



RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST

c/o Hanson Cement, Ribblesdale Works, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 4QF
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14th February 2020

Dear Sirs,

SUBJECT: Lancashire Woodland Connect Supporters

As our campaign continues to gather pace and support across Lancashire, we are now looking to various organisations for financial and resource support. Attached to this letter is a document setting out the background and context to the campaign, as well as the benefits, costs and fund-raising targets.

We are approaching each local authority to become a "Campaign Supporter" and for a contribution of £15,000 per year. We feel a collective commitment from Councils will be the key enabling action to ensuring that we are able to leverage additional match funding and meet our fund-raising targets for the campaigns of £1.55m annually. We have identified a range of other potential funders (Appendix 2 of the attached document sets out all of the organisational and funding types that we are approaching), but each requires demonstration of commitment, and we feel local authorities can show the leadership required to kick start the campaign. We recognise that there is significant demand for action on climate change within each local authority area, and this presents an opportunity to act collectively.

There are obvious challenges in supporting a long-term campaign, so we are suggesting a minimum two-year commitment with a review there after. Two years is the crucial minimum as woodlands require a year's development, and 6 months to then deliver the sites associated with these contributions (thus running across 2 financial years at least). Hyndburn Borough Council are the first to make such a commitment, and 2 more authorities are currently finalising similar commitments.

We have also developed other ways in which local authorities can contribute. This could include contributing specifically to a certain number of trees being planted, at £15 per tree. Or a Carbon offset at £50 per tonne. It is also possible for councils to contribute public owned land for woodland creation, which can financially benefit the campaign and potentially the council (please note on tenanted land, we would need tenants to be willing and agree to land use change).

Where councils may have certain requirements – or restrictions – on funding we believe we can fully accommodate this. For example councils may require funding to be spent in their own borough by a certain date. By working with Lune and Wyre Rivers Trust we have coverage across Lancashire, and with the potential sites we have already identified and more identified each day, we are confident of being able to deliver against first contributions within 2 years. We also are operating transparently with full auditability on our campaign spend, and annual reporting to Campaign Supporters.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss further.

The Lancashire Woodland Campaign will be a key Climate Action response for the county, and the districts, and we hope that your Local Authority will be able to confirm support by the end of March 2020.

Your sincerely

Jack Spees
CEO
Ribble Rivers Trust

TRUSTEES: J. Bleasdale, D. Bradley, J. Cowburn, M. Ellacot, Dr. M.W. Horner, J.P. Lord (Chairman), C.H. Marchbank, A.T. Rowntree, D. Wilmot

CHARITY NUMBER: 1070672 COMPANY NUMBER: 3498691 ENTRUST REGISTRATION NUMBER: 600122

To secure the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of our rivers, streams, watercourses, water impoundments, banksides tributaries and estuaries in particular of the river Ribble, Calder and Hodder for the benefit of the public.

Ribble Rivers Trust is the Operating name of the Ribble Catchment Conservation Trust Limited.