



# QUANTOCK LANDSCAPE SCHEMES

JANUARY 2020



In October 2014 the Quantock Hills AONB Service launched a number of schemes which aimed to deliver landscape enhancement across the affected area associated with the new Nuclear Power Station development, Hinkley Point C. These schemes are delivered on behalf of the partners, EDF Energy, Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset West & Taunton Council.

## GREATER QUANTOCK LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT FUND

### KEY FACTS

- **183 enquiries to the QQLDF**
- **61 applications, with 48 approved.**
- **Fund Budget £152,103**
- **Fund Allocated £143,961**
- **Funding Available £8,142**

Since its launch in October 2014 the Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund (GQLDF) has supported 48 projects throughout the affected area. The fund is available to farmers, landowners, community groups or businesses who wish to apply for grants to undertake small scale landscape improvements.

Due to the demand on the fund in June 2019 the maximum grant amount was reduced to £5,000. A key success of the fund is the support in project development provided by the Quantock Hills AONB Service.

The GQLDF fund has supported the planting of 2.2km of new native hedge and the traditional management of a further 3.8km of hedgerow.



### SCHEME CONTACT

Iain Porter on

07977 412077

iporter@somerset.gov.uk

Delivered by:



2,400m<sup>2</sup> of ponds have been restored through the GQLDF



Hector's Pond  
April 2015

Quantock Conservation  
Volunteers members after  
completion of the scrub  
clearance at Hector's Pond



Hector's Pond  
November 2019



Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly. Now a common sight at  
Hectors Pond

8 Projects have planted 207 orchard trees, of which 5 projects  
are on historic orchard sites from tithe map times

"The grant has  
allowed us to  
improve our local  
landscape for all  
our villagers to  
enjoy now and into  
the future. It has  
been great to see  
so many volunteers  
help deliver this  
project" Jim Ridout,  
Fiddington Parish  
Council





Nearly 11Ha of new wildflower meadows have been sown



Panel Members Dr Chris Smith and Ian Clark looking at species composition of a new wildflower meadow

Over 1,100 new native standard trees have been planted. These will become the veteran trees of the future ensuring the high quality landscape of the Quantock Hills and Vale remain beautiful.



## LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Landscape Improvement Scheme aims to increase the resilience of existing priority habitats on the Quantock Hills . It will achieve this by creating new heathland and oak woodlands which join the existing areas of habitat together. The scheme is working in partnership with private and public landowners and will run over the next 5 years.



Stump grinding at St Audries. This area was a conifer plantation but will be reverted to 9Ha of heathland

“Working with the AONB Service has created this exciting opportunity to kick start the creation of more heathland as part of our approved Forest Plan for St Audries woodland and the removal of the stumps will make the area much easier to manage into the future ensuring its longevity and condition.” Nick Salter, Forestry Commission

Delivered by:







At St Audries, within 4 months coloniser species such as Climbing Corydalis (left) and Red sand spurrey (above left) carpeted much of the 9 Ha site. A year after the works were complete Bell Heather (Erica Cineria) and gorse seedlings (top right) and insects such as the Green Tiger Beetle (right) were found on the site. Larger species such as bats and nightjar have also been found on the site.

## LAND MANAGEMENT & SKILLS SCHEME—DELIVERED BY THE QUANTOCK HILLS AONB SERVICE

The Quantock Hills AONB Service was commissioned by West Somerset Council to run 3 schemes which aimed to provide local farmers, landowners and communities the opportunity to learn land management skills.

**Orchard management workshops.** During 2016 and 17 3 workshops were undertaken attended by 43 local landowners / community members. These provided



local communities with the skills to plan, plant and prune fruit trees. The workshops also explore processing apples for fruit juice or cider.

Through the **Wildlife Monitoring Scheme** training and resources are provided allowing groups to monitor key species in their own community. So far 27 volunteers have been trained in bird and bat monitoring allowing

4 new transects to be surveyed in 2017. In September 2017 a number of sessions were run for 23 young people introducing them to bats and monitoring in their local community.



1<sup>st</sup> Watchet Brownies monitoring bats around Watchet

The third element of this scheme is **Resilience Planning for local landowners.** Through 4 workshops, attended by 87 landowners / farmers promoting the benefits of resilience planning in farming and forestry. As part of the project 10 farm / forestry plans were drawn up incorporating resilience into farm and forestry systems.



**DELIVERING 'MORE, BIGGER, BETTER' FOR WILDLIFE, LANDSCAPE AND PEOPLE**

Delivered by:

