes develop in size and diversity, they will invariably impact on the wider environment and landscape that we - as individuals and a society – wish to create and live in. Therefore, a much-improved quantitative and qualitative understanding of how and why different treescapes are used, the benefits they provide and their response to 21st Century pressures is urgently required.

An interdisciplinary approach across the environmental and social sciences and the arts and humanities, is required to improve our understanding of the complex interplay between environmental conditions and constraints on the treescape with our social and cultural requirements, and failure to recognise them can result in highly adverse outcomes. Advances in new and emerging technologies, application of novel methodologies and use of environmental, socio-economic data and historical records, and incorporation of local community perspectives and collective memories, have the potential to reveal many previously hidden properties and trends, and create a richer understanding of different treescapes.

Improved understanding of this complex interplay will help decision-makers, at all levels from individual through to community, local and national governments, determine the location and type of treescapes required in the future in order to grow the green economy, reduce inequalities and lead to healthier, more resilient, and culturally rich environments for future generations.

The Future of UK Treescapes programme will be delivered through three calls (excluding the initial call for [programme ambassador](#)): this call for large interdisciplinary research projects, a second call for research projects that address gaps identified in the programme portfolio, and a final call for knowledge exchange projects as the programme enters its final two years. Only research projects funded in call 1 and 2 will be able to submit proposals for the final call.

3. Scope

3.1 Programme objectives

The overarching objective of the Future of UK Treescapes programme is to improve significantly the environmental, socio-economic and cultural understanding of the functions and services provided by UK treescapes, in order to inform decision-making on the expansion of future treescapes for the benefits of the environment and society.

Three research themes have been identified to address the overarching objective.

Theme 1: Forms, functions and values of UK Treescapes

This theme seeks to better understand how we characterise a fully functioning treescape and the functions and services provided by UK treescapes. It will explore the ways they have been shaped by different management practices, environmental conditions, cultural and socio-economic drivers and values through time, and how this is expected to change with the new social, economic, cultural and environmental demands placed on treescapes. Characterisation will require bringing together data and measurements at scale and from diverse sources, from the molecular, organismal, landscape and earth observation through

to socio-economic datasets, cultural and historical evidence, and aesthetic and ethical values.

Examples of research questions include:

- How do current socio-economic demands placed on treescapes influence their various forms and functions?
- How do treescapes with varying size, location, structure, management and composition, provide services over different spatial and temporal scales?
- How do management practices interact with short-term disturbances such as fire, extreme weather events or outbreaks of pest and diseases, and long-term climatic change, and what is the impact on forms and functions of treescapes over decadal time spans?
- How are treescapes shaped by a range of values, including aesthetic, commercial, spiritual, scientific, social, historical and ethical values?

Theme 2: Opportunities, barriers and pathways for expansion of UK Treescapes

This theme seeks to better understand the potential contributions and limitations of expanding UK treescapes to delivering local requirements and national goals (in the wider international policy context). There is a need to understand the opportunities, barriers, and pathways to treescap expansion and configurations, and to consider biogeochemical, biophysical, policy, social, financial, and decision-making processes, as well as trade-offs and synergies with other land uses. Different pathways, such as commercial planting, assisted or natural regeneration, will also provide different environmental, social, and economic benefits. Realistic pathways to achieve sustainable expansion of the treescapes must take into account the diverse benefits and disbenefits of treescapes and balance competing land use demands and priorities of stakeholders. More research is needed to understand how such pathways influence and are influenced by policy making and their contributions to economy, climate mitigation and adaptation, and changing societal and cultural values in the face of pressures arising from the expansion.

Examples of research questions include:

- What contribution can a sustainable expansion of the UK treescap make to the UK economy, climate, biodiversity and other policy targets and goals? How can changes in the form and location of treescapes enhance this contribution and what are their limits?
- What new approaches are needed in environmental land management and new grant schemes to incentivise farmers and landowners to plant trees on their land? Which and to what extent can innovative forms of private sector finance (including, philanthropic, social and commercial investment) facilitate the expansion of UK treescap?
- What are the social benefits of different treescapes, including impacts on human health and wellbeing, and the potential for social prescribing? How can treescapes be more evenly distributed to create greater benefits for the most deprived communities?
- What are the negative and unintended impacts of poor decision making related to tree-planting? What is the impact on communities (positive, negative or neutral), and how do we understand cultural and shared values associated with treescapes?
- How are complex cultural, heritage, community, aesthetic, and symbolic values fed into policy-making and participatory decision-making, alongside environmental, economic, and social factors?
- What are the potential environmental and socio-economic barriers to achieving sustainable expansion of UK treescapes and how can these be resolved?

Theme 3: Resilience of UK Treescapes to global change

UK treescapes need to be placed and understood in the wider global context – both policy and environmental. This theme seeks to identify drivers of change that pose significant risks to the resilience of current and future UK treescapes over decades and centuries, and to identify strategies and measures (such as low risk pathways) that could mitigate their impact and enhance treescape resilience.

Examples of research questions include:

- How do global change drivers and impacts (changes in climate and levels of pollution, increased pest and disease outbreaks, demographic change) affect the vulnerability and resilience of UK treescapes? What strategies or tools exist or can be developed for enhancing resilience to these drivers and impacts?
- What are the most significant risks and opportunities to the UK's existing landscape from treescape expansion (e.g. loss of biodiversity, introduction of pathogens, landscape connectivity, changes in fire risk interacting with climate change) and how can these be addressed through adaptive and other approaches?
- What are the most significant risks to achieving afforestation policy goals (for the whole UK and devolved administrations), including climate mitigation and biodiversity targets?
- How do we mitigate the broader social and cultural impacts as a result of the treescape expansion such as pest and disease outbreaks or changes in types and quantity of pollens?
- The treescapes in the UK have been historically shaped by people, how could increased tree planting impact or maintain cultural identity associated with landscapes?

A holistic approach will be required to capture interactions across spatial and temporal scales and trophic levels, alongside socio-economic and cultural responses and management interventions. The programme seeks to exploit innovative remote sensing, analytical, and genetic technologies, arts and humanities, and social science methodologies, as well as the creation and linking of environmental, social and economic data sets to cultural and behavioural knowledge that will transform understanding of treescape form, function, and feedbacks.

The programme will advance and test new measurements of, and approaches to landscape management and use. It will respond to current climate and rural economy policy priorities and future environmental and economic necessities, and recognise the new opportunities afforded through growing investments in green markets and the bioeconomy.

The programme will also provide stakeholders with a coherent and impactful research base for understanding the present services of, and future pathways for, UK treescapes in response to environmental, socio-economic, and cultural drivers. A key outcome from the programme will be tools and capacity to characterise the impact of varying treescape form and location upon the ecosystem services and evidence to support benefits that might be delivered by 'environmental net gain' policies.

3.2 Proposal requirements

Each proposal must address **one or more** research themes listed in section 3.1.

Proposals will be expected to take an interdisciplinary approach bringing together environmental scientists, social scientists, economists, arts and humanities researchers to form substantial research collaborations. Each proposal must demonstrate how different research elements draw significantly from and integrate expertise and approaches from across the research councils providing funding. Any proposals that only involve collaboration

between researchers within the remit of single research council are out of scope and will be rejected.

Projects will be expected to emphasise contributions to 'real world' decision making and demonstrate a commitment to engage wider stakeholders and users of research. Key stakeholders for the outputs of this programme include (but are not limited to) Defra and associated bodies, the Devolved Administrations, local authorities, landowners/managers, NGOs, local community groups and the general public.

Successful projects will be required to engage with the programme ambassador (see section 4.4) and attend a minimum of three programme events developed and run by the ambassador and the funders to add value and enhance the impact of the projects and programme.

4. Programme requirements

4.1 Programme funding

Funds of up to £10m are available from NERC, AHRC and ESRC for this call and up to six projects are expected to be awarded. In addition, Defra, Welsh Government and Scottish Government will provide up to £900k to support Forest Research (FR) to collaborate with eligible research organisations and submit joint research proposals (see section 4.3 for details). Individual projects may request up to £2m (80% FEC) over 36 months.

The funders will support a minimum of three programme-wide events to be held in the UK over the lifetime of the programme, including a kick-off meeting and a final event. The applicants should budget appropriate travel and subsistence costs for at least 3 programme meetings in their proposals to enable effective participation at these events.

No associated studentships can be requested under this call.

4.2 Implementation and delivery

Projects must start by 1 August 2021 and have a duration of no longer than 36 months.

Applicants should consider the environmental impact of their research including travel and adopt low-carbon approaches to collaboration such as videoconferencing where it is appropriate and consistent with Research Organisation policy. Please note that any cost of proposed carbon offsetting arising from travel associated with grants are ineligible. Further guidance on travel and subsistence can be found in [NERC Grants Handbook](#) (Section E).

4.3 Proposals involving Forest Research

Forest Research (FR) is not eligible to apply for UKRI funding under this call but may submit joint collaborative research proposals with organisations eligible to receive UKRI funding. If a proposal involving FR is recommended for funding, Defra, Welsh government and Scottish government will fund the FR component and NERC, AHRC and ESRC will fund eligible research organisations.

Joint proposals must include at least one Co-Investigator based at FR. However, costs being requested for FR should **not** be entered in finance fields of the Je-S form. Instead, they should be included in a **separate budget form** using the [FR budget template](#). Completed form should be included as a part of the Justification of Resources attachment. FR Co-Investigator may not take over the grant as Principle Investigator (PI) if the original PI leaves the eligible research organisation.

The total combined budget for FR and eligible research organisations must be within £2m, based on 80% FEC. This is to ensure joint proposals with FR are of comparable size and scope with proposals not involving FR.

As an alternative to submitting joint collaborative proposals, FR may also participate as a Project Partner, who will not receive funding from the award but will have an integral role in the proposed research. Eligible research organisations may request Minor Directly Incurred costs to facilitate collaboration such as travel and subsistence costs. Further details on the role of Project Partners can be found in [NERC Grants Handbook \(Section C\)](#).

FR cannot be named as a sub-contractor in a proposal if it is already listed as a Project Partner or Co-Investigator. An appropriate distribution of funding between involved organisations is anticipated. The funders would not expect to see significant amounts of requested funding within proposals being allocated, via sub-contract, to FR. Applicants at eligible research organisations considering FR as a sub-contractor in their proposals are **strongly advised** to contact NERC (uktreescapes@nerc.ukri.org) before submitting under this call.

4.4 Knowledge Exchange and Impact

Knowledge exchange (KE) is vital to ensure that publicly-funded research has wide benefits for society, and should be an integral part of any research.

A separate Pathways to Impact statement is not required, but applicants should still consider how they will or might achieve impact outside the scientific community and include this as part of their Case for Support. Applicants are reminded that engagement with wider stakeholders and users of research are a requirement of this call. Impact activities do not have to be cost-incurring, but relevant costs can be included and must be fully justified within the Justification of Resources statement.

Once successful projects are announced and there has been the opportunity for programme wide discussion, the funders expect opportunities for coordination and alignment of planned impact activities to maximise the impact of the awards and of the programme as a whole. All funded projects will be required to engage with the programme ambassador and attend programme events developed and run by the ambassador and funders.

4.5 Data Management

The [UKRI](#) and [NERC Data Policy](#) must be adhered to, and an [outline data management plan](#) produced as part of proposal development. Details of [NERC](#) and [ESRC](#) data centres are found in the embedded links NERC will pay the data centre directly on behalf of the programme for archival and curation services, but applicants should ensure they request sufficient resource to cover preparation of data for archiving by the research team.

4.6 UKRI Facilities and Services

Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants wishing to use a UKRI service or facility must contact the facility to seek agreement that they could provide the service required. Applicants wishing to use most NERC facilities will need to submit a mandatory 'technical assessment' with their proposal. This technical assessment is required for aircraft but not for NERC marine facilities and HPC. For NERC, this means a quote for the work which the facility will provide. A [full list](#) of the Facilities requiring this quote can be found on the NERC website. The costs for the service or facility (excluding marine facilities and HPC costs) must be included within the Directly Incurred Other Costs section of the Je-S form and also within the facilities section of the Je-S form. Further information on [NERC services and facilities](#) can be found on the NERC website.

ESRC funds the UK Data Service (UKDS) as a comprehensive resource to meet the data needs of researchers, students and teachers from all sectors, including academia, central and local government, charities and foundations, independent research centres, think tanks, and business consultants and the commercial sector. The UK Data Service collection includes major UK government-sponsored surveys, cross-national surveys, longitudinal studies, UK census data, international aggregate, business data, and qualitative data. To explore and access these collections, visit the [UKDS website](#).

4.7 Programme management

The Programme Executive Board (PEB) will provide the strategic direction for the programme and will be the ultimate decision-making authority. The PEB will be chaired by a representative of NERC, and will include representative(s) from other funders, and relevant users/stakeholders as required.

The programme will have an independent Programme Advisory Board (PAB) that will provide strategic advice to the Programme ambassador and PEB to ensure the delivery of the programme objectives.

The programme ambassador is largely an external facing role with the following responsibilities: 1) external communication of the programme and engagement with key stakeholders, 2) coordination and integration of funded projects, 3) monitoring and reporting of programme delivery progress, and 4) organisation of programme events including annual programme conferences. All projects funded under the programme are encouraged to engage with the ambassador and participate in relevant ambassador-led coordination and integration activities such as workshops where possible.

4.8 Reporting requirements

Successful applicants will be required to report research outcomes on Research Fish in line with standard [UKRI Terms and Conditions](#). This is required annually and continues for up to five years post grant end. As set out in Section G of the NERC Grants Handbook, successful projects are required to submit annual reports of Outputs and Performance Measures (OPMs) and a Final Expenditure Statement.

Grant holders may also be asked to provide additional project progress reports to the programme ambassador, the PEB or PAB as needed.

5. Application process

5.1 How to apply

Closing Date: 4pm 8 December 2020

Full proposals must be submitted using the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S). Applicants should select:

- Proposal Type - 'Standard Proposal'
- Scheme – 'Directed'
- Call – 'Treescaping Grants 2020'.

Applications must indicate at the top of the Summary section of their Je-S application form whether they are applying to Theme 1, 2 or 3; or combinations of themes (e.g. Theme 1&2).

The call will close on JeS at 4pm on 8 December 2020 and it will not be possible to submit to the call after this time. Applicants should leave enough time for their proposal to pass through their organisation's Je-S submission route before this date. Any proposal that is incomplete, or does not meet NERC's eligibility criteria or follow NERC's submission rules (see [NERC Grants Handbook](#)), will be office rejected and will not be considered.

All attachments, with the exception of letters of support and services/facilities/equipment quotes, submitted through the Je-S system must be completed in single-spaced typescript of minimum font size 11 point (Arial or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size to Arial 11), with margins of at least 2cm. Please note that Arial narrow, Calibri and Times New Roman are not allowable font types and any proposal which has used either of these font types within their submission will be rejected. References and footnotes should also be at least 11 point font and should be in the same font type as the rest of the document. Headers and footers should not be used for references or information relating to the scientific case. Applicants referring to websites should note that referees may choose not to use them.

Applicants should ensure that their proposal conforms to all eligibility and submission rules, otherwise their proposal may be rejected without peer review. More details on NERC's submission rules can be found in the [NERC research grant and fellowships handbook](#) and in the [submission rules](#) on the NERC website.

Proposals for this call should be **submitted in standard grant format** following the requirements outlined in Section F of the NERC research grant and fellowships handbook. Please note the following differences:

- Case for Support document should be no longer than 14 sides A4 including the previous track record (up to **3 sides A4**), and description of proposed research, which should include how the research fits to the Future of UK Treescaping grants call (up to **11 sides A4**).
- **For joint proposals involving FR:** Justification of Resources (up to 2 sides A4) document should include a separate section detailing the cost breakdowns and justification for FR costs. In addition, a completed separate [FR budget form](#) should be appended to Justification of Resources and will be excluded from the 2-page limit.

Applicants are reminded that on submission to council ALL non PDF documents are converted to PDF, the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

In addition, where non-standard fonts are present, and even if the converted PDF document may look unaffected in the Je-S System, when it is imported into the Research Councils Grants System some information may be removed. We therefore recommend that where a

document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc), the document should be converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.

No associated studentships can be requested under this call.

The expected start date for grants funded under this Announcement of Opportunity is 1 August 2021.

5.2 Eligibility

Normal individual eligibility applies and is in Section C of the [NERC research grant and fellowships handbook](#). Research Organisation eligibility rules are in Section C of the handbook. Applicants can be from disciplines covered by any of the funders – environmental science, arts or humanities, economic and social sciences.

NERC research and fellowship grants for all schemes may be held at approved UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), approved Research Council Institutes (RCIs) and approved Independent Research Organisations (IROs). Full details of [approved RCIs and IROs](#) can be found on the UKRI website.

Forest Research (FR) is not eligible to apply for UKRI funding under this call but may submit joint collaborative research proposals with organisations eligible to receive UKRI funding, as detailed in section 4.3 of this Announcement of Opportunity. Individuals employed by FR may only be named as Co-Investigators and employment should be at a similar level (e.g. lecturer or equivalent) to those at eligible research organisations. Potential applicants should contact NERC (uktreescapes@nerc.ukri.org) in advance of the submission deadline if they have any doubts concerning their eligibility to apply to this call.

Investigators including those based at FR may be involved in **no more than two proposals** submitted to this call and **only one** of these may be as the lead Principal Investigator. If individuals are named on more than two submitted proposals then additional proposals will be rejected without review.

6. Assessment

Proposals will be internationally peer-reviewed and final funding recommendations made by a moderating panel consisting of independent experts across the disciplinary breadth of the programme.

Applicants will be given the opportunity to provide a written response to peer review comments prior to the moderating panel.

The assessment criteria to be used will be as follows:

- **Research Excellence:** the originality and quality of the proposed research and the importance of the questions being addressed;
- **Fit to Scheme:** Proposals will be directly scored against the degree to which they address the objectives and scope of the Future of UK Treescapes call (section 3 Scope). Proposals which do not strongly meet the criteria of the call will not be considered for funding.

Feedback will be provided to both successful and unsuccessful applicants.

The funders will use the recommendations of the moderating panel along with the overall call requirements and the available budget in making the final funding decisions. The funders

reserve the right to use the recommendations to create a balanced portfolio across research themes and remits.

7. Timetable

- Announcement published: 2 September 2020
- Deadline for submission: 8 December 2020
- PI response: late April 2021
- Moderating panel meets: late May 2021
- Latest start date: 1 August 2021

8. Contact

For all enquiries, please contact the UK Treescapes programme team:
uktreescapes@nerc.ukri.org