Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund

First Annual Report | 2023/24



Photo Credit: Rachel Brindle

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wildlife

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Background

A discretionary grant fund is available from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for environmental projects that benefit land which falls within the parishes of Austwick, Clapham cum Newby, Stainforth, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Malham Moor, Settle, Settle, Giggleswick, Lawkland, Halton Gill and Langcliffe and such other land as may be agreed between the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Tarmac from time to time.

The source of this Fund is money obtained from Tarmac due to a Section 106 Planning Agreement in connection with planning permission C/04/609B for the deepening of Dry Rigg Quarry and extension of time allowed for the winning and working of limestone until 2034 (restoration to be completed by 2035).

Under S106 Schedule 2, Environmental Contribution: "*The Developer shall pay to the Authority on an annual basis the Environmental Contribution of £35,000 (index Linked)*.

The aim of the Natural Environment Fund is to improve biodiversity and quality of the natural environment within the locality of Dry Rigg 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.

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 April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Activity in 2023/24

Tarmac's Environmental Contributions have been used mainly 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 S106 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/dry-rigg-quarry-nef

The Fund has been promoted through press releases that have been covered in Summer 2023 edition of *Dales* which is mailed out to all residents within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, correspondence with the Forest of Bowland National Landscape team, and an A5 flyer has been created for display on Parish Council noticeboards.

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 £10,000 to be made by the Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer. Disbursement of funds above £10,000 require approval by the Director of Community and Conservation.

Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund went live on 1st April 2023 and the Wildlife Conservation Team dealt with 8 enquiries regarding the NEF from individuals and organisations interested in obtaining funding. Six applicants have been 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: Discretionary Grants from Dry Rigg Quarry NEF as at 16/02/2024

ITEM	**APPLICANT / ORGANISATION**	**AMOUNT**
Project to plant a small number of hazel, blackthorn and hawthorn shrubs around the perimeter of the site, prune existing willow trees on the site and create habitat piles with resulting brash.	R. Jakeman, Langcliffe	£350
Provision of PPE, monitoring equipment, training and education tools and woodland maintenance tools for the Yorkshire Ribble Rangers volunteers, and mapping of INNS.	Ribble Rivers Trust, Upper Ribble Catchment	£9,900
Creation of a wildlife pond and translocation of hedgerow.	S. Hull, Keasden	£2,500
Nature & Nurture Project, and a wildlife themed sensory playground for KS1 and EYFS with a theme 'connecting with nature and wildlife'.	Settle Primary School	£8,500
Planting 200 native trees with biodegradable tree guards on former Foredale Quarry Waste, and purchase of hand tools for tree planting.	Foredale Residents	£1,400
Swift Project. The Project will cover Clapham cum Newby Parish, including the villages of Clapham, Newby, Newby Cote, Cold Cotes and Keasden.	Clapham Sustainability Group	£2,500
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	***£25,150.00***

An application was submitted from Settle CE Primary School for £14,350 to fund a community-led environmental initiative enhancing use of their STEM centre for environmental monitoring and improvement of school grounds for environmental education. It was decided to allocated £8,500 from Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund (see Table 1 above), as the project demonstrated a large community contribution in volunteer time, with a recommendation to the school to apply for match funding from YDNPA Sustainable Development Fund for £5,850 to complete the Project in full.

A half-day site visit and consultation was undertaken with Land Agents at the Ingleborough Estate, Clapham and Wildlife Conservation Officers, YDNPA to discuss the suitability of nature recovery projects for funding on this Estate, focusing on projects around farm pond enhancement, scrub planting and new hedgerow creation. A meeting has been arranged towards the end of February 2024 between a Wildlife Conservation Officer, YDNPA and Lune Rivers Trust to discuss potential projects in the upper Lune River catchment (Austwick Beck and the River Wenning). Site visits and consultations continue to be carried out following expressions of interest for projects across the parishes within the Fund location.

In addition to the Projects outlined in Table 1. £172.00 was spent on publicising the Dry Rigg Quarry Natural Environment Fund through the design and printing of a colour all-weather 244cm x 76cm vinyl banner.

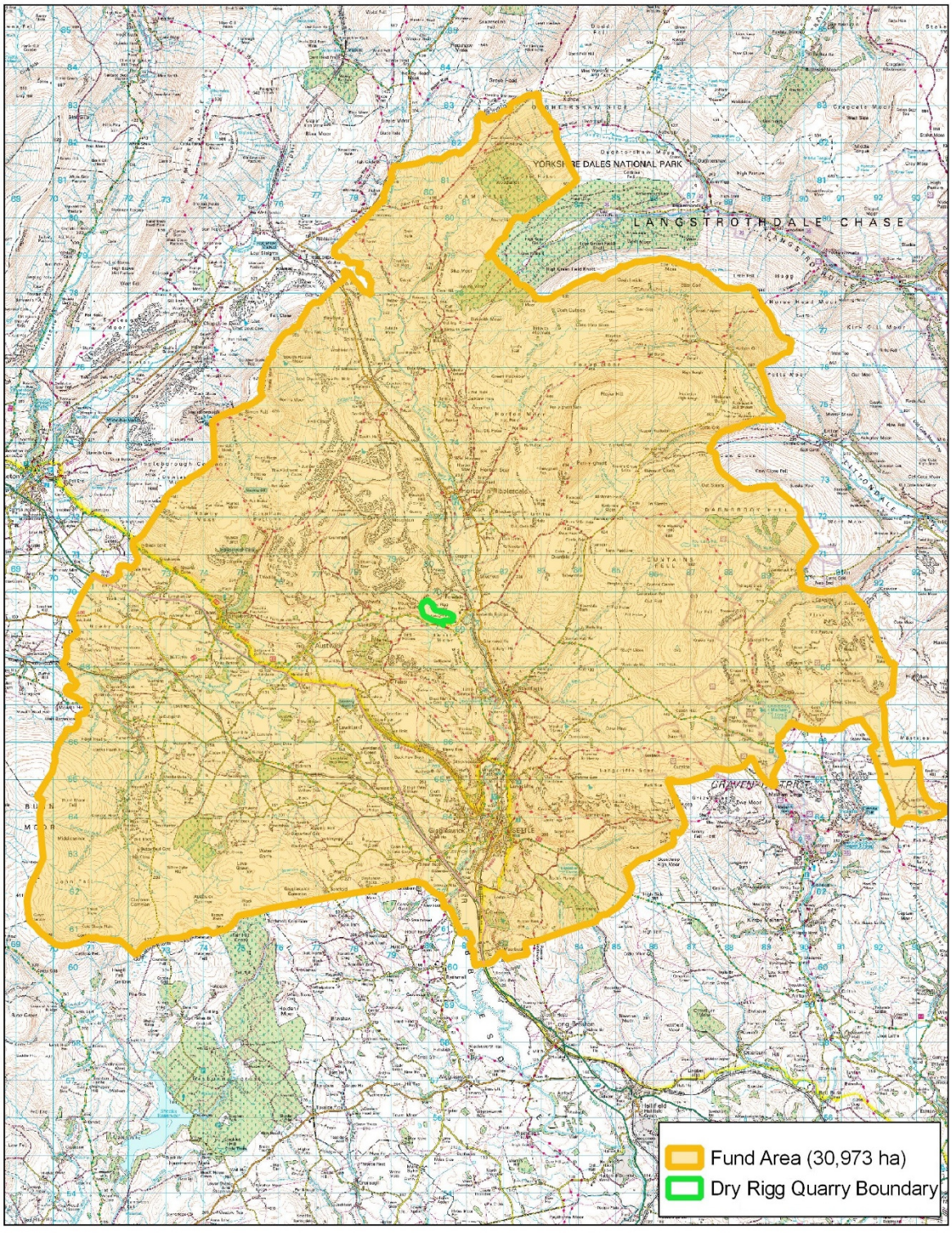
Sue Thurley (Wildlife Conservation Officer)	16/02/2024
Rachel Brindle (Wildlife Conservation Officer)	16/02/2024

Appendix 1

Dry Rigg Quarry Fund Area

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Scale 1:125000



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Compiled by Robyn Guppy on 18/10/2021

Appendix 2

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Dry Rigg 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 £2,500) ☐ Medium Grant (£2,500 to £10,000)

☐ Large Grant (£10,000 to £30,000) (But see Guidance Notes)

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**

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 Dry Rigg 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 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
- Retrospective applications or items where costs have already been incurred

Fund Profile

In any one financial year the Natural Environment Fund will seek to fund projects to a total value of approximately £35,000. Typically, the spilt will be ten 'Small Grants' of up to £2.5k each and one to two 'Medium Grants' to a total of about £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, and ideally including photographs. This will be appended to our Annual Report to Tarmac at the end of the financial year.

Applications will be invited in application rounds with the deadlines as specified on the YDNPA website.

For Small Grants we will normally aim to make a decision within four 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.