



Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund Information Sheet

The Quantock Hills AONB Service has a grant scheme to help you with projects that will look after the Greater Quantock area now and for the future.

This briefing sheet explains what the scheme is, what 'Landscape Development' is, who can apply for a grant, and how to go about applying.

What is the Landscape Development Fund?

The Landscape Development Fund is a new grant scheme which has been created to enhance the landscape of the Quantock Hills and surrounding vale and reduce the impact of the development associated with Hinkley Point C nuclear power station. It supports projects that bring environmental, including landscape and biodiversity, benefits to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and surrounding vale. It aims to restore or develop landscape features in this area of great beauty and diversity.

The Landscape Development Fund has £150,000 initially to allocate. This will provide grants to landowners, farmers, organisations, community groups, parish councils, individuals and businesses who wish to explore and develop practical projects that enhance, conserve and develop the landscape. Due to the funding available **the maximum grant available is £5,000 and applicants can apply for up to 50% of project costs.**

Why the Greater Quantock area?

These landscapes will be impacted by the development of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station and this fund, provided by EDF Energy, will support projects which will strengthen the landscape character of the Quantock Hills and surrounding area.

The Quantock Hills is one of 34 AONBs in England. They extend over more than 15% of England's land area and represent some of our finest landscapes. They are statutory designations, set up with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the areas they cover. The surrounding vale contains an intricate agricultural and wooded landscapes which supports the setting of the Quantock Hills. The Fund seeks to foster projects which are the best of their kind in these outstanding and vulnerable areas.

What kind of project is eligible?

Projects will need to show that they can meet the environmental criteria of the fund (below). Applicants are also encouraged to demonstrate how their project can meet the Funds other criteria.

Projects will be assessed against the Landscape Development Fund criteria;

Projects must:

- **conserve and enhance the natural environment and landscape features [PRIORITY CRITERIA]**

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Environmental Criteria - does the project:

- protect or increase bio-diversity
- minimise pollution of the land, air and water

Social Criteria - does the project:

- encourage community engagement, ownership or empowerment
- conserve and support the cultural heritage
- promote local community action

Economic Criteria - does the project:

- make use of local suppliers of products, services and materials

Project Criteria – does the project:

- have a clearly defined set of realistic aims and outputs
- access other funding, either cash or in-kind

Grants can cover the costs of some or all of the following:

- Practical work including hedge laying and planting, traditional standard orchard restoration, small woodland management, wild flower meadows, willow pollarding, dry stone wall restoration, planting native trees, pond restoration and a 'circular economic scheme'

Examples of projects could include:

- Community woodlands or meadows
- Pond restoration
- Creation of hedgerows or replanting of hedgerows ;

Who can apply?

Landowners, farmers, organisations, community groups, parish councils, individuals and businesses can apply. Individuals and businesses can only be beneficiaries where the project shows a clear benefit to the wider community. You don't have to live or work within the Fund area to apply. You must simply demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon the Fund area and satisfy the core criteria of the grant.

How we will assess your application?

There will be 4 application rounds per year with projects being assessed on a first come first served basis. Your application will be assessed against the fund criteria and a recommendation made to the Fund Panel. You will be informed of the outcome of your application within 5 working days of the panel meeting. **Before you submit an application, please speak to us! The AONB team can guide and support the development of your application where appropriate.**

The decision whether to award a grant is made by the Greater Quantock Landscape Development panel. The panel has representatives from a range of interests, including community, business and environmental management.

Small Pot Applications – For grant applications of £1,000 or less your application will be decided by a senior officer of the Quantock Hills AONB Service.

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Grants

- Grant payment is administered by Somerset County Council on behalf of the Quantock Hills AONB Partnership
- In all cases, an agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will be signed prior to receipt of grant. There will also be requirements about monitoring and recording the project outputs.
- All grants are paid retrospectively and applicants will need to submit a claim form with copies of all invoices and receipts. To aid cashflow for community groups the AONB Service will consider payment of grant in stages throughout the project.

How can we in the AONB team help?

If you would like more information or want to talk through a project idea please contact the AONB office.

Quantock Hills AONB Service

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Greater Quantock Area: The parishes listed below are included within the Fund area:

Broomfield	Cannington	Chilton Trinity
Durleigh	East Quantoxhead	Enmore
Fiddington	Goathurst	Holford
Kilve	Nether Stowey	Otterhampton
Over Stowey	Spaxton	Stogursey
Stockland Bristol	Stringston	Watchet
Wembdon	West Quantoxhead	Williton

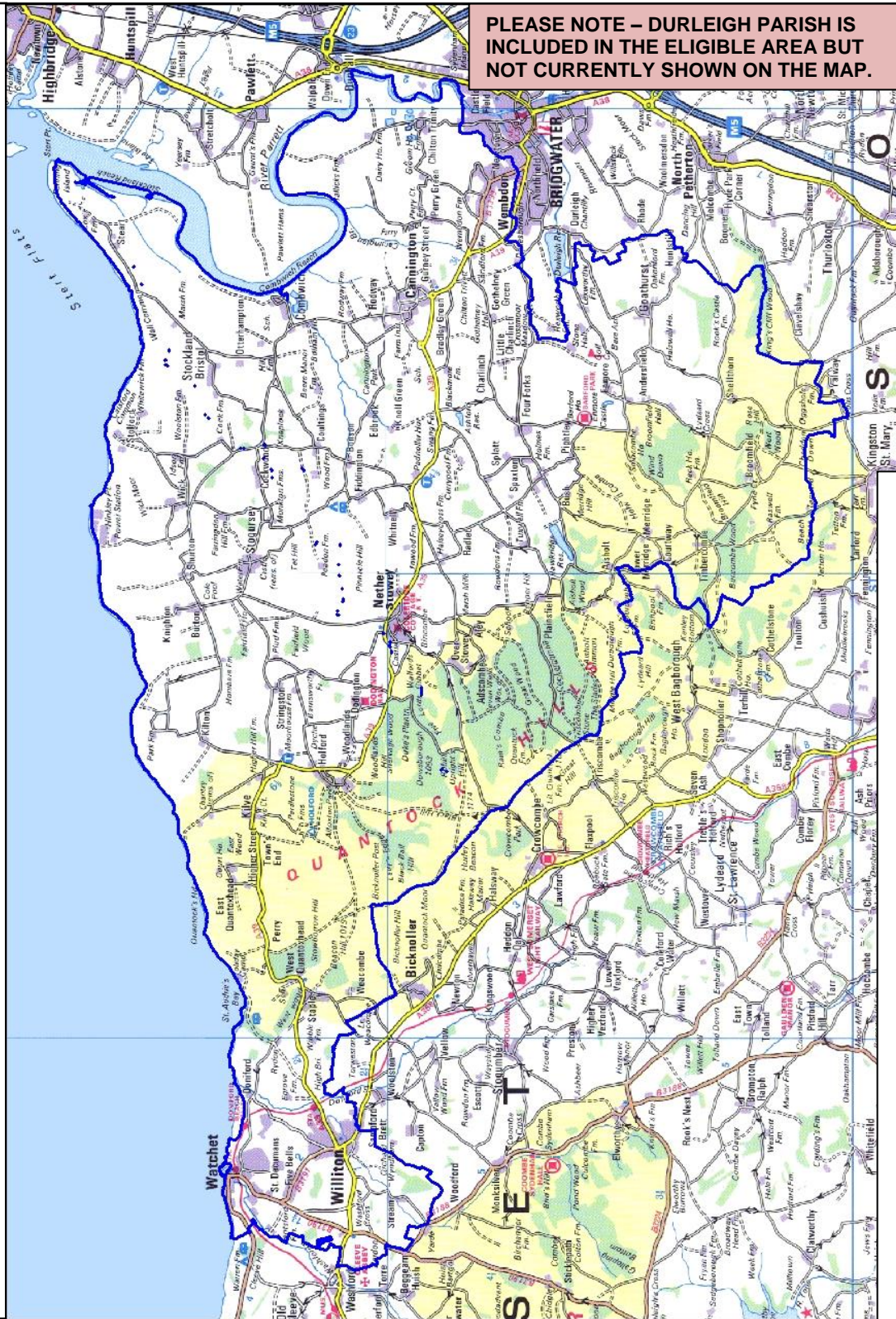
2019/20 Funding Rounds: Please contact the AONB Office for the latest funding round and panel dates.

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Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund – Eligible Area



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Quantock Hills
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Sedgemoor
IN SOMERSET

