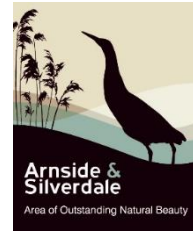




Arnside & Silverdale
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Grants Fund
Guidance notes



The Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Grants Fund is run by Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership and the Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust, working together. Grants provide funds of up to £2500 to enable projects which conserve and enhance the AONB or connect people with the landscape.

Criteria

In order to be eligible for a grant, your project must:

- be located within, or demonstrate clear links to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB;
- conserve and enhance the AONB and/or enable people to connect with the landscape;
- not be a commercial or profit making project;
- be a capital investment; or revenue costs where these are directly linked to carrying out activities detailed in the application;
- contribute to the delivery of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Management Plan (downloadable from the AONB website); and
- be consistent with the constitution of the Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust (Appendix 1).

We will consider projects that:

- Protect the flora and fauna of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB
- Restore, enhance or create wildlife habitat or benefit priority species
- Enhance, restore and improve understanding of ecological networks in the AONB
- Improve or enhance the coast or seascape
- Restore cultural or historic features or assets
- Develop the AONB as a sustainable tourism destination
- Improve opportunities for people to access and enjoy the area, especially for those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to do so
- Promote greater understanding of the area and encourage appropriate recreational opportunities
- Research, interpret, celebrate or raise awareness of the special qualities of the area; its nature, history or culture
- Connect people (particularly young people and children) with the landscape
- Promote participation in traditional rural skills
- Involve the local community or volunteers
- Support local communities in moving towards sustainable low carbon living

We will not fund:

- Projects that are eligible for funding through Countryside Stewardship
- Rent or salaries
- Commercial activities or projects where there is the likelihood of profit or financial reward for those managing the project
- Projects that commence before an offer of a grant is made by the panel
- Repeat or annual applications for the same project unless in exceptional circumstances or where there has been a significant change in circumstances – please speak to the grants fund administrator before preparing an application if you think this relates to your project

Who can apply?

- Community groups
- Schools
- Businesses
- Partner organisation
- Parish councils
- Landowners and managers
- Individuals

You or your organisation must have a bank account and, if you are a community group or charity, formal terms of reference.

How we assess your application

Arnside & Silverdale AONB staff can guide and support the development of your application where appropriate. The final decision to grant an award is given by the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Grants Fund Panel, which comprises nominated representatives from the AONB Partnership, AONB Team and the Landscape Trust who may in certain circumstances take advice from specific professional experts. For applications under £200, responsibility for approval of the application is delegated to the nominated representative of the Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust and the AONB Manager. The Grant Application Procedure document details the process by which applications are administered and assessed.

Grants

- grant awards will normally be in the range of £100-£2500
- having match funding, or in-kind voluntary support in place is not essential, but will increase your chance of a successful application (see guidelines on how to calculate the value of volunteer time)
- in exceptional circumstances an award of over £2500 may be made to an applicant
- in all cases a Grant Agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will be signed prior to receipt of any monies
- grant payments will normally be staged as follows but this may be varied at the discretion of the Grants Panel
 - 50% of grant is paid on commencement of the project

- 50% of grant is paid on successful completion of the project
- All successful applicants will be expected to provide a written report on completion of the project supported by receipted invoices and a photographic record – with relevant permissions given for use in AONB Publicity and for circulation to the media. For larger or longer-term grants, reports will also be required at key milestone points to be agreed between the applicant and the Grants Panel when the grant is approved and also one year after the project is completed to allow longer term impact of the project to be monitored.
- The Grants Panel reserve the right to reclaim grant monies if the project is not carried out as agreed.

Appendix 1 – Arnside/Silverdale Landscape Trust Constitution

“To work for the public benefit of both residents and visitors within the Arnside/Silverdale AONB by stimulating and encouraging both understanding and active involvement in the protection, conservation and practical improvement of features of general public amenity or historical interest within the landscape.”