



South Ayrshire
**COMMUNITY
PLANNING**
Partnership



SUSTAINABILITY

SMALL-SCALE TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME

The nature sub-group of the sustainability SDP works in partnership with public sector and nature charities who bring a wide range of knowledge and expertise to the sub-group. This helps South Ayrshire Council identify where investment can have the biggest impact for nature in South Ayrshire.

The Scottish Government allocate monies to Scottish local authorities as part of the Nature Restoration Fund (NRF). South Ayrshire Council (SAC) used a portion of the funding allocated to support Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB) develop a small-scale tree planting grant scheme. The grant programme aims to increase the planting of native trees and improve woodland connectivity in South Ayrshire.

✓ The project was open to all landowners and community groups for planting projects within the Biosphere area. The partnership was beneficial to SAC communities as it allows the communities the ability to identify areas of greenspace that can be improved for biodiversity that are not part of SAC estates

✓ The pilot scheme launched in Dec 2023 and 5 applications were approved and processed, the pilot was deemed a success with good variety of applicants and diversity of project types. As tree planting season ends in March some applicants decided to delay until next round.

The second round ran from Aug 2024- April 2025, GSAB were able to bring in additional funding partners that supported some projects in East Ayrshire with the majority of projects located in South Ayrshire and SACs contributions used for projects within the council area.

✓ As well as the biodiversity benefits the project engaged with communities providing educational and green health opportunities.

