

P12 Community Grant Scheme



Project Overview:

The main aim of the Community Grants Scheme (CGS) was to support activities at a community level that complement those taking place through the wider LPS and provide benefit to people living within the project area. The intention is to encourage as wide a range of groups and individuals as possible to have involvement with and benefit from the LPS.

Project lead organisation and other organisations involved: CALL staff with application reviewed by the local Community Councils of Coigach and Assynt and approved by eight partner representatives through the Scheme Delivery Committee.

Project Location: Across CALL area

Project dates: September 2016 – September 2021

Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
Community projects identified and supported	20	35	9 grants year 1, 8 grants year 2, 10 grants year 3 and 8 grants in year 4. Awards listed in Annex 1 and mapped in Annex 2.

Scheme Outputs

How has the project contributed to the CALLP Scheme Outcomes:

Y	1. The key features of the Coigach and Assynt Landscape will better understood and restored with a fit for purpose system in place to ensure the benefits are sustained. <i>Elphin Community Hall was repaired, and Journey through Elphin community tapestry documents the key features of the community.</i>
Y	2. Where appropriate the connectivity and diversity of selected habitats will be mapped. <i>Lichen training identified previously unreported (in Assynt) species and Quinag Wildlife Project accumulated and integrated previous surveys and studies on the estate.</i>
	3. Increased awareness and understanding amongst all individuals and groups of what makes Coigach and Assynt special and the threats to the unique heritage.
	4. Important elements of the built, cultural and natural heritage will be recorded, improved, made publicly accessible and celebrated by the local community.
Y	5. People will have gained new skills in researching, restoring and understanding their heritage. <i>Training provided NVC identification skills, fencing skills, boat training and first aid skills. Projects such as Journey through Elphin upgraded community skills through participating in the project. USS training has upgraded the seaweed survey skills.</i>

	6. Collected data, information and interpretation will be more accessible in the public domain including posting on appropriate websites. <i>Gaelic place names have been translated and uploaded.</i>
Y	7. Local groups and individuals understand, enjoy, value and take action in the Coigach and Assynt area in ways they did not at the outset. <i>Assynt Field Club, Ullapool Sea Savers and Wildlife Watch have greater understanding and taken action in the area.</i>
	8. Increased access infrastructure at key strategic locations enabling people to enjoy the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
Y	9. Increased opportunities for informal recreation that promotes health and well-being benefits. <i>Assynt Development Trust deer fence has allowed safe use of the Culag Field for the local Primary School, Lochinver Football Team and the Assynt Highland Games. Publications of map guides, wildlife activities and fiction promotes outside health and well being.</i>

Reflecting on the last 5 years, what's the one thing that you're most proud of that has come from your project being part of CALLP?

Enabling the community to do more: How the community leveraged £95k up to £260k

The community grant scheme awarded £94,901.24 in community grants and have supported projects with a total in-kind value of £262,883.81, with volunteer input of equivalent of 430 days volunteer time! 24 grants were awarded to organisations and 11 to individuals. The location of Community Grant Scheme Awardees is mapped in Annex 2.

What difference has this project made to the built, cultural and natural heritage of Coigach and Assynt?

Built and cultural heritage has been repaired and maintained for future

- Geology of Coigach leaflet (and PDF) let locals and visitors gain knowledge of the natural history of the area and encourages them to explore it.
- Coigach heritage preserved and photographs digitised to allow easier access to the area's history
- Local people trained in identifying lichens for surveying and recording rare species through Assynt Field Club
- Drumbeg's heritage collected, displayed, and preserved; locals gaining and sharing knowledge of local culture, crofting, music and school life
- Grant allowed a ferry operator to be employed by Isle Martin Trust to allow locals free access to their community owned island
- More people have accessed Ullapool Museum's collections digitally, increasing size and depth of engagement of audience.
- Greater knowledge of Sutherland's natural world through the West Sutherland Fisheries Trust Wellie's & Wildlife Activity booklets.
- Culkein Jetty restored and rebuilt with similar materials and made fully functional for the community
- Built and natural heritage of Elphin recorded in a community made textile wall-hanging hung in Elphin village hall with an accompanying guide book
- Elphin community village hall repaired and made watertight to allow for continued use
- Community gained knowledge of National Vegetation Classification habitat types within the CALL area to help inform management of areas for natural heritage

What difference has this project made to People?

People have become more aware of CALL and its projects

- Advertising through the local newspapers, endorsing the selections of awards by the community council, and awardees reporting on their outputs in the local newspapers has ensured a wide awareness of CALL and other projects.

People have a better understanding of their local environment through the geology trail leaflet, the creative trail and informative guided walks for example.

- Assynt Wildlife Watch children (and shared with community) have experienced and engaged with wildlife like never before with the purchase of a trail cam
- Rural skills school children experienced assessing fencing areas
- Women in Crofting fencing course held and trained 20 women
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/naidheachdan/43205602>
- Classes on traditional music held for local youth and adults
- Locals and visitors have a greater understanding of the local marine environment and challenges it faces, *primarily* marine plastic litter
- Culag park in Lochinver fenced to help keep deer off field, allowing the community to use the space without health risks from ticks
- Locals trained in boat operation to volunteer running the ferry to Isle Martin
- Better connection to their environment
- Enhanced skills to the community

"I would like to express my thanks to CALL for the funding towards my completion of Nuco first aid instructors course in early June. It was a very intensive week with lots of learning not just on how to deliver first aid but also how to teach. I am now very excited to deliver first aid courses as the tourist season starts to come to an end. This extra string to my bow with certainly help support our family through the winter months as well as environmentally reducing travel distances for local businesses looking to undertake a first aid course. Covid allowing I plan to deliver CPR & AED training in the Achiltibuie hall free of charge to the local community." Local Outdoor Business Owner and Mountain Rescue Volunteer

"It [Geotrails leaflet] has certainly brought in people. People who have bought the trails via our website have come up specifically to do it." Pete Harrison, Northwest Highlands Geopark Geologist

"I loved putting and idea into a book! Thank you!" Jenny Grant, Author

Useful Links

[Community Grants Scheme – Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape \(coigach-assynt.org\)](https://coigach-assynt.org)

<https://coigach-assynt.org/2020/12/elphin-hall-watertight-again/>

<https://coigach-assynt.org/2019/12/creagan-grabhalla-clach-tuill-engraved-stones-of-clachtoll/>

<https://coigach-assynt.org/2019/11/a-journey-through-elphin-for-quite-an-adventure/>

<https://coigach-assynt.org/2019/08/3703/>

<https://coigach-assynt.org/2019/07/assynt-coigach-creative-trail/>

<https://littoralartproject.com/2019/03/11/spring-collection/>

<https://visitcoigach.com/download/2155/> Geotrails Leaflet for download

<https://www.nwhgeopark.com/product/coigach-geotrail/> Geotrails Leaflet for sale

<https://jennygrant.co.uk/new-book-between-mountain-and-sea-a-dogs-adventure-in-coigach-and-assynt>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2HZFqUiPcA> video presentation of community grant schemes and the output of three community grants;

- From Mountain to Sea <https://youtu.be/q2HZFqUiPcA?t=141>;
- Gaelic Learners' Weekend <https://youtu.be/q2HZFqUiPcA?t=703>;
- The Coigach Geotrail <https://youtu.be/q2HZFqUiPcA?t=817>;

Future Plans and Legacy

- Coigach Heritage Group to explore the feasibility of a heritage/visitor centre
- Ongoing maintenance and improvement of Culag park fencing by Assynt Development Trust
- Rare species and locations recorded to be monitored through Assynt Field Club
- Further collections able to be added to Ullapool Museum now their collection has been digitalised and streamlined
- Further marine surveys carried out by Ullapool Sea Savers
- Isle Martin Trust to continue access to the island and promote visits from the public

Lessons Learned

What are the three positive lessons gained from the scheme:

1. The project was extremely popular and allowed non partner members of the community to be included in the project.
2. The project could respond to opportunities that developed over the project that community members could take advantage of through the funding.
3. The inclusive, transparent process to evaluate applications ensured that the scheme was perceived in the wider community as fair.

What are the three negative lessons gained from the scheme:

1. Evaluation and claim process intensive.
2. Confusion between personal profit and public benefit disqualified some applications in the first year.
3. Some sectors of the community were unable to apply, e.g. schools

Funding Partners



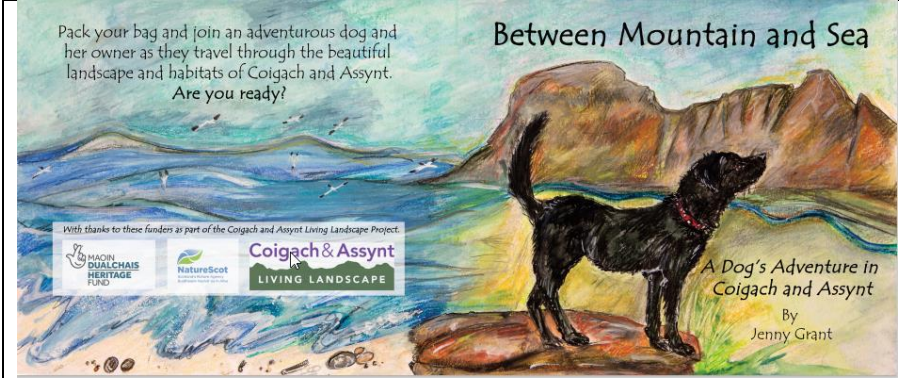
Photographic Evidence



Power scythe being used on Clachtoll Common Grazings © Andy Summers



Students learning about fencing © Duncan MacColl



Between Mountain and Sea Book Cover © Jenny Grant



Drumbeg Community Hall celebrate 140 year anniversary of Drumbeg School © Boyd Alexander/Scottish Wildlife Trust

Annex 1: List of awarded grants

Year	Code	Applicant	Type	Requested Amount	Total Project Costs Inc In-kind Costs	Title and Description	Area
1	CGS1-01	Lochinver Wildlife Watch	Organisation	£220.00	£1,820.00	Purchase a trail camera for use by Lochinver Wildlife Watch group to record wildlife and submit data to Assynt Field Club database	Assynt
1	CGS1-02	Wendy Bennie	Individual	£1,000.00	£6,757.60	Undertake improvement works to Achnahaird meadow, improve access and provide interpretation	Coigach
1	CGS1-03	Duncan MacColl	Individual	£888.75	£2,401.00	Build fencing skills with the Ullapool High School Rural Skills class and construct fencing on croft to protect riparian habitat from livestock	Coigach
1	CGS1-04	Clachtoll Grazings Committee	Organisation	£1,129.00	£1,679.00	Purchase a power scythe to be used by the crofters to mow their areas of meadow to provide hay and to encourage wildflower growth	Assynt
1	CGS1-05	Achiltibuie Tourist Association	Organisation	£5,000.00	£10,200.00	Coigach Geotrail: Produce a map to show walks in the area with interesting geological features and provide interpretation	Coigach
1	CGS1-07	Coigach Community Heritage Group	Organisation	£4,500.00	£7,400.00	Create an accessible database (likely online) to provide a one stop shop index of where information about Coigach's heritage is stored and signpost people to it	Coigach

Year	Code	Applicant	Type	Requested Amount	Total Project Costs Inc In-kind Costs	Title and Description	Area
1	CGS1-08	Jorine van Delft	Individual	£1,000.00	£4,950.00	Run music sessions for young people in the area to promote the tradition of social music playing, including local heritage tunes	Assynt
1	CGS1-10	Ullapool and Lochinver Wildlife Watch Groups	Organisation	£3,137.00	£8,109.07	Day trip to Isle Martin for the 2 Wildlife Watch groups with activities to learn about natural and cultural heritage and includes training for activity leaders.	Coigach
1	CGS1-11	Comhlan Gaidhlig Asainte	Organisation	£3,883.33	£7,398.33	2 Gaelic language weekends and to create a website of Gaelic placenames in the area with interpretations	Assynt
2	CGS2-03	Andy Summers	Individual	£722.66	£1,863.55	Purchase a static bat recorder to allow private research into the species and distribution of bats in Coigach and Assynt.	Assynt
2	CGS2-04	Assynt Community Association/ Development Trust	Organisation	£5,000.00	£11,306.20	Deer fencing for approx. 1ha with regard to serious health risks to people who share a recreational outdoor space with Red Deer e.g. Lyme Disease from the ticks, Bovine Tuberculosis, & other intestinal diseases carried in the gut of Red Deer	Assynt
2	CGS2-05	Assynt Field Club	Organisation	£2,047.50	£5,147.50	Andy Acton, one of Scotland's leading lichenologists and ecologists to run five day lichen identification workshop in Assynt	Assynt

Year	Code	Applicant	Type	Requested Amount	Total Project Costs Inc In-kind Costs	Title and Description	Area
2	CGS2-07	Comhlan Gaidhlig Asainte	Organisation	£800.00	£8,750.00	Two one weekend workshops for 4 levels of Gaelic learners. Each weekend would have between 20 and 30 adult (16+) learners and 4 fluent tutors.	Assynt
2	CGS2-09	Drumbeg Development Association	Organisation	£3,800.00	£5,010.00	Celebrate 140th Anniversary of the opening of Drumbeg School in 1878 by mounting a display in the old school/ Village Hall covering the period 1878 – 1996, recording/ transcribing local peoples' memories of their childhoods and school life, display on wreck of a Dutch cargo ship, discovered off Drumbeg shore in 20., records of the many WWI and WW2 connections with inhabitants of Nedd, Drumbeg and Culkein Drumbeg, and building a commemorative, drystone seat, using original stones from the old school building.	Assynt
2	CGS2-10	Isle Martin Trust	Organisation	£5,000.00	£7,000.00	Employ a part-time ferry operator to establishing good working systems and practice, and to buddy members of the ferry volunteer team in gaining experience. New and young ferry volunteers will be trained and mentored.	Coigach

Year	Code	Applicant	Type	Requested Amount	Total Project Costs Inc In-kind Costs	Title and Description	Area
2	CGS2-13	Ullapool Museum	Organisation	£5,000.00	£18,099.00	The project will pay for two main strands of work; professional support to transfer, document and publish our collections related to Coigach; and training for our volunteer team to support and develop this work. There will also be a small spend on materials (software and hardware) to undertake the work.	Coigach
2	CGS2-14	West Sutherland Fisheries Trust	Organisation	£5,000.00	£9,500.00	Wellies to wildlife: educate school children, residents and visitors about the range of natural habitats within Assynt and Coigach through a series of activity sheets which can be downloaded for free or purchased from local vendors	CALL wide
3	CSG3-01	Assynt Crofters Trust	Organisation	£5,000.00	£54,800.00	Culkein Jetty Restoration: renovate the old ruined pier and jetty at Culkein, Stoer	Assynt
3	CSG3-02	Jan Kilpatrick	Individual	£995.00	£3,695.00	A Journey Through Elphin – Past and Present: interpretation of built and natural features of the township, through creation of a community created, wall hanging	Assynt

Year	Code	Applicant	Type	Requested Amount	Total Project Costs Inc In-kind Costs	Title and Description	Area
3	CSG3-03	Julia Barton	Individual	£1,000.00	£1,750.00	CALL #LitterCUBES: community beach clean and analysis of beach plastic litter, assembled into a sculpture to be displayed at the International Edinburgh Science Festival in April 2020	Coigach
3	CSG3-05	Assynt Field Club	Organisation	£1,516.00	£4,716.00	Workshop in National Vegetation Classification for Assynt and Coigach Upland Habitats: NVC training provide by Ben & Alison Averis	Assynt
3	CSG3-07	Jenny Grant	Individual	£1,000.00	£5,465.00	Children's Book: illustrated children's picture book based on the landscape and heritage of Coigach & Assynt.	CALL wide
3	CSG3-08	Assynt & Coigach Creatives	Organisation	£1,827.00	£8,936.00	Assynt & Coigach Creative Trail & Open Studio Initiative: attractive map-based trail guide guiding visitors around the CALL area to exactly where locally made creative work can be seen and purchased	CALL wide
3	CSG3-09	Isle Martin Trust	Organisation	£5,000.00	£13,736.00	Integrating Isle Martin: employment of a part time Access Officer to liaise with individuals, the local and wider community to coordinate visit to the Island	Coigach

Year	Code	Applicant	Type	Requested Amount	Total Project Costs Inc In-kind Costs	Title and Description	Area
3	CSG3-10	Cathy Dagg	Individual	£1,000.00	£2,200.00	Historic uses of Kelp in Coigach: Volunteer involvement in excavation of kelp kilns, experimental archaeology, and exhibition	Coigach
3	CSG3-12	Griogair MacAllein	Individual	£1,000.00	£1,224.00	Low Level Guided Story Walks: Support to conduct 8 voluntary Low-Level Guided Story Walks in Assynt	Assynt
3	CSG3-13	Assynt Development Trust	Organisation	£5,000.00	£10,400.00	Assynt E.bike: purchase of e.Bikes , with associated maintenance equipment to hire out to locals at affordable rates and tourists at commercial rates.	Assynt
4	CSG4-01	Duncan MacColl	Individual	£1,000	£2,200	Croft livestock moving and handling using mobile systems - purchase a mobile sheep handling system which can be towed behind a vehicle or tractor	Coigach
4	CSG4-09	Assynt Crofters Trust	Organisation	£2,000	£4,257	Assynt Comunity Archive - Revamp and relocations to ACT office.	Assynt
4	CSG4-05	John Muir Trust	Organisation	£3,400	£4,600	Quinag Wildlife Project - in partnership with AFC to promote interest in the landscape and wildlife of the Quinag Estate and gather all available information on the landscape and wildlife of the Quinag estate into a common digital format	Assynt

Year	Code	Applicant	Type	Requested Amount	Total Project Costs Inc In-kind Costs	Title and Description	Area
4	CSG4-07	Lochinver Coastal Rowing	Organisation	£3,105	£3,605	Boat Equipment Capital Purchase - ensuring the boat goes back into the water safe to use, then the club can engage as many members of the community as possible	Assynt
4	CSG4-08	Ullapool Sea Savers	Organisation	£2,930	£4,930	Intertidal Seaweed Surveys - Using the Natural History Museum's Big Seaweed Survey format, and focusing on the five MarClim station locations within the CALLP area, this project will organise USS to conduct 10 surveys per year	Coigach & Assynt
4	CSG4-10	Assynt Field Club	Organisation	£5,000	£9,707	Sound of Nature - purchase of sound recording equipment, sound recording training, collection of sound recording of local nature and audio-visual exhibit in Assynt	Assynt
4	CSG4-04	Tim Hamlet	Individual	£1,000	£1,876	First Aid Provider - Instructor Training to increase the capacity of the community to train first aid providers.	Coigach
4	CSG4-02	ELKCAL	Organisation	£5,000	£7,396	Making the Elphin Community Hall watertight and repairing damage caused by water leakage to main hall area - ensure the integrity of the hall.	Assynt

Annex 2: Location of Community Grant Scheme awardees

