

Greenhow Enhancement Fund

Guidance Notes

What is the Fund?

The Greenhow Fund was set up by Hanson UK in 2006 following the award of planning permission for an extension to the screen mound at Pateley Bridge Quarry. The aim of the Fund is to reduce the environmental impact of the extension to the screen mound by investing in improved management of the landscape surrounding the quarry. A total £10 000 of grant funding has been available to spend each year since 2006. Hanson UK will continue to contribute £10 000 each year to the Fund until 2027.

Objectives of the Fund

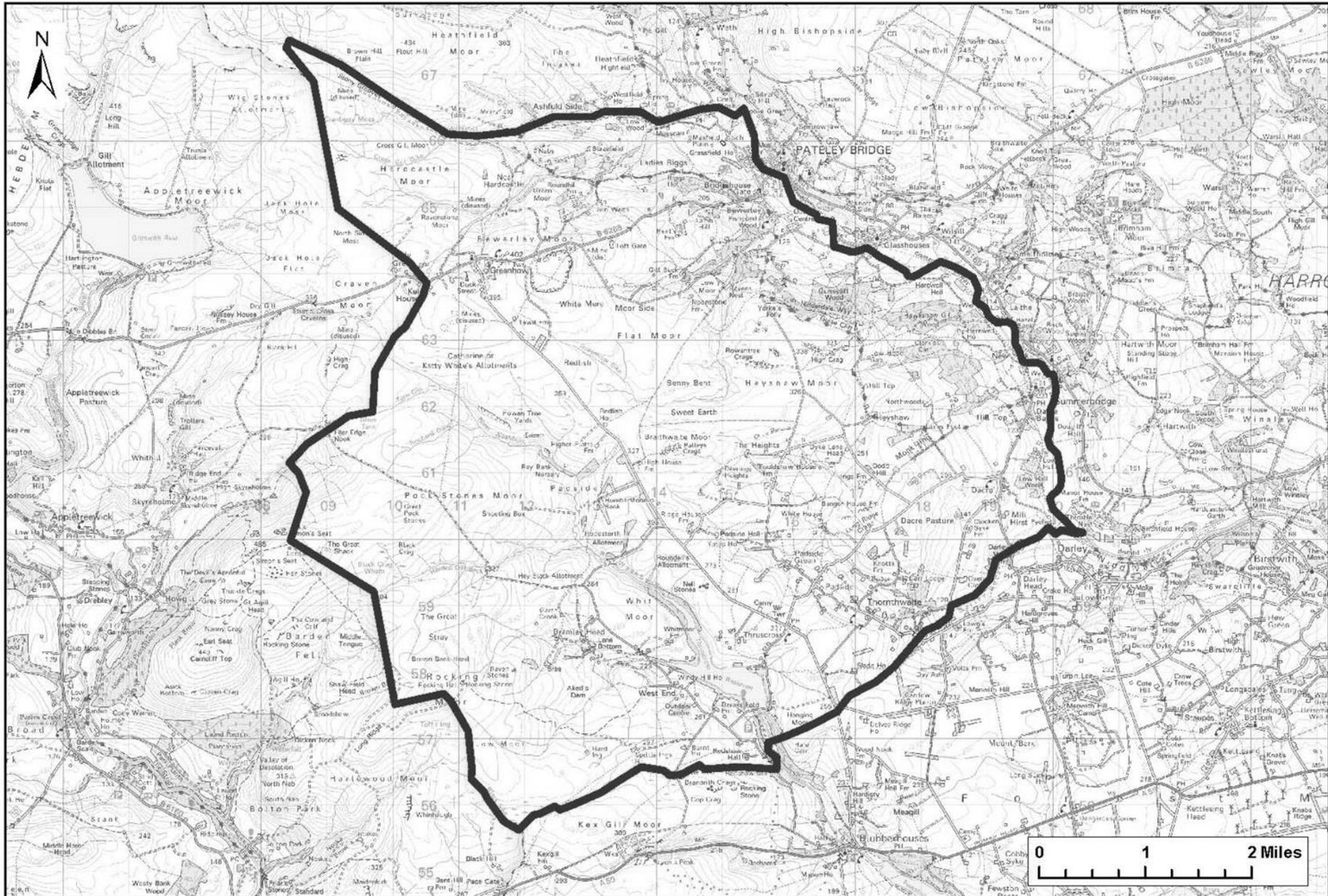
Pateley Bridge Quarry is at the centre of the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). AONBs are part of a family of protected landscapes that includes 46 other AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, plus 15 National Parks. The main purpose of AONB designation is to protect Britain's some of Britain's finest landscapes from harmful development. The Fund has been designed to reduce the impact on the landscape and ecology of the AONB resulting from expansion of the Quarry. The primary objectives of the Fund are to:

1. Maintain and enhance wildlife habitats, species and landscape features;
2. Create new habitats and buffer areas;
3. Restore linkages between habitats;
4. Improve access to the countryside

The Fund can also support proposals that comply with wider environmental objectives summarised in the Action Plan appendix to the 2009 – 2014 Management Plan for the AONB. Further details are available from the AONB's website: www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk. Access projects should aim to increase public enjoyment of the countryside in the eligible area on foot, bicycle or on horseback. The Fund will not normally support work that is a statutory duty of the Highway Authority, or work to improve private roads and tracks over which there is no public right of way.

Which areas are eligible?

Priority will be given to applications from the four Parishes surrounding the quarry: Bewerley, Thornthwaite with Padside, Dacre and Thruscross. The map in these Guidelines shows the Parish boundaries, but consideration may be given to applications from the surrounding area at the discretion of the Fund's Trustees.



Greenhow Fund : Eligible Area

Who decides which projects get support?

The Fund is administered by Trustees in accordance the legal agreement that was drawn up after the award of planning permission for the screen mound extension in 2005. The agreement states that Trustees are made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- North Yorkshire County Council
- Harrogate Borough Council
- Bewerley Parish Council
- Dacre Parish Council
- Thruscross Parish Council
- Thornthwaite Parish Council
- Nidderdale AONB
- Hanson UK

What types of projects are eligible?

Projects must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Conserve and enhance the characteristics of the local landscape and its wildlife.
- Enhance the AONB;
- Be located in the eligible area (projects in the surrounding area may be considered at the discretion of the Trustees);
- Have clear public benefits.

To start you thinking, ideas for projects could include creation of wildflower meadows, rush control, regeneration of small woodlands, repair of ancient monuments, improvements to public access and maintenance of landscape features.

Maximising the Benefits of the Fund

There is only a limited amount of money available each year. The Trustees will encourage applicants to supplement any awards from the Fund with grants from other sources. The AONB Office can help with advice about where you may be able to get other grants to support your project. However, please note that the Trustees will expect applicants to contribute either financially or in kind towards the project in addition to grants from the Fund and/or elsewhere.

All applications to the Fund should be accompanied by at least one photograph showing the location of the project and the extent of work proposed.

Can the Fund support repairs to dry stone walls?

Yes. Dry stone walls are a characteristic feature of the area and many are in need of repair. However, the costs involved are very high and could quickly soak up all the available funding. Therefore:

1. Dry stone walling projects will only be eligible for support from the Fund if applications meet the eligibility criteria, and can demonstrate that investment by the Fund in repair or restoration has public benefits.
2. Priority will be given to eligible dry stone walling projects which enable conservation work identified as a priority in the Greenhow Conservation Group's Ecology Report (2006) or similar assessments;
3. To achieve value for money and ensure that the Fund is distributed as widely as possible, preference will be given to applicants who are already in receipt of funding from Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme. You can contact the

AONB Office for further information and practical help with applications for Countryside Stewardship grants.

4. The cost of dry stone wall repair is variable and applicants to the Fund should negotiate with contractors to obtain a competitive price. The Trustees will pay up to 75% of cost based on a flat rate for wall repair of £30 at 1.2m high, which will usually be the minimum height for walls, and will be specified in conditions attached to grant offers. The Trustees may decide, at their discretion, to amend this rate depending on market conditions. Cost estimates must be expressed in linear metres on the grant application form.
5. Support for dry stone wall repair and restoration projects that do not qualify for support under criteria 2 or 3 will have a lower priority and will only be given at the discretion of the Trustees who will consider applications based on their public benefit.

How much grant aid is available for projects that *do not* involve dry stone walling?

Grants are available up to a maximum of 75% of the total project costs although the Trustees may offer a higher percentage of grant in exceptional cases at their discretion. Grants don't have to be for a project in its entirety, they can fund parts of a larger project such as, feasibility studies, practical work, equipment, building works, publicity, marketing or partnership development.

To make up the difference, your own contribution can include volunteer time at £50/day for unskilled, £150/day for skilled and £250/day for professional services. You can also count the value of 'gifts in kind' towards the project as part of your contribution e.g.: materials donated towards the project.

We may be able to help you apply for grants from other organisations to 'top up' your grant.

If you are successful in obtaining a grant you must be willing to sign up to our grant conditions that are contained elsewhere in these guidance notes.

We cannot fund projects which:

- Do not further or support the purposes of AONB designation (which are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public);
- Have already started;
- Are the statutory responsibility of any agency, or are standard maintenance work.

Who is eligible to apply?

Anyone.

Application deadlines

The Trustees meet quarterly but you can apply for a grant at any time.

Application process

This application is the first stage in applying for grant aid from the Fund, and an application form is available to download from the AONB's website. AONB staff will be happy to discuss the application process with you before you submit the final version.

Further information and guidance

If you have any questions about eligibility or need help with developing your project please contact the AONB Office on 01423 712950 or nidderdaleaonb@harrogate.gov.uk