



OutLOOK

Special Edition

GrantScape
funding for the environment

Biodiversity Challenge Fund 2007- Awards Announcement

We are delighted to announce the successful applicants to GrantScape's Biodiversity Challenge Fund 2007.

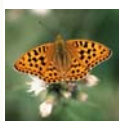
This year we received a record 45 high quality applications, seeking a total of £15.5 million in grants. These came from groups spread across England and Wales and all met our Funding Criteria.

GrantScape's Trustees, supported by an independent specialist biodiversity advisory panel, have selected six projects for 2007 to receive grants totalling £2 million. These were chosen because, in our assessment, they should deliver the most significant gains for UK biodiversity from the range of projects for which we received applications.

The £2 million now awarded takes GrantScape's total grant-making through the Biodiversity Challenge Fund to £8 million over the last three years, supporting a total of 20 highly-deserving projects.

GrantScape would like to thank Waste Recycling Group Limited who have very kindly provided the monies for our three annual Biodiversity Challenges, through the Landfill Communities Fund.

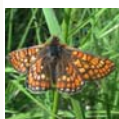
The successful groups and their projects are:



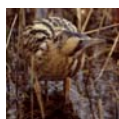
Butterfly Conservation
Conserving the High Brown Fritillary on the Morecambe Bay Limestones
£246,800 [More](#)



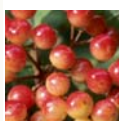
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Arne GrantScape Heathland Management Project
£315,400 [More](#)



Devon Wildlife Trust
Working Wetlands - Rebuilding the Biodiversity of Devon's Culm Grasslands
£398,000 [More](#)



The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Creation of a Major New Wetland Nature Reserve in Kent
£350,000 [More](#)



Forestry Commission
Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme - Rejuvenating Traditional Orchards, Special Trees and Ancient Hedgerows
£294,000 [More](#)



Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
New Life for Chalk Grassland in Wiltshire
£400,000 [More](#)

Butterfly Conservation

Conserving the High Brown Fritillary on the Morecambe Bay Limestones

Grant - £246,800*

Total Project Cost - £448,000

(55% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

*Subject to contract



High Brown Fritillary butterfly,
copyright R Goodison

“This grant is fantastic news for the butterflies and other wildlife in the beautiful limestone hills around Morecambe Bay. It will help us save one of Britain’s most endangered butterflies, the High Brown Fritillary, as well as many other declining plants and animals.

We are deeply grateful to GrantScape for funding the project, which will help us undertake essential management to restore habitats and to provide conservation advice for these threatened species.

Britain’s butterflies have dwindled rapidly in recent decades, but this project will help us reverse this trend in a key part of the country.”

Dr Nigel Bourn, Director of Species Conservation at Butterfly Conservation

This four year project takes a landscape scale approach to the conservation of the High Brown Fritillary, one of Britain’s most threatened and rapidly declining butterflies. It will take place within a total area of 1,164 hectares of the Morecambe Bay Limestones, which is the most important butterfly site in northern England and the species’ national stronghold.

Habitat restoration and conservation works will focus on limestone pavements, lowland and upland calcareous grassland and upland mixed ashwoods. Work will include coppicing and scrub and ride management, and will cover existing core sites for the High Brown Fritillary as well as identified sites considered ideal for re-colonisation. Seven other rare UK butterfly species are expected to benefit from Butterfly Conservation’s project, including the UK BAP priority Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Northern Brown Argus.



Upland limestone grassland at Farleton Fell,
copyright S Ellis (Butterfly Conservation)

Devon Wildlife Trust

Working Wetlands - Rebuilding the
Biodiversity of Devon's Culm Grasslands

Grant - £398,000*

Total Project Cost - £1,166,000

(34% of project costs funded by
GrantScape)

*Subject to contract



Meshaw Moor Nature Reserve,
courtesy of Devon Wildlife Trust

“To give north Devon’s amazing wildlife its best chance of surviving the impacts of climate change and neglect we have to work on a more ambitious scale. Thanks to GrantScape’s award, Devon Wildlife Trust can now really start to re-connect the remaining fragments of Culm grassland. By creating large swathes of high-quality habitat, we hope to inspire farmers and landowners to join with us in returning the whole landscape to its former glory.”

**Matt Boydell, Devon
Wildlife Trust’s Nature
Reserves Manager**

Devon Wildlife Trust’s project focuses on the restoration and re-creation of 95 hectares of Culm grassland habitat within three heartland areas of north-west Devon. Culm grassland (i.e. purple moor grass and rush pasture) is particularly colourful and rich in biodiversity but, sadly, is now severely fragmented and threatened. It is also considered by many to be Devon’s most important habitat, with the county supporting 80% of England’s total resource.

Locations to be worked on during the four year project will include existing reserves owned by the Trust, plus strategic land acquisitions. A large number of threatened species are expected to benefit, including the UK BAP priority Marsh Fritillary butterfly (Culm grassland’s flagship species), Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth, Dormouse and Skylark, together with the Barn Owl and a range of orchids.



Marsh Fritillary butterfly
copyright Gary Pilkington

Forestry Commission

Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme - Rejuvenating Traditional Orchards, Special Trees and Ancient Hedgerows

Grant - £294,000*

Total Project Cost - £294,000

(100% of project costs funded by GrantScape)



Wyre Wild Service tree berries, courtesy of Forestry Commission

*Subject to contract

"The news of this grant is truly outstanding. The trees, hedgerows and historic orchards are very precious. The funding will make a tremendous difference locally by helping to restore Wyre. The restoration work is very exciting, but above all, critical for these important habitats and wildlife.

The money awarded to deliver the project, from the GrantScape Fund will enable local communities to restore this special landscape, work which will benefit us all and generations to come."

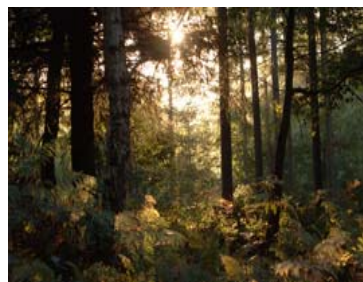
Ian Hickman, Forest Management Director for the Forestry Commission West Midlands



Wyre fallen apples, courtesy of the Forestry Commission

This project sits within the exciting £3.8 million "Grow With Wyre" Wyre Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme and will fund many of its biodiversity elements. Working within a total area of 7,200 hectares, of which 565 hectares are National Nature Reserve (primarily lowland wood pasture and parklands) in Worcestershire and Shropshire, it will have two key strands.

Firstly, fragmented and neglected traditional orchards dispersed through the project area will be rejuvenated to benefit a number of UK BAP priority species, including the Noble Chafer, Stag Beetle, Spotted Flycatcher and waxcap fungus.



Wyre Forest light courtesy of the Forestry Commission

Secondly, veteran trees will be managed and 1,000 'special' trees planted, including Black Poplar, Wild Service and the extremely rare Wyre Forest Whitty Pear. This planting will create vital links to existing woodland areas and will also include the restoration of 10km of ancient/species-rich hedgerows. Fourteen UK BAP priority species are expected to benefit from these works, including moths, birds, fungi and ground-dwelling insects.

Wood-pasture and relic parkland in the Wyre Forest is remnant of an ancient managed landscape. The old trees and dead wood or wood pasture are valuable for their cultural, historic and ecological significance. Restoration work will involve planting specimens of original varieties, filling gaps in hedges and enabling people to learn more about managing trees to benefit wildlife. Work kicks off with a seed gathering festival this October!

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Arne GrantScape Heathland Management Project

Grant - £315,400*

Total Project Cost - £525,000
(60% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

*Subject to contract



Heath tiger beetle,
courtesy of rspb-images.com

“Arne Nature Reserve is a site rich in wildlife, not just birds. It is also a community resource enjoyed by over 60,000 people each year. This funding enables us to continue our vital conservation work safeguarding species like the Dartford warbler and silver-studded blue butterfly for future generations to enjoy. It also builds on the countless valuable hours of work donated to us by our volunteers and RSPB members, without which the RSPB couldn’t achieve what it does here at Arne.”

**Mike Trubridge, RSPB
Arne Site Manager**

This project will extend and improve the RSPB’s flagship Arne Nature Reserve on the Arne Peninsula in Dorset, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. With the UK holding some 30% of Europe’s remaining heathland, the Purbeck heathlands (which include Arne) are already of international importance.



Arne Reserve’s heathlands,
courtesy of rspb-images.com

The project will begin with the acquisition of 34 hectares of land, representing the key missing link in an otherwise continuous area of lowland heathland and diverse associated habitats. The acquired land will then be maintained and managed for biodiversity gain, together with seven other priority habitats. All-told, conservation work to be undertaken during the project will cover a total area of 978 hectares.

The UK BAP priority species expected to benefit from the project include the Woodlark, Nightjar, Sand Lizard, Purbeck Mason Wasp, Heath Tiger Beetle and Bechstein’s Bat.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Creation of a Major New Wetland Nature Reserve in Kent

Grant - £350,000*

Total Project Cost - £1,801,000

(19% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

*Subject to contract



Bittern in reedbed, copyright Mike Richards (rspb-images.com)

“This is great news. The grant will ensure that we can create the best possible habitat for a whole range of spectacular wildlife. We have been working on this project for over seven years and to secure this funding just at the point when we are finally completing the deal is perfect timing. I can’t wait to give the full story.”

Jim Glover, RSPB Projects Manager



marsh habitat, copyright David Kjaer (rspb-images.com)

Starting with the acquisition of over 100 hectares, this ambitious RSPB project seeks to create a new 500 hectare wetland nature reserve in Kent. Although this land is covered by SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) designation, its wildlife importance has been degraded by various drainage schemes and it is presently used mainly as low-grade arable land. As negotiations are ongoing, the exact location of the site must remain confidential for now. Once the land is secured, the RSPB will be able to reveal the full details of this exciting project.

Following the acquisition, conservation work will begin. GrantScape’s funding will support the re-creation and restoration of 71 hectares of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh – nearly 3% of the UK’s 2010 BAP target. In addition, a 20 hectare reedbed will be created, together with five hectares of open water. Six hectares of broadleaved woodland and 11 hectares of dry grassland pasture will also be sympathetically managed for biodiversity.

Eleven current UK BAP priority species are targeted to benefit from the project. These include, in particular, the rare and declining Bittern, as well as the Turtle Dove, Reed Bunting, Grey Partridge, Water Vole and Brown Hare.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

New Life for Chalk Grassland in Wiltshire

Grant - £400,000*

Total Project Cost - £607,000
(66% of project costs funded by GrantScape)

*Subject to contract



Coombe Bissett Down Reserve,
courtesy of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

“Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are delighted with the news that GrantScape have agreed to fund our New Life for Chalk Grassland in Wiltshire project. Over half of the UK's chalk grassland is in Wiltshire and it is under attack from many directions.

A brand new approach to land management is needed and GrantScape have shown great vision in supporting our initiative to explore an exciting new approach to chalk grassland conservation. We'll be experimenting with small breed cattle grazing and Eastern European mechanical mowing techniques alongside traditional sheep-centred conservation. We plan to work with a range of partners and landowners across Wiltshire.

Steve Webb, Head of Fundraising, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

This landscape-scale, multi-site project focuses on the conservation of 24,000 hectares of Wiltshire's chalk grasslands. Its importance stems from the fact that, in Wiltshire alone, some 40% of the world total for this species-rich habitat can be found but, as grazing has reduced, so this has slowly been declining both in quality and extent.

Over the project's three years, the Trust will re-create 250 hectares of chalk grassland and restore semi-improved and degraded habitat over a far larger area. To achieve this, new cutting techniques will be employed alongside traditional grazing using conservation herds of sheep and small cattle. In addition, exemplar sites will be created within a series of interconnected chalk downlands, coombes and valleys to provide practical conservation advice to chalk grassland farmers.



Morgan's Hill, Dexter cattle grazing,
courtesy of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

UK BAP priority species targeted to benefit from the project include the Stone Curlew, Grey Partridge, Shrike Carder Bee, Hornet Robber Fly, Silver-spotted Skipper and Adonis Blue butterflies, and the Brown Hare.



Contact Us



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