



**Biodiversity**  
Challenge Fund

**GrantScape**  
funding for the environment

# OutLook

Special Edition

**Biodiversity Challenge Fund 2006**

Following the acclaimed success of the Biodiversity Challenge Fund 2005, GrantScape launched a Challenge Fund for 2006 to support yet more environmental projects across England and Wales.

To ensure that projects would be of sufficient size to deliver substantial environmental impacts, funding available was again significant, at £2.5 million. A minimum grant level of £250,000 was also set.

There was a fantastic response to this year's Biodiversity Challenge Fund, with the 34 applications received all meeting GrantScape's funding criteria. The applications requested in excess of £13.5 million, so competition was extremely healthy.

As in 2005, applications were reviewed by an independent, specialist biodiversity advisory group which made recommendations to the Trustees of GrantScape on which projects should receive grants. The following five projects were selected to share the £2.5 million Biodiversity Challenge Fund\*:

### **British Waterways**

Wolverhampton and Staffordshire  
Canal Corridor Biodiversity Challenge  
£651,983

### **Kent Wildlife Trust**

Restoration and Re-creation of  
Ancient Heath in Kent's Low Weald  
£298,000

### **The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)**

Heathland Restoration Across  
the High Weald  
£486,693

### **The Woodland Trust**

Restoring Wentwood Forest  
£500,000

### **Menter Môn**

Anglesey Red Squirrel Project  
£444,597

\*Subject to contract

## **Thank you!**

GrantScape would like to thank  
Waste Recycling Group Limited who  
kindly provided the money for the  
Biodiversity Challenge Fund 2006.



## **British Waterways** Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Canal Corridor Biodiversity Challenge

**Grant** - £651,983

**Total Project Cost** - £837,892

(78% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

**"This grant is excellent news for canalside communities and their visitors in Staffordshire and Wolverhampton. Our work with the wildlife and their habitats will make a real difference to the local environment - to flora, fauna and humans! The programme of biodiversity enhancements will include all of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal between Stourton Junction and Penkridge, and we expect to undertake the first physical improvements on site later this year."**

**John Harris,  
Economic and Social  
Development Manager,  
British Waterways**

This is a two year project to undertake biodiversity enhancements along a 39km length of popular canal corridor which links rural Staffordshire and the West Midlands conurbation. Focusing on five Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats, benefiting 20 BAP species, the project will link habitats to create a continuous corridor for wildlife into the city of Birmingham.

The project will work on over 140 hectares and will include planting 5,000 trees, laying 0.5km of hedge, creating new reed beds and providing otter holts and bat hibernation chambers.



## **Kent Wildlife Trust** Restoration and Re-creation of Ancient Heath in Kent's Low Weald

**Grant** - £298,000

**Total Project Cost** - £298,000

(100% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

**"Hothfield Common stands as one of the most important conservation sites in Kent. It supports a characteristic range of plants and animals that occur nowhere else in the county and that are nationally rare and threatened."**

**John McAllister, Kent  
Wildlife Trust's Head  
Conservation Officer  
for East Kent**

Hothfield Common Nature Reserve is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and an SNCI (Site of Nature Conservation Interest). The Reserve represents Kent's last surviving ancient semi-natural heath and lowland valley bog and mire complex.

Kent Wildlife Trust's project will firstly involve the purchase of a key area of land adjacent to Hothfield Common, so extending the existing Reserve by 27% and increasing the environmental sustainability of the area. Over a four year period the heath, wet heath, acid grassland, riparian woodland, alkaline fen and acid bog habitats characteristically found in this part of Kent will then be re-created so as to return the newly-acquired site to its former glory.



## Menter Môn Anglesey Red Squirrel Project

**Grant** - £444,597

**Total Project Cost** - £588,597

(76% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

**"The founder of the Anglesey Red Squirrel Project, the late Esmé Kirby of the Esmé Kirby Snowdonia Trust, coined the motto for our project: 'To make Anglesey, once again, red squirrel country'. The GrantScape award will make possible the final realization of Esmé's vision and will inspire others to do likewise to save red squirrels and other threatened species throughout the UK."**

**Dr Hugh Knott,  
Project Manager,  
Menter Môn**



Red squirrels are one of Britain's favourite woodland creatures, but they are currently facing the possibility of extinction.

Anglesey is one of only three sites in Wales to have red squirrel populations. This project looks to establish Anglesey as a haven for red squirrels.



Over a four year period, the project will conserve the existing population of red squirrels at Pentraeth Forest and continue a programme of re-introduction of new populations at Newborough Forest. Woodland corridors will also be planted to connect all forest areas on the Isle to enable the red squirrels to inhabit yet more of Anglesey.

## The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Heathland Restoration Across the High Weald

**Grant** - £486,693

**Total Project Cost** - £1,495,000

(33% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

**"This project presents a rare opportunity to connect nationally important lowland heathland habitat across the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring that our natural heritage is conserved for future generations to access and enjoy."**

**Martin Allison,  
Wealden Heaths and  
Woodlands Manager,  
RSPB**

The RSPB's four year project will bring a significant area of land within the High Weald under sympathetic conservation management to improve its habitats for wildlife.

It will involve restoring, enhancing and maintaining lowland heathland, associated valley mire, broadleaved woodland and eutrophic standing waters. This will contribute significantly to the heathland BAP target for Sussex and will benefit a range of National BAP priority species such as the nightjar, woodlark (pictured), pearl-bordered fritillary and wood ant. Finalised plans for the project will be made in consultation with local people.



# The Woodland Trust Restoring Wentwood Forest

Grant - £500,000

Total Project Cost - £598,424

(84% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

"We are absolutely delighted that GrantScape have offered grant support towards our work to restore Wentwood Forest. It is our flagship restoration project and one we are particularly proud of. If we hadn't secured the funding, the opportunity to restore this ancient woodland would not have been able to happen at the speed it now can. Funding from GrantScape has put us in a position to make a real and crucial difference in Wentwood over the coming years. Thank you GrantScape."

Laura Judson,  
Head of Regional Development,  
The Woodland Trust



Wentwood Forest is the largest Planted Ancient Woodland Site in Wales and the ninth largest in the UK. Restoring Wentwood Forest is a partnership project with the aim of creating a landscape-scale, flagship, biodiversity-rich forest in Wales.

The Woodland Trust acquired 352 hectares of Wentwood Forest in 2005 following the 'Save Wentwood Forest' public campaign which was the most successful campaign the Trust has ever instigated.

Much of the Forest has been clear-felled and planted with conifers and, although ancient woodland cannot be re-created, it can be restored.

This project will run for four years and will restore the core area of semi-natural habitats and make the landscape more ecologically functional and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Ancient woodland is currently under threat, yet is one of the most important UK habitats in terms of biodiversity, containing more species of conservation concern than any other habitat.

All Woodland Trust photos by WTPL/Steve Kind



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