Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund

First Annual Report | 2020



Pupils from Cracoe & Rylstone Primary School in their new garden, part funded by the Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

SWINDEN QUARRY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FUND (NEF)

First Annual Report | 2020

On 20 December 2019, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority 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* ***31 December 2019*** *and thereafter annually up until* ***31 December 2040***".

Under paragraph 2.3 of the s106 Agreement, if the £30k is not fully spent or allocated by the Authority within 12 calendar months of the Authority receiving the contribution from Tarmac, the remaining sums shall be deducted from the next year's annual payment due, such that Tarmac shall only be required to pay to the Authority in that year such sum as is necessary to make up the sum to a total of £30,000 (Index Linked).

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.

Activity in 2020

The first payment into the NEF from Tarmac became due on 31 December 2019 but was not received by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) until 5 June 2020.

The first contribution was used to establish a discretionary grant fund administered by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for environmental projects that benefit the parishes of:

- Burnsall
- Conistone with Kilnsey
- Cracoe
- Embsay with Eastby
- Flasby with Winterburn
- Grassington
- Hebden
- Hetton Cum Bordley
- Linton
- Rylstone
- Stirton with Thorlby
- Thorpe
- Threshfield

A map showing the geographical coverage of these parishes can be found in Appendix 1.

The above parishes form 'the Locality' that must benefit from any funds received from Tarmac due to the Section 106 Planning Agreement in force in connection with planning permission C/23/67K for the deepening of Swinden Quarry and extension of time allowed for the winning and working of limestone until 2039 (restoration to be completed by 2041).

The existence of the discretionary grant is advertised on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority website at **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 the 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 Conservation & Community.

During 2020, the Wildlife Conservation Team dealt with 16 enquiries regarding the NEF from individuals and organisations interested in obtaining funding. Seven applicants were offered discretionary grants and six offers were accepted by the organisations that applied. A summary of the expenditure from the NEF is given in Table 1 below.

Table 2 below contains details of projects funded.

Table 1: Income & Expenditure Balance in Swinden Quarry NEF as at 19/01/21

ITEM	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT	COMMITTED (C)/ ORDERED (O)/ RECEIVED (R)
INCOME			
S106 Contribution	Tarmac	**£30,000**	R
EXPENDITURE			
Grant for work on Hebden Beck, etc.	Hebden Parish Council	£6,250	O
Grant for Pollinator Project	Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust	£5,000	O
Grant for biodiversity enhancement in school grounds	Upper Wharfedale School, Threshfield	£4,000	O
Grant for work at Embsay with Eastby Nature Reserve	Friends of Embsay with Eastby Nature Reserve	£2,500	O
Grant for community allotment & wildlife garden	Cracoe and Rylstone Primary School	£2,000	O
Grant towards tree planting at Kilnsey Park	Dales Green Group	£1,000	O
Contribution to Local Provenance Plant Nursery at Burnsall*	YDNPA	£8,985	C
Design and manufacture of banner to advertise NEF projects	YDNPA	£265	O
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	***£30,000***	

* see details below

Local Provenance Plant Nursery

Several of the conservation projects that are underway as a result of NEF grants will require plant material for habitat restoration, creation and enhancement (see Table 2). In the recent past some growing of local provenance plants has taken place on a very small scale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park (eg. in connection with YDNPA's Parish Wildlife Project, and Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust's 'Haytime' project) with volunteers collecting seed and growing plants on at home.

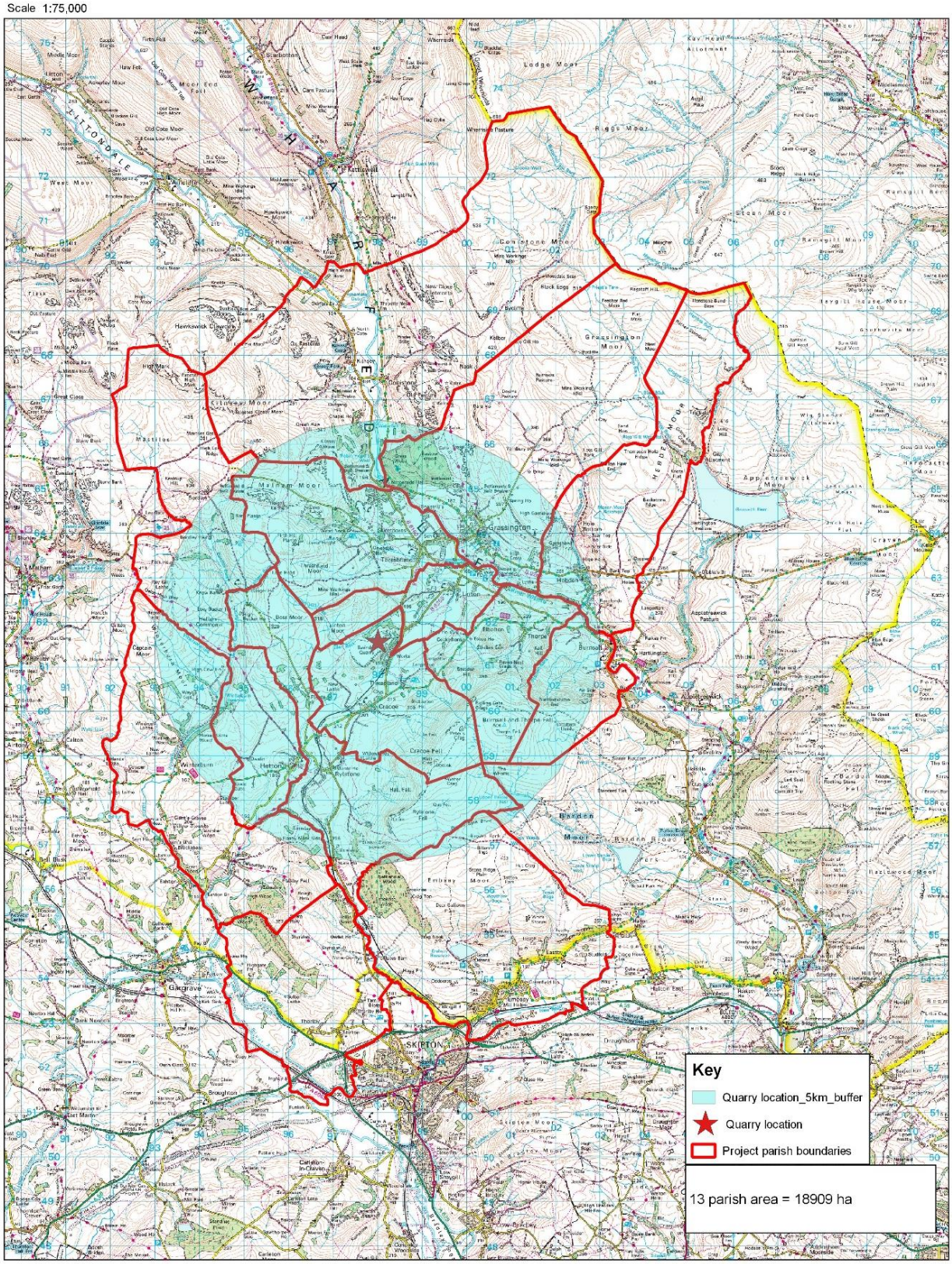
This approach has generally produced relatively small quantities of plants. £8,985 from the NEF has been committed to be spent on establishing a local provenance plant nursery 'hub' within the NEF area. This hub would be a facility at which local provenance seed is germinated and cuttings rooted, with the resultant plants being grown on so that they can be distributed to volunteers to nurture to a point when they are ready to be planted out. A location for the hub has been found at Burnsall and quotations obtained to set up and equip an existing farm outbuilding for the purpose. In the first year it is intended to grow up to 9,000 plants to fulfil anticipated demand.

Table 2: Projects funded through NEF discretionary grants in 2020

PARISH/AREA	LEAD ORGANISATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Cracoe	Cracoe and Rylstone Primary School, Cracoe	Creation of a community wildlife garden and allotments including 'beetle banks', areas of bramble, new native hedgerows and wild flowers
Threshfield	Upper Wharfedale School, Threshfield	Develop recent tree planting areas further with bug hotels, bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog houses, bird feeders and protective fencing; create outdoor area for studying the environment; plant native plant species
Grassington, Cracoe, Burnsall & Embsay with Eastby	Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust	Bee Together project. creating, improving and linking habitat; increasing biodiversity and promoting the needs of pollinators in B-Line corridor through the NEF area
Hebden	Hebden Parish Council	Improve water quality and habitat, reduce bank erosion. Other enhancements including removal of Invasive Non-Native Species (Snowberry) and erection of bird and bat boxes sourced from YDNPA
Embsay with Eastby	Friends of Embsay with Eastby Nature Reserve	Obtain a wide selection of native wild flowers and plants to improve the stock in the nature reserve. Conduct soil testing, prepare the site areas, carry out planting, then manage onward growth and propagation. Procure a set of hand and power tools (with storage shed) for use on the nature reserve
Conistone with Kilnsey	The Dales Green Group	Planting up a bank adjacent to the River Wharfe, to include Purging Buckthorn plants (25) supplied by YDNPA as part of the wider project to strengthen habitat for the Tissue Moth
River Wharfe, between Hubberholme and Burnsall	Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (on behalf of iWharfe)	Citizen Science Project to assess water quality in the River Wharfe in Upper Wharfedale. Sampling at a finer scale than previous survey along the river upstream and downstream of potential pollution sources both to confirm earlier observations and to identify potential causes

Appendix 1

Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund – 13 parish areas
5km buffer zone



Appendix 2

Swinden Quarry Natural Environment Fund (NEF)
Grant Application Form

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Name Address   Tel Email

Location of project

Brief description of your project and 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) (see Guidance Notes)

How much are you applying for?

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

Is your project designed to be ongoing? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

Signed **Date**

NEF 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 (NEF)

The aim of the NEF 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 NEF as to whether any items on the list can be funded in particular circumstances:

- Tools for community groups/projects;
- Materials (eg. fence posts)
- Plants and/or seed (but only of regional or local origin)
- Contractors
- Management plans and specialist surveys
- Survey equipment (eg. ID books, nets, hand lenses, etc.)
- Items to enable community groups to satisfy health and safety requirements (eg. 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 NEF 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 (eg. 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.