£20m birthday bonanza! Lottery money continues to play massive role in protecting UK's much-loved landscapes

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This coming week, The National Lottery turns 20. As part of these celebrations, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is looking back at the achievements of its innovative Landscape Partnership programme.

This programme runs right across the UK with over 17,504 km of landscapes – the combined size of Wales, Devon and Cornwall - being funded thanks to Lottery players. A further £20m has also just been invested in nine new schemes in England and Scotland.

HLF's Landscape Partnership programme is unique. Considered the most significant grant scheme in existence for landscape-scale projects, it has consistently delivered conservation and sustainability benefits for a range of landscape projects.

Drew Bennellick, HLF Head of Landscape and Natural Heritage, said: "On the eve of The National Lottery's 20th birthday, this is the perfect moment to thank Lottery players for helping make possible our Landscape Partnership programme. We couldn't have done it without them."

[quote=Dr Tom Tew, HLF Trustee and CEO of the Environment Bank]There is so much here for our country to celebrate and be proud of, and all made possible by The National Lottery[/quote]

Dr Tom Tew, HLF Trustee and CEO of the Environment Bank, added: "This is real conservation in action and there is so much here for our country to celebrate and be proud of, and all made possible by The National Lottery."

As a special 20th birthday present, HLF has also invested £20m of Landscape Partnership funding in nine projects. From Gloucestershire's stunning Forest of Dean to the Scottish Highland's vibrant Tomintoul and Glenlivet in Cairngorms National Park, HLF's support is set to forge new strategic partnerships and ensure that the UK's most precious resource, our landscape, will be protected for future generations.



Miners at the Forest of Dean John McConico

Celebrating two decades of Lottery support for natural heritage