



Chairman's Foreword



The funding cuts sustained by the AONB Service over the past year are unfortunately by no means a one off. Indeed they are a symptom of greater change for how our finest landscapes will continue to be protected in the future. However finding a new way forward has now become a matter of urgency and the Quantock Hills AONB Service is exploring new options with commendable speed and thoroughness. The new Future Directions working group has been set up to look at options on future funding and establish suitable delivery models that can survive this tempestuous economic climate.

Nevertheless there have been some excellent achievements this year:

The Sustainable Development Fund supported 9 Quantock projects allocating almost £19,000 of funding. One of such projects was the Long Eared Owl Schools project, in which wildlife specialist Chris Sperring took his Long Eared Owl 'Otus' into 9 Quantock primary schools, and taught children the value of habitats for birds of prey, and their importance in our ecosystems.

166 planning applications were considered by our Landscape Planning Officer who made comments on 50. The careful consideration of planning applications and the provision of specialist advice on those applications continues to be a vital tool in the protection of Quantock views and local character. Extensive work has also been carried out with regards to the Hinkley Point C application.

Volunteering has, of course, become more valuable than ever. On behalf of the Joint Advisory Committee, my sincere thanks go to all those committed individuals who give their time to help keep the Quantock Hills outstandingly beautiful. With over 4,000 volunteer hours clocked by this dedicated group over the past year it is clear that their hard work makes a tangible difference and a very positive impact.

Looking back over the year, this report shows real examples of how the working in partnership helps to deliver the essential conservation and enhancements that keep the Quantocks outstandingly beautiful. Working with others in carrying out wildlife surveys, winter heather burning, and joint patrols with the Police are all good examples of what can be achieved when organisations and individuals work together.

Very little can be achieved in isolation, therefore on behalf of the JAC I offer thanks to all our extended partners. It is clear that if AONBs like the Quantock Hills can negotiate through the current difficulties and find new delivery models that harness the economic potential of protecting outstanding landscapes, whilst continuing to work with others for the benefit of the hills, then the future is still bright.

Highlights 2011–2012



Adder survey



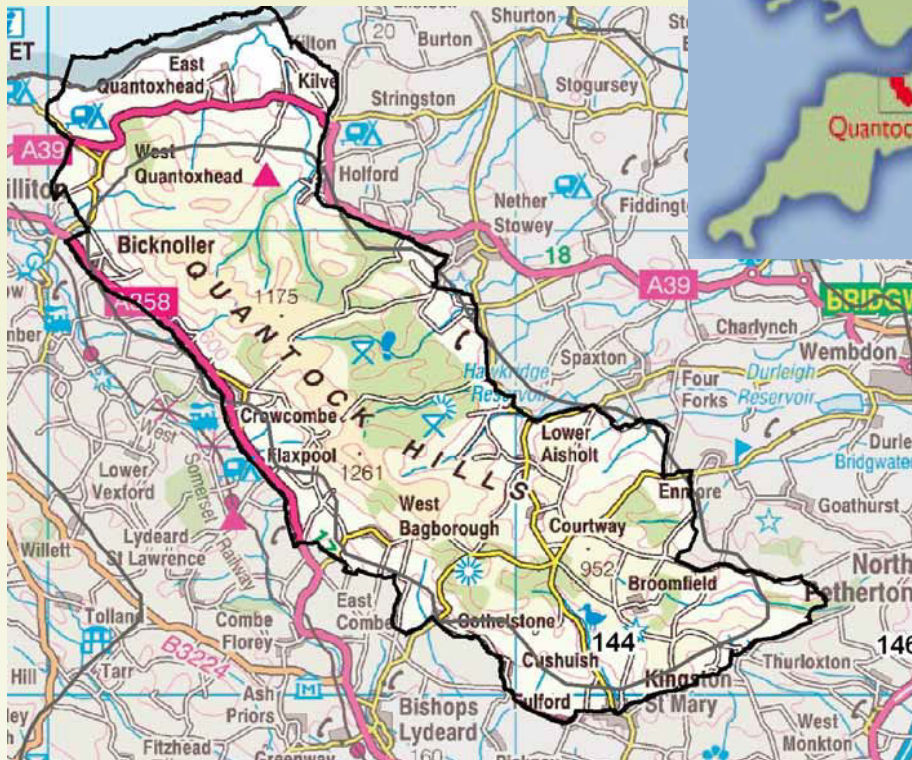
Ballerina Waxcap



Quantock Conservation Volunteers

- **£25,000** secured across Somerset by Local Nature Partnerships
- **166 planning applications** considered
- **9 SDF projects** supported with £18,991 claimed
- **98% of Business Plan** targets were met or significantly progressed
- **16 species of waxcap** identified in 2011 Quantock Hills Waxcap Fungi Survey
- **11** of those species recorded at Cothelstone Hill
- A new **Local Wildlife Site** designated for its fungal value
- **Wildlife monitoring** support for partner organisations undertaking surveys for adders, pied flycatchers, moths and bats
- **14 adder sightings** recorded in 2011 Adder Survey
- **4,149 Volunteer hours** completed, tasks included surveys, trail audits and scrub clearance
- **14 public events** with 219 attendees including bushcraft, stargazing and deer rut walks
- **9 schools visited** for the 'Owl Schools Project' reaching 400 students
- **41 incidents of flytipping** recorded and reported to local authorities
- Adoption of a **Wild Camping** Policy
- Adoption of a **Solar PV** Position Statement

The Quantock Hills



The Quantock Hills AONB was designated in 1956, making it the first in England. The AONB's distinctive identity is formed by the dramatic ridge of Devonian sandstone rock, interwoven with deep wooded combes, open heathlands, forest, rich farmland pasture and characterful villages.

Situated between the urban areas of Bridgwater, Taunton and Minehead, the AONB represents a haven of tranquillity for wildlife and people alike.

The Joint Advisory Committee



The primary duties of the Quantock Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)

are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. The JAC must also increase the public's understanding and enjoyment of the area, and foster the economic and social well-being of the local communities.

Due to local authority elections in May 2011 the JAC only met 3 times during 2011/12 (July, Nov & February). In July 2011 the AONB Service took over the administration of the JAC from Somerset County Council due to service cuts at the County Council.

With the local authority elections in May there were 5 new JAC members. The AONB Service held a JAC induction workshop which was open to new and existing JAC members which went through the history of AONB designation, purpose of an AONB and the roles and responsibilities of the JAC. A further workshop was held with the 4 Parish council representatives which further explored their roles and responsibilities and also improved communications with the local communities.

The Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee Members are:

Somerset County Council (3 reps)	Natural England (1 rep)	CLA (1 rep)
Sedgemoor District Council (3 reps)	Friends of Quantock (1 rep)	
Taunton Deane Borough Council (3 reps)	Forestry Commission (1 rep)	
West Somerset Council (3 reps)	Countryside Landowners Association (1 rep)	
Commoners Association (1 rep)	Somerset Local Access Forum (1 rep)	
Parish Councils (4 reps)	FoQ (1 rep)	
Somerset Local Access Forum (1 rep)	Defra (1 rep)	

Partnership Working



Statement of Intent During 2011/12 the AONB Service developed a Statement of Intent in which the core funding partners expressed their intent to support the work of the partnership over the next 4 years. Though not a legally binding document it allows the core funding partners to express their commitment to the work of the partnership. As a requirement of local authorities signing up to the Statement of Intent the AONB Service has had to ring-fence an earmarked reserve which is to be used to cover redundancy costs of the AONB Service if partners were to withdraw from the partnership. This meant that a number of projects which were to be delivered during 2011/12 have been postponed.

Future Directions The AONB Service has received deep cuts over the last 3 years, and it is likely that this will continue into the future. In order to adapt to the new financial climate a Future Directions working group was set up to look at options on future funding and delivery models.

The JAC have agreed that the setting up of an arms length body, such as a trust, will provide opportunities for fund raising which will enable the high level of delivery to continue into the future. During 2012/13 further consultation with partners and development of an arms length body will occur.

Quantock Commons Management Group The group consists of the AONB Service, commoners, Natural England and National Trust. It allows for discussion on the Quantock Common management and planning for works under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. There were 2 meetings last year with swaling, capital works and CSS legacy discussed.

Partnership Working



National Trust Ranger Steve Sudworth AONB Ranger Andy Harris at a joint 'Bushcraft Event'



Highways Heritage partnership



Police and Quantock Conservation Volunteers

Quantock Police & Conservation Agencies Working Group The working group is a partnership between the police and conservation agencies which allows for the sharing of intelligence and good practice and the development of initiatives. 2 meetings have been held in the last year with illegal off-road use being the main issue discussed.

Quantock Access Group The Quantock Access Group was formed in 2011 to allow sharing of information and provide an opportunity for user groups to raise issues. 2 meetings have been held in 2011 with maintenance and horse-box parking areas the main areas of action.

National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) The AONB Service is a member of the NAAONB. The NAAONB is an independent body which represents those responsible in the management of AONBs. Over the last year AONB Service staff have attended 8 national workshops and meetings. A main role for the NAAONB is to collate consultation responses from AONB's to present a common voice to Government. In the past year the AONB Service has inputted into consultations such as the National Planning Policy Framework and Biodiversity Monitoring indicators.

Local Nature Partnerships In June 2011 the Government published the Natural Environment White Paper in which it set out its vision for the next 50 years. One measure proposed was the setting up of Local Nature Partnership to strengthen joined-up action across local agencies and organisations. A number of organisations have pursued the development of a Somerset Local Nature Partnership, with a successful bid to Defra for development funding, and the Quantock Hills JAC has offered support to this emerging partnership.

The AONB Service Team

In January 2011 Somerset County Council informed the AONB Service that they would like an extension to the secondment of Chris Edwards for a further 12 months. After consultation with the Officer Working Group this was agreed with Iain Porter continuing to act up to the AONB Managers post.

For 2011/12 the Volunteer Coordinator post became a shared post with the Mendip Hills AONB, strengthening the joint working between the protected landscapes. The joint post will provide added value by exploiting the synergies between volunteer development for the two protected landscapes.

Volunteering



The Volunteer Policy developed in 2010 was implemented this year with success. The policy gives advice and information regarding issues such as recruiting, health and safety, insurance, and disciplinary procedures as well as expenses, clothing and suggestions on what can be offered in return for individuals' commitment and dedication.

Volunteers are divided into teams

The **Quantock Countryside Volunteers** work in partnership with the National Trust and help carry out swaling work, wildlife surveys and on site maintenance at various locations throughout the AONB.

The **Estate Team** help to mow and strim the main car parks, and have assisted with auditing the fence lines on Cothelstone Hill, removing tree guards and installing information posts at Access Land entry points.

The **Volunteer Rangers Team**, which is a new team set up this year, have a role specifically designed to help with interaction with the public and raise the profile of the Quantock Hills. 6 Volunteer Rangers were appointed this year in what is essentially a pilot year for the role.

The Full Time Volunteer post is in partnership with National Trust. Tori Kirk took up the post in May 2011 until October and Vicky Criddle started on 31st October 2011 both have undertaken considerable work mainly in access audits, supporting work for the Landscape Character Assessment and swaling work.

In 2011-12:

5 volunteers trained in bird monitoring to support regional research into effects of climate change on indicator species.

4,149 volunteer hours undertaken in conservation management, visitor management research and development projects.

6 volunteers have been engaged and trained in visitor management with 154 volunteer hours engaged in visitor management activities.

Working towards Management Plan Action Points: WAP4, ARAP7, ARAP8, VAP2, VAP5, VAP6

Amenity Land



Shelter used for AONB events



Cothelstone Hill

The AONB Service has undertaken land management on land holdings owned by Somerset County Council within the AONB since the mid 1990s.

Since 2002 the AONB Service has undertaken more work associated with the amenity land holding, acting as land agent ensuring compliance and developing agri-environment schemes. Some funding for this work has come from Somerset County Council but the majority has come from agri-environment schemes and external funding bids put together by the AONB Service.

In 2010 Somerset County Council announced a review of all its amenity land holdings as part of a wider resource audit. Last November Somerset County Council announced that 8-acres, Thorncombe Hill and Over Stowey Custom Common were surplus and could proceed for disposal. The freehold of Great Wood was also taken forward for disposal with Forestry Commission, which currently occupies a 999-year lease, purchasing this in March. The AONB Service has worked with Somerset County Council to ensure that the conservation and enhancement of these land holdings will be protected under new ownership.

Cothelstone Hill is being retained by Somerset County Council and over the past year the AONB Service rangers and volunteers have

- Undertaken tree safety audits and associated works
- Removal of sycamore scrub and spraying of re-growth
- Topping of bramble and scrub removal

Cothelstone Hill is also a wonderful site for the AONB Service to undertake events and activities and the volunteers built a shelter which is used for public bushcraft and volunteer events.

Landscape Scale Habitat Management



Winter Swaling



Bracken bruising



Red deer stag

Support has been given to **Western Somerset Woodland project**, which is being led by FWAG SW. The project aims to develop networks between those who own woods and those who work in woodlands. This will help to strengthen local supply chains and maximise biodiversity and business opportunities. A launch event was hosted on the Quantock Hills at West Bagborough with site visits to nearby Cothelstone Estate in July.

Good news with a significant proportion of the southern heathland area entering into a **Higher Level Stewardship Scheme**, an agreement between the land owners, farmers and Natural England. This scheme will guarantee the management of this area to enhance the heathland over 47Ha. The AONB Service is a signatory and will assist with capital works and swaling planning.

The AONB Service undertook the annual **swaling programme** (controlled winter heather burning) on behalf of the Quantock Common Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Specially trained volunteers assisted the AONB Service to swale approximately 25ha on the SSSI heathland and the programme of burning would not have been achieved without their time and effort.

The AONB Service assisted with **bracken spraying** on Quantock Common under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which was again undertaken by helicopter spraying as this has proven to be an efficient and effective method and ensures that the SSSI remains in favourable condition. The spraying covered approximately 125ha covering the SSSI Common. This includes areas such as Aisholt Common, Middle Hill and north of Crowcombe Park Gate.

AONB Service assisted with the annual Quantock Deer Management and Conservation Group **deer count** on 6th March. Due to poor weather on the 2 count days the results of the survey are not conclusive. 2012 is only the second year since the start of the Deer Census that the survey has not produced results, the other being 2001 due to foot and mouth.

Wildlife Surveys



Pied flycatcher chicks



Quantock adder



Woodland bird monitoring

Data from the previous years International Year of Biodiversity wildlife surveys was collated, and produced revealing results:

Woodland Bird Survey The results of the woodland bird survey, which took place in the Sessile Oak Woodland - designated a Special Area of Conservation at the northern end of the Quantock Hills AONB, mirror the national trend of decline in woodland bird species, especially the woodland specialists such as wood warbler and lesser spotted woodpecker.

Pied flycatchers have been monitored on the Quantock Hills for 30 years, however the survey in 2010 was specifically linked to regional research carried out by Dr. Malcolm Burgess of Exeter University. This research aims to decipher how pied flycatchers are affected by climate change. The results of the survey revealed that the number of young pied flycatchers ringed increased by a third on the average tally recorded since 2000.

Waxcap Fungi The Somerset Biodiversity Partnership promoted a public waxcap survey in autumn and winter 2011. Training in identification was arranged and recording material was made available. Over 200 individual waxcaps records were submitted of which 115 were within the AONB boundary. 16 different waxcap species were recorded, and the site with the highest number of species recorded was near Cothelstone, with 11 species recorded. Species recorded in the AONB for the first time were the Goblet waxcap with an unconfirmed report of the Spindle-shank waxcap. This year's survey again confirms the importance of the unimproved grassland in the Quantock Hills AONB area for waxcap fungi. The survey was funded by the Quantock Hills SDF and supported by the AONB Service.

Adder Survey The 2011 survey was carried out by the Reptile and Amphibian Group for Somerset (RAGS) and was funded by the Quantock Hills Sustainable Development Fund and supported by the AONB Service. 23 surveyors were recruited and undertook surveys over 12 km² on Quantock Common. Over the course of the survey a total of 14 sightings were recorded, 5 males and 9 females over the survey areas. The evidence from all recent studies on the Quantocks suggests that adders are more widespread on the hills than was previously understood.

Access & Visitor Management



1SW, an off road cycling project was launched this year. The Quantock Hills AONB is one of a number of protected landscapes within the South West involved with this project. The AONB Service was involved in 3 main areas: Mapping of the Quantock bridleways, input into the website with information about off-road cycling on the Quantocks and providing assistance with finding community infrastructure funding. The website is now live at www.1SW.org.uk

The AONB Service undertakes **promoted route audits** to ensure the routes are usable and provide the best opportunities for people to enjoy the Quantock Hills AONB. In total 67.55 km of promoted route was audited to ensure the routes were easily usable.

Data from the visitor counters collected in 2010 was analysed over the year and revealed the following results:

- **In 2010 Ramscombe received just over 22,000 vehicle visits.** Previous car counts have indicated that average party size for cars in Ramscombe is 3.12 therefore we can estimate that Ramscombe received 68,640 visitors in 2010. Sunday is the most popular day with peak hours between 11.00 - 17.00 and numbers are higher in April - July with a large peak in August.
- **In 2010 Fyne Court received 18,000 vehicle visits.** Previous car counts have indicated that the average party size for cars to Fyne Court is 2.39 therefore we can estimate that Fyne Court received 43,020 visitors in 2010. Numbers are relatively stable with only Tuesday having a lower number of cars, peak time is between 13.00 - 16.00 and visitors reflect school holidays.
- **In 2010 Staple Plain received 59,000 vehicle visits.** Previous car counts have indicated that the average party size for cars to Staple Plain is 2.33 therefore we can estimate that Staple Plain received 137,470 visitors in 2010. Peak time is between 15.00 - 17.00 and numbers are constant between May and October.

Working towards Management Plan Action Points: FAP2, FWAP1, WAP4, HAP3

Access & Visitor Management



The AONB Service was informed of 126 events over the year.

Type of event	2010	Participants 2010	2011	Participants 2011
AONB Events	15	259	14	219
Forestry Events	8	120	7	60
NT Events (At Fyne Court)	20	520	12	840
Sponsored Walks	1	60	3	283
Night Walk	1	60	1	60
Organised Walks	24	700	47	1,460
School Field Trips	8	230	18	1,113
Orienteering	22	850	25	1,180
Mixed Orienteering and Bike	4	280	1	230
Duke of Edinburgh Training	4	84	4	120
Horse Rides	2	60	2	130
Dog Sled Event	1	50	1	50
Run/Races	4	280	3	140
Run and Cycle Races	0	0	1	440
Training Exercise	2	60	0	0
Forces Events	1	180	1	830
Total	118	3,803	140	7,155

The notification system both strengthens engagement with organisers and offers advice to ensure minimal impact to the landscape, tranquillity and natural environment in the Quantock Hills. Increased trends are being closely monitoring to ensure no negative impacts occur.

Access & Visitor Management



14 public events run by the AONB Service were held this year, including specialist walks, bushcraft days and stargazing events of which 219 people attended.

27 Ranger patrols were undertaken to ensure continued on the ground presence during busy periods. When patrolling Rangers and volunteers also engage with visitors, provide information and answer any queries.

28 motor vehicle offences have been logged by the AONB Service and passed to the Police. This practice helps to identify hotspots and repeat offenders.

41 incidents of fly tipping were recorded on the Quantock AONB database and reported to local authorities. This represents a substantial increase in incidents of fly tipping with only 8 incidents reported in 2010. This could be due to recent charging introductions at recycling centres. Recording incidents in this way means that the Police and the AONB Service can now work towards identification of hotspots.

A Wild Camping policy, developed in consultation with landowners, was adopted in order to give the AONB Service Rangers a practical set of guidelines to follow in reactive situations. This policy will remain non promotional and if approached by the public the AONB Service will continue to direct people to local campsites.

The AONB Service and volunteers attended 4 local fetes over the summer of 2011, talking to visitors and distributing information and providing games, face painting and bird box painting to youngsters.

Project Support



Cycle Hub



Highway signs revonvation



Triscombe Stone

The AONB Service has been engaged with the **Western Somerset Local Action Group** to ensure funding opportunities are available for Quantock Projects. 15 projects that covered the Quantock Hills AONB were supported during 2011. These included renewable energy projects, tourism projects such as Coleridge Cottage and business support projects. The scheme has nearly £320,000 left to allocate for projects and further information can be found at their website:<http://western.somersetleader.org.uk/>

Quantock Cycle Hub With support from the AONB Service 3 businesses successfully applied to the 1SW off-road cycle project for hub investment. This has allowed for the development of a dedicated cycle hub in Kingston St Mary which will have a number of facilities such as cycle and equipment hire, route cards and wash down facilities. The centre aims to be fully open in June 2012.

During 2011/2012 The AONB Service has worked on the development of a '**Quantock Orchards**' project with Bristol University. This work is due to be completed in August 2012.

Working with Somerset County Council Heritage Group the AONB Service undertook a **small monument protection project at Triscombe Stone**. This historic site has suffered with accidental damage on a number of occasions over the past 12 months.

The AONB Service was able to ensure the **renovation of 80 traditional highways signs** within and adjacent to the AONB by Somerset Highways. The work was worth approximately £20,000 and entailed the cleaning and removal of the old paint and then repair and repainting.

The AONB Service is working with Gary Penny to progress an **anniversary exhibition** of the photographic work that has been undertaken over the past 10-years. The exhibition, to be held in the summer of 2012, will celebrate the local communities of the Quantock Hills. As part of this project the photographer will create an archive of all the material which will be stored with Somerset Historic Record Centre to allow greater public access.

Landscape Planning



Planning Policy Consultation

During 2011/2012, the AONB Service commented on the Taunton Deane Published Core Strategy (2011-2028). These comments included detailed comments related to policies on climate change, environment, infrastructure, sustainable development locations and development in the countryside.

Sedgemoor's Core Strategy was formally adopted during this financial year (on the 12th October 2011) and this adopted document contained a number of the suggested textual amendments to policy (and supporting text) as a result of the joint Quantock Hills and Mendip Hills consultation response submitted in 2010/2011.

Planning applications

During 2011/2012 the AONB Service has continued to track weekly planning lists as well as responding to consultation requests from the Local Planning Authorities. We continue to keep an up to date spreadsheet of applications to monitor application statistics and trends. The following is accurate as of 30th March 2012:

- 180 planning applications have been considered by the Quantock Hills AONB Service.
- We have submitted detailed comments to the Local Planning Authorities on a total of 55 applications, including some significant applications beyond the AONB boundary
- Inside the AONB boundary there have been 74 planning applications and of those 55 (74%) have been granted permission or conditional approval.

Planning application comments can be viewed on the Quantock Hills AONB website.

http://www.quantockhills.com/online_resources/view/aonb_planning_consultation_comments/

Landscape Planning



Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station

During 2011/2012, the AONB Service has continued to work closely with Natural England in its consultation with EDF (and its landscape consultants - Gillespies). The following are the key stages of work during this financial year:

- Attended and engaged in consultation meetings with EDF (and Gillespies) in the development of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment chapter (resulting in significant methodological development and textual change to the final chapter);
- In May 2011, the AONB Service submitted detailed comments to West Somerset Council in respect of planning application number 3/32/10/037 (Hinkley Point C Development site preparation works);
- In January 2012, the AONB Service submitted relevant representations to the then IPC (Infrastructure Planning Commission) upon submission of the full Hinkley Point C DCO application;
- In March 2012, the AONB Service hosted a meeting with EDF to discuss concerns ahead of the Statement of Common Ground;
- During April and May 2012, the AONB Service developed, agreed and signed its Statement of Common Ground with EDF; and
- In May 2012, the AONB Service submitted written representations to the National Infrastructure Directorate in respect of the proposed New Nuclear Power Station located at Hinkley Point and Associated Development

Landscape Planning



Image c. Mendip Hills AONB



Quantock view

Guidance

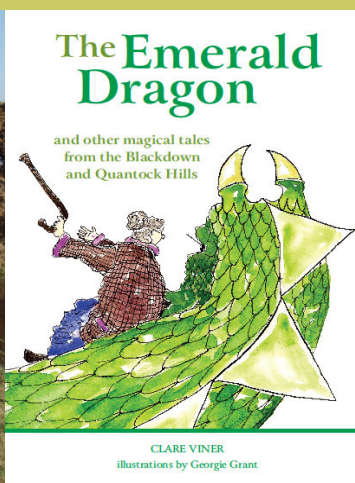
A Position Statement on Large Scale Solar PV Development was developed and agreed by working in partnership with the Blackdown Hills AONB Service and the Mendip Hills AONB Service. This will be updated in the next financial year to reflect changes resulting from the National Planning Policy framework.

A Position Statement on Wind Energy Development has been drafted and is under consultation.

Collaborative Working

The Quantock Hills AONB Service has continued to work collaboratively with the other two AONBs within Somerset. Most notably, the Quantock Hills AONB Service has engaged with the Mendip Hills in relation to the upgrade of the National Grid connection between the proposed Hinkley Point C and Seabank.

Sustainable Development Fund



For 2011/12 the AONB Service allocated a SDF pot of £45,000. There were 17 applications with 9 projects supported. 4 projects were rejected and a further 4 were withdrawn by the applicants.

The SDF allocated for the 9 supported projects was £18,991 and total project costs of were £88,030. Unfortunately 4 further projects had withdrawn to which £25,493 had been allocated. This funding was vied into project funding as the late notice given by the applicants did not allow for a further funding round.

This is the first year in which applicants have withdrawn their application and further mechanism have been put in place to allow for better management of this in future years.

The SDF projects this year covered a wide variety of topics and themes, from environmentally friendly electric bikes, to the writing down of local folk stories. The fund helps to support individuals, organisations and groups and continues to be a valuable asset to the QH AONB.

The projects that were successful at obtaining funds included; (see overleaf)

Sustainable Development Fund

Table 2: SDF supported Project 2011/12.

Project Title	Dog Friendly Quantocks
Brief Description	Local individual aiming to operate a scheme where dog owners can investigate where they can take there dogs whilst on the Quantock and the behaviour expected whilst there.
Project Costs	£3,000
SDF Grant	£1,599.25
Project Title	Outdoor Classroom
Brief Description	A small grant was given to a local school looking to build a new outdoor space that could be used to engage the children in environmental matters.
Project Costs	£1,450
SDF Grant	£435
Project Title	Somerset Biodiversity Partnership
Brief Description	Continued funded for the partnership which helped to deliver exciting projects on the hills including the Waxcap surveys
Project Costs	£33,715
SDF Grant	£3,487
Project Title	The Emerald Dragon and other magical tales of the Blackdown and Quantock Hills
Brief Description	Publication of a book of local folk tales, jointly funded with Blackdown Hills AONB to record and produce a useable booklet that tells the stories and folklore about the Hills and surrounding areas.
Project Costs	£4,250
SDF Grant	£2,320

Sustainable Development Fund

Project Title	Bicknoller Village Hall Heating replacement system
Brief Description	Replacement of village hall heating system to reduce costs, increase efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.
Project Costs	£13,450
SDF Grant	£756
Project Title	Long Eared Owl School Project
Brief Description	Led by the Hawk and Owl Trust and supported by the AONB Service, this project undertook 9 school visits to local schools to raise the importance of biodiversity, specifically owls and raptors. The young people were able to see captive owls and dissect pellets to increase understanding of the food chain.
Project Costs	£2,915
SDF Grant	£1,550
Project Title	Pinhole Peddlers
Brief Description	A project cycling through the protected landscapes of the south west using a pinhole camera. The photographer spent a day in each protected landscape undertaking photography and encouraging visitors and local communities to 'see' their local area using the pinhole camera
Project Costs	£4,900
SDF Grant	£500
Project Title	Over Stowey Interpretation
Brief Description	Installation of a new interpretation panel at Over Stowey highlighting interesting features of the parish
Project Costs	£750
SDF Grant	£557
Project Title	Coleridge Cottage
Brief Description	A grant was given to refurbish and enhance the cottage in Nether Stowey to attract more visitors and make the site a more viable tourist destination, works included greater interactive displays of the poetry and improvement to the gardens to make them more accessible.
Project Costs	£24,400
SDF Grant	£8,000

Financial Statement

Total Expenditure £261,790

Total Income £335,702

Income (2011/12) £285,299

Income (b/f from 2010/11) £50,403

Carry Forward:

The following carry forward is allocated towards areas of work that span financial years.

Earmarked Reserves £37,000

(requirement of Statement of Intent)

Amenity Land (SCC ring fenced) £7,279

Future Directions £5,000

Project Budget £9,840

Unallocated carry forward £14,793 (4.4%)

AONB Service Core Expenditure

Salaries, NI, SA, Training	166,742
Travel & vehicle costs	16,442
Accommodation	11,114
Partnership Running Costs	8,384
Partnership Budget	6,646
Other Costs	8,014
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	217,343

Financial Statement

AONB Project Expenditure

SDF	18,991
Wildlife Monitoring	1,103
Interpretation & Access	2,079
Volunteer Development	1,898
Planning	5,515
Quantock Cycle Hub	5,597
Quantock Arts Project	2,150
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	37,334

Other Expenditure

Expenditure for SCC amenity Land	2,637
Old year expenditure	4,475
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,113

AONB Service Income

Income brought forward from 2010/11	50,403
Defra	186,877
Somerset County Council	21,000
West Somerset Council	11,575
Taunton Deane Borough Council	12,000
Sedgemoor District Council	11,550
Forestry Commission	17,300
Mendip Hills AONB (recharge)	12,505
RPA (Amenity land ring-fenced budget)	9,916
Event Income	1,276
Misc Income	1,300
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	335,702

The Quantock Hills Team:



Iain Porter
Acting Manager



Emma-Jane Preece
Landscape Planning
Officer



Tim Russell
Ranger



Katy Coate
Support Officer



Andy Harris
Partnership
Ranger



Owen Jones
Volunteer Coordi-
nator



Georgie Grant
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