

Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Sustainable Development Fund

Do you have an idea for a project that will help the
local environment, community and economy?



Sustainable Development Fund

The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership has a grant scheme to assist projects that will help to look after the AONB now and for the future.

“Our Eco Club has been an enormous success . . . everyone involved has been surprised at the level of interest this project has inspired”

(Bronwyn Mabey, Headteacher, St Mary’s School Bromesberrow)

What is the grant scheme?

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is available to support projects that promote sustainable development in the AONB. The money for the fund comes from DEFRA via Natural England.

What is sustainable development?

Sustainable Development is activity that will promote and enhance the environment, the economy and the community, ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.

Who can apply?

Public, private and voluntary sector organisations, community groups, businesses and individuals can apply, and grants can also be used to fund existing projects. You do not have to live or work within the AONB to be eligible, but you must be able to demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon the area.

What kind of project is eligible?

The fund can support projects such as practical work, awareness raising, training, group or partnership development, feasibility studies and research. Possible subject areas include renewable/green energy, sustainable transport, environmental building design, innovative products or initiatives, community youth schemes or conservation activities. Projects should:

- Further the purposes of the AONB
- Help deliver the AONB management plan
- Show sustainable development principles
- Have community support or involvement

Between 2006 and 2009 the SDF supported 40 local projects including:

- The establishment of an ‘Eco Club’ at St Mary’s School, Bromesberrow, where pupils learnt how to grow vegetables, plant trees and create wildlife areas.
- A company called Bubble House Worms conducted a trial of a new form of technology for composting canteen waste. The trial was carried out at two local schools and the Malvern Hills Outdoor Centre.



Caves Folly ‘Organic’ Shop



Apple juicing at Colwall Apple Day



Eco Club at St Mary’s School, Bromesberrow

- The creation of the ‘Malvern Hills Coppice Network’ and a web-based directory offering services and products associated with woodland management. Network members also benefited from new machinery and valuable training.
- Financial support to allow the Colwall Orchard Group to survey the condition of local orchards and to carry out essential practical management on trees. Funding also went towards training volunteers and creating orchard management plans, as well as some fun community activity days including a Colwall Apple Day, which took place at a local school.

- The owners of Caves Folly Nurseries, Colwall, diversified their existing Organic Plant Nursery and created a sustainable bunkhouse, organic shop and campsite.
- The development of several ‘sustainable’ trail guides including four recreational brochures for The Malvern Showground and a geological guide to Midsummer Hill.
- The provision of practical advice to a range of landowners on conservation management, use of wood fuel and the availability of grants.

Grants

- Grants will normally be in the range of £1000-£10,000.
- The scheme can provide up to 75% funding for a project (exceptional cases 100%). For projects led by local authorities and other public bodies the scheme will normally provide 50% funding.
- An agreement setting out the requirements for satisfactory completion of the project and relevant conditions must be signed prior to receipt of the grant. For match funding purposes, volunteer time can be included.



What to do next

Expressions of interest are invited for projects that can be completed before the end of March in each year. Proposals must be submitted in writing. More information can be found at www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk. The final decision to grant an award is made by the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund Panel.

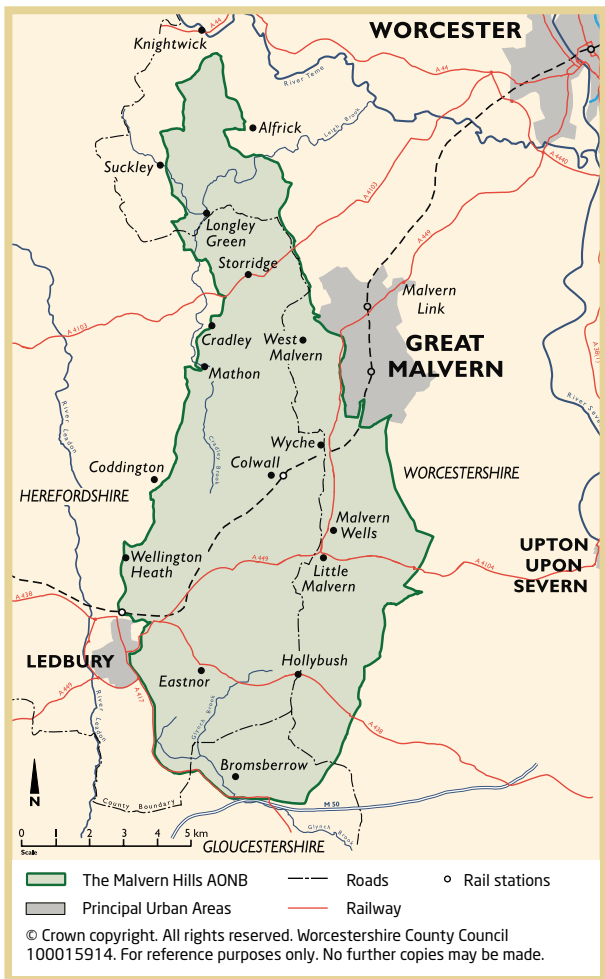
Please contact Worcestershire County Council at the following address for further information:

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