Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund

Third Annual Report | 2022



Grassington Jubilee Tree Project, Photo Credit: Hazel Drew

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wildlife

SWINDEN QUARRY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FUND (NEF)

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Background

On 20 December 2019, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) granted Tarmac planning permission C/23/67K for the deepening of Swinden Quarry near Cracoe and an extension of time allowed for the winning and working of limestone until 2039 (restoration to be completed by 2041). To give force to certain planning obligations arising from the consent, the Authority and Tarmac entered into a s106 Planning Agreement under which Tarmac: "*shall pay to the Authority on an annual basis the Environmental Contribution of £30,000 (Index Linked)….The first payment of the Environmental Contribution shall be made on or before* ***31st December 2019*** *and thereafter annually up until* ***31st December*** *2040*".

It is stipulated in the S.106 that the Environmental Contribution must be applied by the National Park Authority "*towards projects which improve biodiversity and quality of the natural environment within the Locality or which compensate for the actual or potential environmental impacts of the Development, with particular emphasis on the natural beauty of the landscape, tranquillity and air quality and riverine environment within the Locality*".

It is noted that under the s106: "*within one month of the due date for payment of the Environmental Contribution by Tarmac the Authority shall provide Tarmac with annual reports setting out how monies received as part of the Environmental Contribution have been spent (or allocated) over the preceding 12 month period*".

This report has been prepared in partial fulfilment of the National Park Authority's obligations under the s106 Agreement. It covers the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.

Activity in 2022

Tarmac's Environmental Contributions have been used to establish a discretionary grant fund administered by YDNPA for environmental projects in 'the Locality' that must benefit from any funds received from Tarmac due to the Section 106 Planning Agreement. The area within the Locality is shown in Appendix 1.

The existence of the discretionary grant is advertised on the Yorkshire Dales National Park website at https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/wildlife-conservation/swinden-quarry-natural-environment-fund/ . It has been promoted through press releases that have been covered in the *Craven Herald* and *Yorkshire Post*.

The current application form and grant guidelines are reproduced in Appendix 2.

The discretionary grant is administered by YDNPA's Wildlife Conservation Team. YDNPA financial delegation regulations allow for decisions concerning NEF expenditure up to £5k to be made by the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer. Disbursement of funds above £5k require approval by the Director of Community and Conservation.

During 2022 The Wildlife Conservation Team dealt with 15 enquiries regarding the NEF from individuals and organisations interested in obtaining funding. Six applicants were offered discretionary grants and all offers were accepted by the organisations that applied. A summary of the expenditure from the NEF is given in Table 1 below.

Table 1 below contains details of projects funded.

Table 1: Discretionary Grants from Swinden Quarry NEF as at 23/12/22

ITEM	**APPLICANT / ORGANISATION**	**AMOUNT**
Project to extend an existing area of mature woodland into a field to increase biodiversity of the area. Installation of stock fencing and gate to protect newly planted trees from livestock grazing.	Mr Joe Midgley	£2,000
Project to develop the school allotment area. Installation of new raised beds in which to plant vegetables and herbs that can be used in school for cookery lessons. Creation of a bee friendly area with large pots of wildflowers. Project led by two class teachers and pupils with participation from the weekly gardening club.	Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation	£2,000
Project to contribute to the aims and purpose of Holme Grown Eastby CIC: Growing, Sharing and Connecting. Digging, lining and filling a number of paths in the main plot, extending right the way down to the bottom of the field; provision of a large shed and annex store to be utilised as a base for volunteers, community and school groups, and for tool storage; creation of a wildlife pond with planting and boardwalk access; acquisition of tools and safety equipment.	Holme Grown Eastby	£12,800
Project to create wood pasture and a pond. Installation of stock fencing and purchase of native wildflower seed.	Land Adjacent To Ghyll Cottage	£3,800
Project to establish three distinct areas of new woodland. Fencing and drystone walling. Purchase of 350 whips with canes and tree guards, and 10 mature trees, for large community tree planting event. Provision of First Aid training.	Grassington Jubilee Group	£8,000
Project to plant a 0.2 hectare area with mature trees, and provision of fencing to exclude livestock, prevent poaching and pollution of the watercourse.	Kilnsey Park	£1,950
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	***£30,550.00***

Photographs of work from the following applicants / projects are included in Appendix 3:

- Grassington Jubilee Group
- Holme Grown Eastby (https://www.holmegrowneastby.org.uk)
- Mr Joe Midgley

In addition to the above expenditure, in February 2022, £2,312.08 of Swinden Quarry NEF was used to purchase 26 swift boxes and 13 barn owl boxes to be deployed in the Swinden Quarry NEF parishes. Contacts were sought for suitable locations through all 13 Parish Councils and a Wildlife Conservation Officer and Volunteer went around to inspect prospective sites and issue out the nest boxes. The Barn Owl and Swift Box Project is on-going and most of the bird boxes have now been installed. Photographs of some of the installed barn owl boxes have been included in Appendix 3.

In 2020, £8,250 of NEF money was allocated to the establishment of a Local Provenance Plant Nursery at a site near Burnsall. The majority of the allocation was spent in 2020/21 securing a base for the nursery, and equipping it with potting benches, root trainers, pots and growing media. During the current financial year (from 1 April 2022) two instalments of rent (totalling £1800) have been paid for the nursery site.

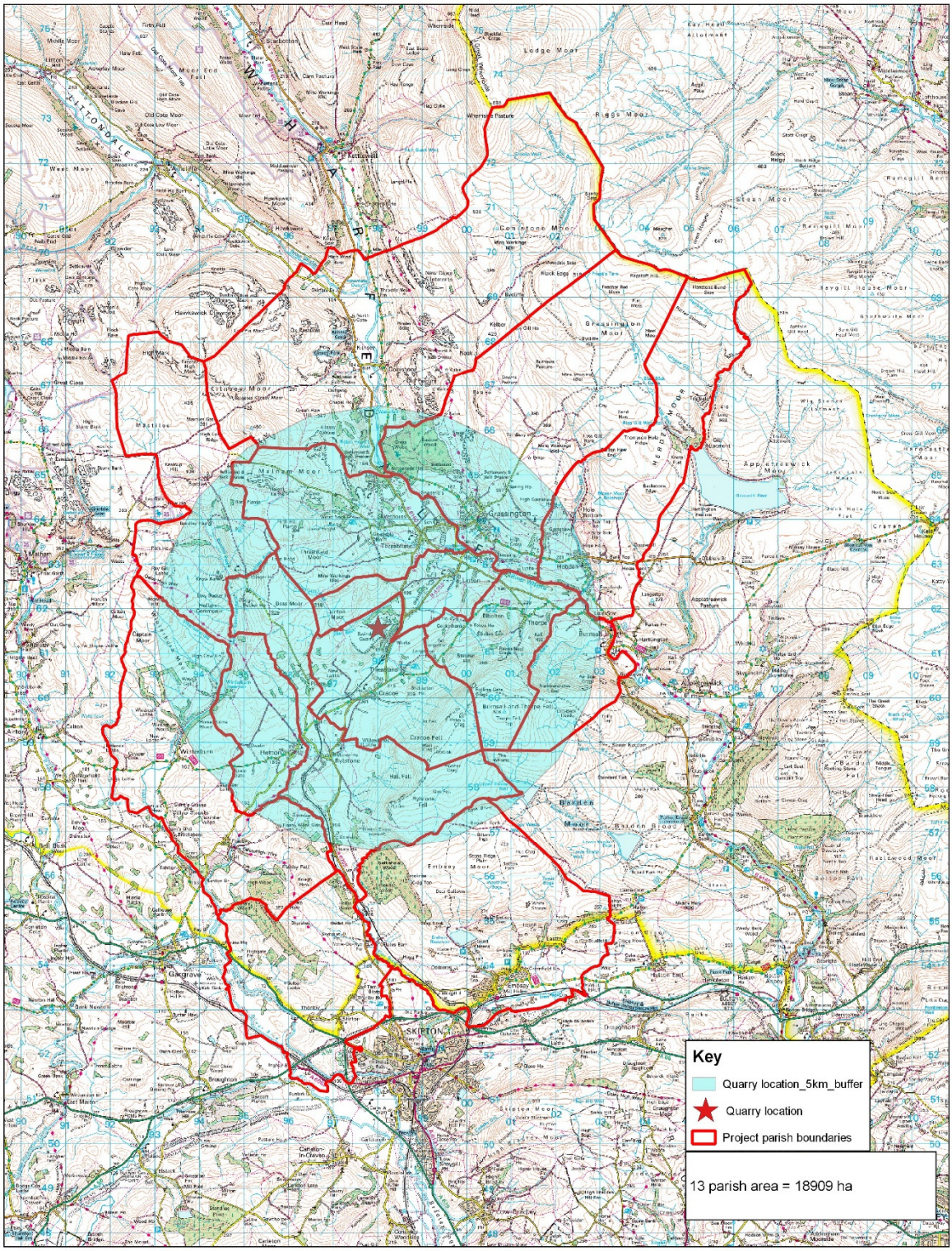
Rachel Brindle (Wildlife Conservation Officer) 23/12/22

Appendix 1

Swinden Quarry Fund - 13 parish areas

5 km buffer zone

Scale 1:75,000



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Compiled by lauram on 25/1/2019

Appendix 2

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund

Grant Application Form

Name Address Contact Details – Tel. E-mail

Location of project: *Please also supply a map of location at a scale of at least 1:25000 so that we can identify where the land is that the project affects, using Google Maps, Google Earth or similar.*

Brief description of your project & who (group/individual) is running or organising it.

Which funding are you applying for? ☐ Small Grant (Up to £2,000) ☐ Medium Grant (£2,000 to £10,000) ☐ Large Grant (£10,000 to £30,000) (But see Guidance Notes)

Send applications to – Natural Environment Fund Applications, Wildlife Conservation Team, YDNPA, Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, North Yorkshire BD23 5LB
Contact – Tony Serjeant 01756 751627 or e-mail wildlifeconservation@yorkshiredales.org.uk

How much are you applying for?

What will you use the grant for? (Please give details including of any match-funding [cash or non cash contributions] you expect to receive.)

Is your project designed to be on-going? Yes/No

Briefly describe how this funding and your project will be community orientated? (see guidance notes)

Briefly describe when your project will be completed and how it will be sustained for the long term. (see guidance notes)

Signed **Date**

Send applications to – Natural Environment Fund Applications, Wildlife Conservation Team, YDNPA, Colvend, Hebden Road, Grassington, North Yorkshire BD23 5LB
Contact – Tony Serjeant 01756 751627 or e-mail wildlifeconservation@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Natural Environment Fund Application Guidance Notes.

A discretionary grant fund is available for environmental projects. Please contact us to discuss your project and its costs before completing this form.

Aim of the Natural Environment Fund

The aim of the Natural Environment Fund is to improve biodiversity and quality of the natural environment within the locality of Swinden Quarry or which compensate for the actual or potential environmental impacts of the quarrying, with particular emphasis on the natural beauty of the landscape, tranquillity and air quality and riverine environment within the locality.

What can be funded?

Some ideas of the types of projects that we are seeking to fund are given below (see YDNPA website for more information):

Habitat management, creation or restoration

Protecting features of landscape and wildlife value

Community-led environmental initiatives

The following is a list of items that can be funded. The list is not exhaustive and it is at the discretion of the Fund as to whether any items on the list can be funded in particular circumstances:

- Tools for community groups/projects;
- Materials (e.g. fence posts)
- Plants and/or seed (but only of regional or local origin)
- Contractors
- Management plans and specialist surveys
- Survey equipment (e.g. ID books, nets, hand lenses, etc.)

- Items to enable community groups to satisfy health and safety requirements (e.g. training, first aid equipment, safety items, protective clothing.)

We won't normally fund

- Applications by, or on behalf of, public sector bodies
- Applications relating to places outside the Fund area, unless a clear benefit for the locality can be demonstrated (see map)
- The cost of preparing or submitting applications for statutory consents
- Repeat applications where a project is substantially the same as one previously funded
- Projects where part-funding is to be obtained from other YDNPA sources (e.g. Sustainable Development Fund or Parish Wildlife Project) or from Tarmac
- Retrospective applications or items where costs have already been incurred

Fund Profile

In any one financial year the Natural Environment Fund will seek to award grants to a total value of approximately £30,000. Typically, the spilt will be ten grants of up to £2k and one to two larger grants totalling £10k. ***Large grants of over £10k can be awarded in exceptional circumstances where very significant environmental or community benefits can be demonstrated.***

Things we will take into account when assessing applications

We would encourage all applicants to think about how their project can provide:

- Multiple benefits to the natural environment (e.g. air quality improvement as well as biodiversity conservation – see YDNPA website for ideas)
- Value for money – think carefully about how and where the money is being spent and whether it maximises benefits on the ground
- Clear outcomes – so that we know what it will deliver and what success will look like.
- A legacy – we want the benefits to be as long term as possible, so think about what happens when the NEF money runs out and the project ends

Fund Guidelines

1. If your project involves individual items costing over £5,000, three quotes must be supplied for each item over this amount.
2. Grants can be paid in advance of expenditure ***provided costs are agreed beforehand*** or they can be paid in arrears using an official NEF claim form.
3. Applicants can apply for up to 100% of a project's costs but the Fund is likely to look more favourably on applications where match-funding has been found, especially with respect to Medium and Large Grants.
4. Please be clear if your project involves costs beyond those that you are asking for funding for, including any 'non cash contributions' and state where any match-funding is to be found.
5. Non cash contributions can be anything you need for your project that you do not have to pay for (e.g. donation of building materials or volunteer time). To work out the financial value of the time volunteers contribute the following rates will apply: unskilled £50/day; skilled £150/day; professional £350/day. A day is based on 7 hours.
6. We ask that successful applicants provide us with a brief progress report within 12 months of receiving the grant money. This need only be a side of A4 detailing how the project is progressing, plus photographs. This will be appended to our Annual Report to Tarmac at the end of the financial year.

For Small Grants we will normally aim to make a decision within six weeks of receiving the application. Deciding applications for Medium/Large grants will take a little longer. If you are successful in obtaining a grant, we will write to you and ask you to confirm you accept the grant before the project starts.

Appendix 3

Project Photographs 2022

Grassington Jubilee Group, Grassington (Photo credit: Hazel Drew).





Holme Grown Eastby (Photo credit: Abby Box).



Mr Joe Midgley, Linton



Barn Owl & Swift Box Project (Photo credit: Stuart Probst):

One of the Swinden Quarry NEF barn owl boxes installed in a barn, Grassington.



One of the Swinden Quarry NEF barn owl boxes installed in a garden tree, Threshfield.

