

Reference: 11/07/2006

Applicant: **Bill Grayson/Morecambe Bay Local Grazing Scheme**

Scheme Name: **Conservation Grazing Apprenticeship Scheme: feasibility study**

Outline:

The project is to carry out the necessary research and to prepare a feasibility study and final funding proposals for an apprenticeship/training scheme in conservation grazing. The Morecambe Bay Local Grazing Scheme, has been operating in the AONB and the wider Morecambe Bay area for more than 10 years, working as a private-sector business without grant aid or outside financial support. There is a growing need to consolidate the future development of the project and particularly to secure the involvement of a new and younger generation of conservation grazing specialists to help in its continuing implementation. One way to do this would be to set up an apprenticeship scheme through which I could pass on my skills, experience and knowledge to a succeeding generation of conservation graziers. This would provide opportunities for young people who are considering a career combining livestock farming with conservation management to acquire the relevant specialist skills through a mix of directed training and practical work experience. Successful completion of the apprenticeship would ensure the new recruits were best equipped to continue the important work to help meet the rapidly expanding need throughout the Morecambe Bay region and beyond. A feasibility study would research the prospects for setting up a properly co-ordinated apprenticeship scheme, ask advice from other organisations that run similar schemes, and consult grant-awarding bodies in order to prepare a funding proposal.

Expenditure:

2005/06	Cost	VAT
Staff/contractor costs:	£1,650	
Consultants fees costs:	£2,150	
Other costs:	£200	
Travel and expenses		
Total cost of Project:	£4,000	

Requested funding: £2,000

Decision: **Approved**

Comments: Following of distribution of the application papers and an extended period for consultation during which time comments from panel members were circulated electronically, the Panel was in favour of supporting this scheme. The Panel asked that the AONB Officer discuss a number of points with the applicant, particularly the extent and recording of actual in-kind and cash contributions to the scheme, details of the support and involvement of the Grazing Animals Project (GAP) and written confirmation of the partnership involvement of GAP