



Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Small Grants Scheme

Selected Grant Applications Approved by the Grant Panel - 2016 to 2021

1. Restoration of historic Barn in Silverdale

The 160 year old Row Hulls Field Barn is the only surviving stone built barn in Silverdale. Still used for storage purposes, the Barn is well loved by villagers and appears regularly on Village photographs. The grant of £790 financed sensitive remedial restoration work to maintain the building in good condition, including the repair of stonework and timbers. A barn owl box was also installed. ***This application was an exemplar for (i) "restoring a historic feature and (ii) contributing to the cultural heritage and historic environment of the area."***



2. Sailing dinghy for Arnside Sailing Clubs Cadet Programme

The grant of £1,500 supported the purchase of a Hartley 10 sailing dinghy named "Ashmeadow". This is a 10 foot long single sailed dinghy which can be sailed by two children or be single handed by teenagers and small to medium weight adults. The purchase enabled the Club to increase the number of children in the programme, give them a better experience, and help them learn quicker and gain confidence sooner. ***Notable aspects of this application included (i) connecting young people and children with the landscape (ii) encouraging appropriate recreational opportunities (iii) involving the local community and volunteers (iv) location within, and demonstratable links with the AONB and (v) a very substantial costed in-kind volunteer time contribution.***

3. Swifts in the Community

This community awareness project aims to preserve and enhance the traditional nesting sites of (the declining population of) swifts in the area's local towns and villages. An important aspect is the development of a data base with over 170 known swift nest sites. This data will be made available for national monitoring and research programmes, such as that conducted by the BTO. A school's outreach aspect is also being developed. Two separate grants of £600 and £300 over a 3 year period were targeted for the development of a flexible database to support the above activities and the development of an informative website. ***Grant criteria satisfied included (i) benefit to priority species (ii) raising awareness of swifts and their habits by engaging with local schoolchildren (iii) involving the local community and volunteers.***

4. Support for species reintroduction

This proposal, to grow plants for conservation projects within the AONB, aimed at supporting threatened species - in this case Duke of Burgundy butterflies. The work was conducted in the context of the University of Cumbria BOOM (Back on Our Map) project and in association with Cumbria Wildlife Trust. The grant of £600 was for the purchase of wooden raised beds to grow cowslips. ***This application met grant criteria including "protecting the flora and fauna of the AONB" and "restoring, enhancing wildlife habitat to benefit priority species." It also linked into the Colchester Declaration 2019 to prepare a "Nature Recovery Plan" for each AONB. This joint declaration seeks to "protect what remains and recover what has been lost." The case was further strengthened by a strong "in-kind" contribution of volunteer work by the Applicant.***

5. Restoring habitat for Rare Butterflies

This grant for £1,300 was an addition to other grants being sought to undertake habitat management of a woodland nature reserve, to encourage wildlife and specifically Duke of Burgundy, High Brown and Pearl-Bordered fritillaries. All are endangered species though still present in South Cumbria. Together with coppicing, valuable habitats such as limestone pavements will be made more open once again. Improved habitat will be beneficial not only for butterflies but also for breeding and wintering birds. Significant public benefit will include creation of a new permissive path and an Interpretation Board near the site entrance. ***The application satisfied such criteria as (i) protecting the flora and fauna of the AONB (ii) restoring, enhancing and creating wildlife habitat to benefit priority species particularly in this case endangered fritillaries as well as Marsh Tits (iii) improve access and quiet recreational opportunities for residents and visitors and (v) Encouragement of a volunteer working group to undertake further coppicing, ride clearance and planting of cowslip plugs.***

6. Maritime Heritage Display Board

This application from Arnside Archive Group was for an interpretation board to make residents and visitors more aware of Arnside's boatbuilding and maritime heritage, going back to the 1830s, and thereby help to support local knowledge and tourism in the area. The board is situated near the site of the Crossfield Boatshed. The grant of £1,000 was to fund the design, construction and installation of the Panel. **Grant criteria satisfied included (i) restore cultural and historic features of the area (ii) Research, interpret, celebrate or raise awareness of the special qualities of the area (iii) location within, and demonstrable links with, the AONB.**



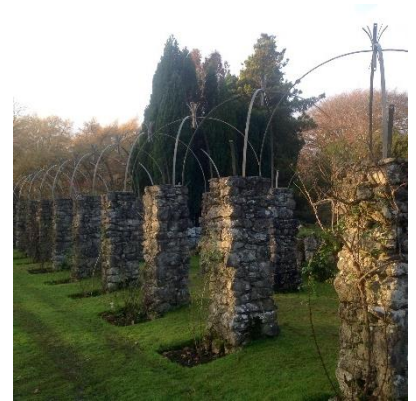
7. Introduction of Paddle Boarding at Arnside Sailing Club

The Grant of £2,500 supported the introduction of Stand Up Paddle Boarding as a water sport in Arnside. Eleven boards and seven windsurf rigs to go with them were purchased. In the first season over one hundred people were taught to paddle or windsurf with activity at both high as well as low tide. One outcome is that membership of the Club has increased by 25%. **Grant Criteria that were met included (i) connecting people with the landscape (ii) encouraging appropriate recreational opportunities (iii) restoring cultural or historic features or assets and (iv) supporting the area's visitor economy.**

Image: Victoria Sedgwick

8. Pergola Restoration in Historic Garden

This grant of £2,330 was for structural metalwork, comprising hoops for plant supports, to surmount twelve pairs of limestone pillars of a pergola in Grey Walls Garden in Silverdale. The hoops replaced deteriorating existing wooden hoops. The Garden, in the style of the landscape designer Thomas Mawson (1861 – 1933), was the subject of a Research Report commissioned by the AONB. The garden was declared to be of "exceptional interest and quality" and therefore of national/international importance. **The application met grant criteria including (i) "Restoration of cultural and historic features" and (ii) "Enabling people to connect with the landscape," through events welcoming local people and organisations to view the gardens.**



9. Planting of Native Trees

This project involved the planting of native trees to replace existing diseased/dead Broadwood trees. While the Applicant provided the trees themselves, the grant of £550 financed the purchase of posts and fencing for a contractor to stockproof the trees. **Grant Criteria satisfied included (i) protecting the flora and fauna of the AONB (ii) enhancing and restoring habitat to benefit priority species and (iii) contributing to the AONB Management Plan.**

10. Restoration of Historic Yacht "Severn."

This 100 year old yacht, built by Crossfields of Arnside, is one of 10 Rivers class yachts they built for the Royal Mersey Yacht Club. Our grant of £2,500 was a contribution to the overall cost of replacing internal framework, restoring the original deck appearance and fitting a new engine. The work is being undertaken by a traditional wooden boat builder, based at Skippool on the River Wyre near Poulton-le-Fylde. On completion the yacht will be sailed back to Arnside and kept in the estuary, where it can be sailed in the summer in view of the public as a visible symbol of Arnside's boat building heritage. **This application from the local community organisation "Friends of Crossfield Yacht Severn" was notable for (i) restoring cultural and historic features of the area (ii) encouraging appropriate recreational opportunities and (iii) involving the local community and volunteers.**

1. Stone plinth for Display Board.

A recent Community Archaeology project, to investigate the history of the chimney at Jenny Brown's Point, led to this application – described in recent editions of Keer to Kent – submitted by a local History Society. The grant of £1,565 was for the construction of a substantial stone plinth at the site of the chimney, on which is to be mounted a Visitor Information Panel provided by the Morecambe Bay Partnership. The Panel features an artist's view of how the copper smelter would have appeared and the related history. **Features of this application included the facts that (i) communication experts had designed the Panel so that it will be accessible to locals and visitors of all age groups (ii) it stimulates and encourages understanding of the industrial history of the area**