

Quantock Hills AONB Farming in Protected Landscape Programme

Summary of all projects funded to 4th August 2023

Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

Applicant	Location	Grant award	Project cost	Start date	End date	Description
Mr & Mrs N J Thorne	Kilve	£4,792.05	£4,792.05	11/09/2021	01/03/2024	Conversion of a 4.5ha arable field to species-rich grassland. This site was chosen as it is steeply sloping, leading to a stream which frequently floods. This project therefore aims to reduce water run off into the stream and enhance the site for biodiversity.
Robert Borgerhoff Mulder	Over Stowey	£4,690.00	£10,126.00	01/11/2021	01/02/2022	200m of hedge planting and 200m of hedge laying. 100m stock fencing. This site borders the Quantocks SSSI and aims to enhance the local network of wildlife corridors, extending and connecting areas of priority habitat.
Paradise Farm	Crowcombe	£27,144.06	£35,292.20	01/12/2021	01/03/2024	This holding features a network of traditional field boundaries comprising mixed hedgerows on stone-faced banks. This project seeks to restore them by repairing and restoring the banks, and mixture of laying, planting and gapping up the hedges. This project also includes restorative pruning and extension of a traditional orchard, and bracken management on SSSI grassland.
Ebsary & Sons	Spaxton	£10,578.53	£10,578.53	01/12/2021	01/03/2024	Invasive species management and restocking of woodland affected by ash dieback. This project borders sensitive sites, is steeply sloping and has poor access for machinery. It features a stream which feeds into Hawkridge Reservoir. The project aims to restore the biodiversity value of the wood and prevent the spread of invasive species.
Quantock Environmental	Broomfield	£6,794.04	£14,218.36	01/12/2021	01/06/2022	Whole holding restoration, including 0.2ha orchard creation, 3.3ha of species-rich grassland creation with permissive open access, 195m of hedge laying, preparation of a woodland management plan.
A C & A J Trollope Bellew	Crowcombe	£14,292.00	£27,545.00	01/02/2022	01/10/2023	To restore 2 in a series of 10 historic cascading ponds, requiring extensive weir repairs.

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Bagborough Market Garden	West Bagborough	£2,873.00	£2,873.00	01/01/2022	31/03/2022	Hedge and fruit tree planting, for crop protection and production for a vegetable grower operating a veg box scheme and local shop.
V E Sellick	Williton	£12,050.00	£30,125.00	01/01/2022	31/03/2024	Soil scanning and testing for high-resolution nutrient requirement data. Purchase of a variable rate fertiliser sprayer. This project will improve fertiliser efficiency and minimise ecological damage due to leaching across 250ha.
Quantock Graziers Group	Quantock Common	£7,962.65	£7,962.65	20/12/2021	31/03/2022	Purchase of a flail, helmets, and visors for commoners' group to support swaling and other habitat management work on Quantock Common.
R & J White	Aisholt	£2,450.00	£2,695.00	01/02/2022	31/03/2022	Phase 1 of a limekiln restoration project. This phase will remove trees which are undermining the kiln walls, enabling access for restoration works.
Quantock Hills AONB	Various sites	£6,740.00	£34,250.00	01/02/2022	31/03/2022	Purchase of a timber winch and heavy-duty flail for Quantock Hills AONB Rangers to enhance and extend their land management work and support a range of partners with habitat management across multiple holdings. The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme purchased an alpine tractor as part of this project.
Cothelstone Estate	Cothelstone	£1,029.00	£1,470.00	01/04/2022	31/07/2022	Phase 1 of a project to restore a mill pond and water wheel system. This phase engages a millwright to consult on the water wheel and prepare a specification of works.
J Kimber & J Clothier	West Bagborough	£5,893.60	£5,893.60	01/04/2022	31/03/2023	Hedge planting and livestock fencing to provide a wildlife corridor linking a new pond with the nearby woodland. Includes Brown hairstreak butterfly monitoring.

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IJW & L Kett	Holford	£8,340.00	£8,340.00	04/05/2022	01/03/2024	Creation of species-rich grassland on a hillside neighbouring a SSSI site. Also, to plant 375m of new hedgerow for habitat connectivity and to enhance a public footpath, with associated fencing.
Stream Farm	Broomfield	£2,941.10	£2,941.10	04/05/2022	01/03/2023	Establishing a mob grazing system for 550 sheep and 140 cattle on a 99ha Organic farm, including electric fencing equipment, soil and pasture monitoring.
R & J White	Aisholt	£750.00	£810.00	26/04/2022	30/06/2022	Phase 2 of limekiln conservation project – commissioning a survey and specification of works from a structural engineer.
Terry and Sue Knox	Plainsfield	£1,575.00	£1,575.00	22/08/2023	01/03/2023	Upgrading protection for existing parkland trees and planting new parkland trees to support ongoing succession at the parkland at Pepperhill.
J Waters	Enmore	£1,934.10	£1,934.10	01/10/2022	01/03/2023	Small woodland copse creation of 70 native broadleaf trees alongside hedgerow planting. Species mix chosen for biodiversity and structural diversity
Tutty More Market Garden	West Bagborough	£3,599.52	£3,599.52	01/08/2022	31/03/2023	Agroforestry project to establish mob grazing paddocks underneath fruit and nut trees, to be grazed by sheep and chickens. Includes planting 38 fruit and nut trees, with post and rail tree guards, and purchasing electric fencing equipment.
R & J White	Aisholt	£17,090.10	£18,989.00	31/08/2022	01/03/2022	Phase 3 of limekiln restoration project, to undertake main works including dismantling and rebuilding of kiln walls, repointing, soft capping, and installation of lintel supports.
Firebeacon Farm	Crowcombe	£48,457.96	£48,457.96	01/09/2022	01/03/2024	To create a demonstration site for the management of beech hedgebanks. Several different methods will be trialled across 6 hedgebanks, and the site will be used to inform management of this landscape feature across the AONB.

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Cothelstone Micro-Dairy	Terhill	£10,900.71	£13,204.78	02/11/2022	01/03/2024	To establish a new dairy business on tenanted land which will be converted from arable to wood pasture as part of this project, and mob grazed by a micro herd producing high-welfare, unpasteurised milk.
Alderbed Mushrooms	Terhill	£3,629.75	£6,460.61	13/12/2022	01/10/2023	To establish a new mushroom farm in a rented woodland, cultivating Shiitake, Turkey Tail, and Artist Conk. Costs include creating woodland access, coppicing, and purchasing key equipment and fungi spawn.
Cothelstone Estate	Cothelstone	£12,222.80	£17,461.14	13/12/2022	02/09/2023	Following on from a previous FiPL project which supported a feasibility study for the restoration of a historic water mill, this project will undertake the first phases of restoration works. The recovery phase will rescue the wheel from further degradation and recover components for cleaning and templating. The rebuilding phase will fit new bearings, buckets and soleplates and rebalance the wheel.
Mr & Mrs N J Thorne	Kilve	£2,456.30	£3,070.38	13/12/2022	01/03/2023	This farmer recently built a bioreactor to produce compost as an alternative to synthetic fertiliser. This project will adapt their direct drill, fitting a bespoke sprayer system designed and built by the applicant to apply compost tea simultaneously with seed drilling.
R & J White	Aisholt	£5,288.40	£5,876.00	19/01/2022	31/03/2023	Phase 4 of limekiln conservation project, to install a safety grid and 2 security grills to enable safe public access to the feature.
Tilbury Farm	West Bagborough	£8,614.41	£8,614.41	05/01/2023	28/02/2023	Hedge planting and woodland extension for flood risk reduction.

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Quantock Commoners Association	Quantock Common	£589.09	£841.56	16/01/2023	01/03/2023	To update the live register for Quantock Common, investigating the existing rights and inviting potential rights holders to correct or update the register.
Stream Farm	Broomfield	£13,941.70	£15,643.80	24/01/2023	31/03/2023	To upgrade the water infrastructure across Stream Farm to improve water quality in the stream and supply water to mob grazed parcels.
Crowcombe Estate	Crowcombe	£3,553.20	£3,553.20	24/01/2023	03/03/2023	To restore 140m of beech hedgebank bordering Crowcombe Park and the open moorland area, including laying beech stems, casting-up the bank and refencing to prevent livestock and deer damage.
Quantock Graziers Group	Quantock Common	£5,400.00	£6,000.00	16/02/2023	03/03/2023	To purchase two pickup truck-mounted pressure washers to be used as fire extinguishers on Quantock Common. This equipment will provide quick response units to wildfires on the common and additional safety units during swaling operations.
R & J White	Aisholt	£6,202.35	£6,396.15	05/05/2023	31/07/2023	Phase 4ii of limekiln conservation project, to install safety fencing, public access and seating and interpretation panels.
Stream Farm	Broomfield	£9,663.86	£9,663.86	08/06/2023	01/09/2023	To upgrade water infrastructure across Stream Farm to improve water quality in the stream and supply water to mob grazing platforms. Phase 2 of the project completed in Spring 2023, including monitoring of water quality.
Kilve Parish Council	Kilve	£2,890.26	£2890.26	12/05/2023	31/03/2025	To create a permissive bridleway connecting Rowditch lane with the centre of the village of Kilve, avoiding the main A39.
Gothelney Farm	Charlynch	£27,500.35	£45,967.44	30/06/2023	31/03/2024	To support the testing equipment for wheat populations in evolutionary-participatory wheat breeding in a non-commodity regional grain network.

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JM Bissell	East Quantoxhead	£11,707.06	£11,707.06	20/07/2023	31/03/2024	This project is to plant 465m of native hedgerow, featuring 15 disease-resistant Elm trees of 2 varieties, and to create 0.1ha of scrub. It is hoped this work to connect, increase and manage hedgerows will improve habitats for Cirl buntings.