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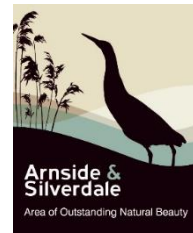# Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
# Grants Fund
# Guidance notes

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 (e.g. staff 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);
- be consistent with the constitution of the Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust (Appendix 1); and
- demonstrate clear public benefit (e.g. public access or engagement).

**We encourage 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 inclusivity, and benefit diverse audiences
- 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 and engage 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 total funding through Countryside Stewardship or the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
- Core operational costs (e.g. rent or salaries)
- Commercial activities or projects where there is the likelihood of profit or financial reward for those managing the project
- Projects that do not demonstrate clear public benefit (e.g. public access or engagement)
- 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 organisations
- Parish councils
- Landowners and managers
- Individuals

Applicants must have a bank account and, if you are a community group or charity, formal terms of reference describing the purpose, scope and authority of your organisation.

We strongly advise you to contact Arnside & Silverdale AONB staff before you apply so that support and guidance can be provided for the application process. Please note: project approval decisions are made by the Grants Panel and AONB staff support and guidance does not guarantee approval.

**How we assess your application**

The final decision to award a grant is given by the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership Grants Fund Panel, which comprises nominated representatives from the 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 AONB Landscape Trust and the AONB Manager. The decision of the Panel or the nominated representatives is final.

**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 and Landscape Trust 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."

## Appendix 2 - Guidance on In Kind Contributions

Guidance on how to assess in kind contributions is available from Arts Council England.