Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund

Second Annual Report | 2021



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 2021 to 31st December 2021.

Expenditure and commitments totalling £30k were reported in the First Annual Report sent to Tarmac in January 2021. YDNPA received Tarmac's first s106 contribution of £30,249 in June 2021 and a second contribution of £31,440 was received in December 2021.

Activity in 2021

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 2021 The Wildlife Conservation Team dealt with 11 enquiries regarding the NEF from individuals and organisations interested in obtaining funding. Five 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. One application has yet to be determined.

Table 1 below contains details of projects funded.

Table 1: Discretionary Grants from Swinden Quarry NEF as at 22/12/21

ITEM	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Contribution to iWharfe Citizen Science project to identify sources of pollution affecting River Wharfe in NEF area	Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust	£3,361
Purchase of equipment, cost of training, books/training materials to enable local monitoring of seven species of endangered butterfly/moth in NEF area	Butterfly Conservation	£2,000
Creation of extensive scrub planted corridor linking existing wetland and scrub habitat. C. 23 ha at Hetton	Dales Green Group	£4,197
Creation of wildlife garden, pond and nature-friendly allotments for local children on Trustees of Burnsall School's land near Burnsall.	Burnsall Primary School	£3,550
Tree management and under-planting of the mature wooded 'Plantation Area' which is located in the centre of Linton village	Linton Parish Council	£2,000
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	***£15,108***

In addition to the above, YDNPA's Farm Conservation Team requested the NEF to pay for the purchase of wildflower seed to enhance the biodiversity value of 'Colvend Meadow', an Authority-maintained piece of land that adjoins the public car park in Grassington. In November 2021, a local farmer harrowed the land in preparation for the seeding which was carried out by children from the nearby Grassington Primary School. Just over £450 of NEF money was spent on seed.

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 2021) two instalments of rent (totalling £1800) have been paid for the nursery site and there has been £560 spent on locally-produced peat-free compost. Material grown at the Nursery has been used by Dales Green Group in its NEF-funded project at Hetton.

An update from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust on their Bee Together Project, which was part-funded by the Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund in 2020, is included in Appendix 3.

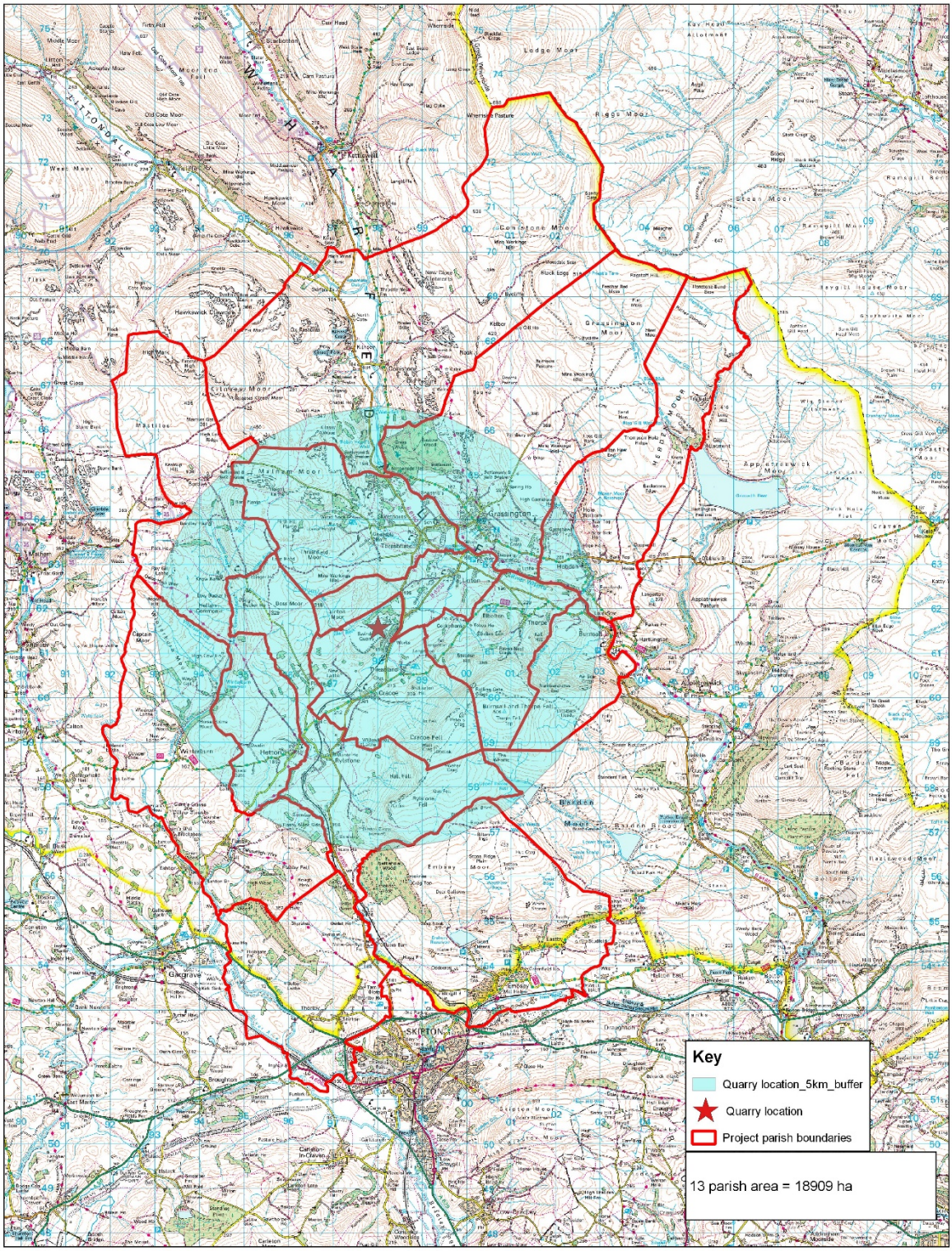
Tony Serjeant (Senior Wildlife Conservation Officer) 22/12/21

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

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)

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 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.

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.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's Bee Together Project

Update to Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund, December 2021

YORKSHIRE DALES MILLENNIUM TRUST

Patron HRH The Prince of Wales

Bee Together focuses on bringing together communities to look after our ecosystems, and enables individuals and communities to create, improve and link pollinator habitat.

Over the past year, the Bee Together project has continued to bring communities together to take action for pollinators along a B-line from Leeds to Lancaster. Since November 2018, when the project first began, Bee Together has seen…

- **29** wildlife patches created
- **4** community meadows created
- **40** solitary bee nest boxes purchased
- **2** 'Sit and Bee' mining bee structures installed
- **109** people trained in bumblebee ID
- **79** people trained in other pollinator related skills
- **676** school children engaged
- **13** events hosted



Overall, more than **2,500** people have been involved in the project so far.

A Snapshot of Bee Together in the NEF Funding Areas

With the help of the Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund, and your grant of £5,000, throughout 2021 we have been able to continue to engage with communities, reach new audiences, develop new partnerships and most importantly create more habitat for pollinators. Here are just a few examples of what we have achieved…



Grassington Community Meadow

The Grassington in Bloom group have been working hard to maintain the community meadow in the village. After helping with the initial creation of the meadow back in 2019, Bee Together has continued its support for the project by providing tools and assistance for the management and enhancement of the meadow. Being able to provide this ongoing support in the first couple of years of meadow creation really helps with the long-term viability of these projects.



Threshfield Parish Council

We have begun working with the Threshfield Parish Council, and are developing our plans to pilot a Pollinator Action Plan which can then be replicated across other Parish Councils. We will trial this in Threshfield and then share the progress at the Parish Council Forum, encouraging others to get involved.

Eastby

We have developed plans for a community meadow in Eastby, alongside a private landowner who wishes for an area of her land to become a community asset. We will support the local community to create a meadow. We hope to link with Eastby Primary School to plant the meadow, to bring benefits to the community and pollinators alike.

Embsay and Grimwith Reservoir

We have recently partnered with Yorkshire Water, to further develop our Bee Together project. We will be working with them at Embsay Reservoir to assess the pollinator habitat, and make suggestions to Yorkshire Water how they can better manage the land for pollinators. We are also working with Yorkshire Water at Grimwith Reservoir, near Hebden, to trial an alternative approach to grassland verge management in Yorkshire Water car parks. We hope to develop standards which can be implemented across a variety of Yorkshire water sites.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust
Main Street | Clapham via Lancaster | LA2 8DP
T 015242 51002 | **E** sarah.hodgson@ydmt.org | **www.ydmt.org**
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