

‘Love Your Network’ Guidelines 25/26

‘Love Your Network’ provides equipment for small community-led projects that benefit people and wildlife, on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network in Scotland.

Communities play a crucial role in encouraging others to walk, wheel and cycle for more of the journeys they make every day, by making areas more enjoyable or interesting to travel through. ‘Love Your Network’ supports communities to make physical improvements to traffic-free sections of National Cycle Network by providing litterpicking equipment, hand tools and battery-operated power tools.

Why fund this?

Sustrans only has maintenance responsibilities for a small portion of the National Cycle Network in Scotland, where we support maintenance volunteering. We encourage voluntary care across all areas of traffic-free Network in Scotland, but we also aim to support those community groups that are already helping to look after their local routes or are hoping to begin.

People are much more likely to walk and cycle on attractive, interesting, and biodiverse routes. Safe, clean, and green routes can make a journey more enjoyable and increase everyone’s confidence in their travel.

Who can apply?

‘Love Your Network’ is available to constituted community groups, or organisations supporting voluntary action, e.g., trusts, charities, social enterprises, etc. If you are an informal group without a constitution, but can otherwise demonstrate your organisation and action, please contact us so we can help with this.

Individuals and profit-making companies are not eligible to apply.

The projects must take place on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network, as shown using the solid orange line on the [National Cycle Network map](#).

What support can we get?

‘Love Your Network’ offers pre-made bundles, as below. You can pick and choose what bundles you need.

If you are looking for support that is not listed, please choose the ‘other’ option on the application form or get in touch and we can discuss your needs.

Litterpicking bundles	Content	Notes for application
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Litterpicking 5	5 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 5 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 10	10 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 10 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 25	25 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 25 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking 40	40 x 33" Litterpicker Pro 40 x gloves	Please choose folding or standard when prompted
Litterpicking (children) 5	5 x Graptor litterpicker 5 x gloves	
Litterpicking (children) 10	10 x Graptor litterpicker 10 x gloves	
Litterpicking (children) 20	20 x Graptor litterpicker 20 x gloves	
Handihoops	Hoop to hold a binbag open	Please specify number when prompted
Long litterpickers	6ft Litterpicker Pro	Please specify number when prompted
Handicart Lite	Wheeled littercart with carrybag	Please specify number when prompted
Handicart Duo	Wheeled littercart for segregating rubbish and recycling, with carrybag	Please specify number when prompted
Litterpicking equipment is from Helping Hand Environmental. You can look up details here: https://www.hhenvironmental.co.uk/shop/		
Maintenance / other care		
Handtools	Handtools are provided from Greenham which carries a wide selection of handtools. You can look up details here: www.greenham.com	Please supply a list of handtools and quantity needed from this website when prompted For handtools from another supplier, please select 'Other equipment'
Other equipment	Opportunity to apply for equipment that is not part of a bundle e.g., hi-vis vests, wildflower seeds, handtools from other supplier, bike trailer, battery-operated power tools, graffiti wipes, protective glasses etc.	Please supply list of equipment needed when prompted, including supplier, cost and website links (not to exceed £1000)

What is not eligible?

The following is not an exhaustive list. Sustrans holds the right to refuse applications which contain elements not listed here:

- Staff time or wages
- Fuel costs
- Construction of paths
- Structural repairs to existing infrastructure e.g., walls, bridges, etc.
- Installation of artwork or interpretation (please see the [ArtRoots fund](#) for this).
- Areas not on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network.

Permissions

Landowner permission will be required for your project if you are making changes to land or the environment using tools, management practices, or operating machinery on their land.

Please obtain this in writing in advance of applying. If you need advice on how to do this, please get in touch.

For application with large changes, you will also need to demonstrate that you are covered by public liability insurance.

Please note - where we have maintenance responsibilities, or where there are complex land management agreements in place, we may not be able to support your application.

Community involvement

'Love Your Network' exists to support voluntary action by communities on traffic-free sections of the National Cycle Network, so please include an outline of community involvement in your application.

Please specifically mention how your project might reach underserved/underprioritised groups, or improve access or opportunities for everyone.

Measuring impact

When writing your application, please think about how you will measure the impact of your work. Sustrans require groups to:

- Complete a feedback form within 6 months of receiving the equipment
- Provide photos and quotes from the group showcasing the impact of your project
- Potentially become a case study for 'Love Your Network'

Deadline for applications

Applications will be assessed monthly from August 2025 through to February 2026.

The 2025/2 round will close at 23:59 on Thursday 26th February 2026. We reserve the right to close early or extend this date.

How do I apply?

You can start your application by completing the online form [here](#). You will be contacted by Sustrans for an initial discussion if your project is eligible. If it is not eligible, you will receive email notification.

Terms and conditions

By applying for 'Love Your Network', you agree to:

- Sustrans contacting you about your project
- Use the equipment as outlined in your application, or tell us if that changes
- Give feedback on your project using the feedback form provided
- Share photos and quotes with Sustrans showing the impact of 'Love Your Network' in your area
- Share a celebratory post on your social media once you have received your equipment - this will help us promote the work that Sustrans does and encourage others to get involved in our cause

If you have any queries, please contact us on loveyournetwork@sustrans.org.uk.

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey www.sustrans.org.uk