How do I apply?

- Project Fund Application Forms and Guidance Notes can be downloaded from the Howardian Hills AONB website.
- If you do not have access to the internet please contact the AONB Office.

How can I find out more?

- You can find out more about the Project Fund by looking on the Howardian Hills AONB website or
- Request a copy of the guidelines from the AONB Office at:

Howardian Hills AONB
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York
YO62 5BP

Tel: 0845 0349495
Email: info@howardianhills.org.uk
www.howardianhills.org.uk

Is the fund currently open to applications?

- The Project Fund is currently open to applications for projects that can be completed by the end of March.
- If you have a project which will take longer than this to complete please contact the AONB Office to discuss its suitability and, if appropriate, how best to proceed with an application.

Species-rich grassland management at Appleton le Street churchyard
What does the AONB Project Fund support?

- Natural environment projects
- Historic environment projects
- Sustainable development and rural economy
- It is designed to assist with the Implementation of the AONB Management Plan

Where does the funding come from?

- Funding comes from the AONB Committee, which includes Defra, North Yorkshire County Council and Ryedale and Hambleton District Councils
- Other bodies such as LEADER and Heritage Lottery Fund may offer further funding

How much can I apply for?

- Grants are normally in the range of £100 to £4,000, depending on the type of project. Some projects may be eligible for larger awards
- Grants usually provide up to 50% funding for a project but in exceptional circumstances up to 100% can be given

Who can apply?

- Public, private and voluntary sector organisations, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and individuals can apply
- You do not have to live or work in the Howardian Hills AONB, but you must be able to demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon the area

Examples of projects which have received support so far include:

- Restoration of historic park walls and boundary walls, particularly on roadsides
- Churchyard habitat management
- Hedge restoration for landscape and biodiversity benefit
- Energy conservation in community buildings
- Village signs, traditional direction signs and village noticeboards
- Installation of barn owl boxes and bat boxes
- Himalayan Balsam control in areas of high biodiversity value
- Community and school wildlife areas and outdoor classrooms

AONB Project Fund

- The AONB Unit works with community groups, landowners and farmers, offering advice and funding.
- Priority is given to projects which can be enjoyed by the public (visible from road or right of way or in a community area) or to schemes which give significant biodiversity benefit.
- The percentage of the total project cost that is grant aided is assessed on a scheme by scheme basis.

To be eligible projects must:

- Contribute to the Local Priorities and Objectives (as outlined in the current AONB Management Plan)