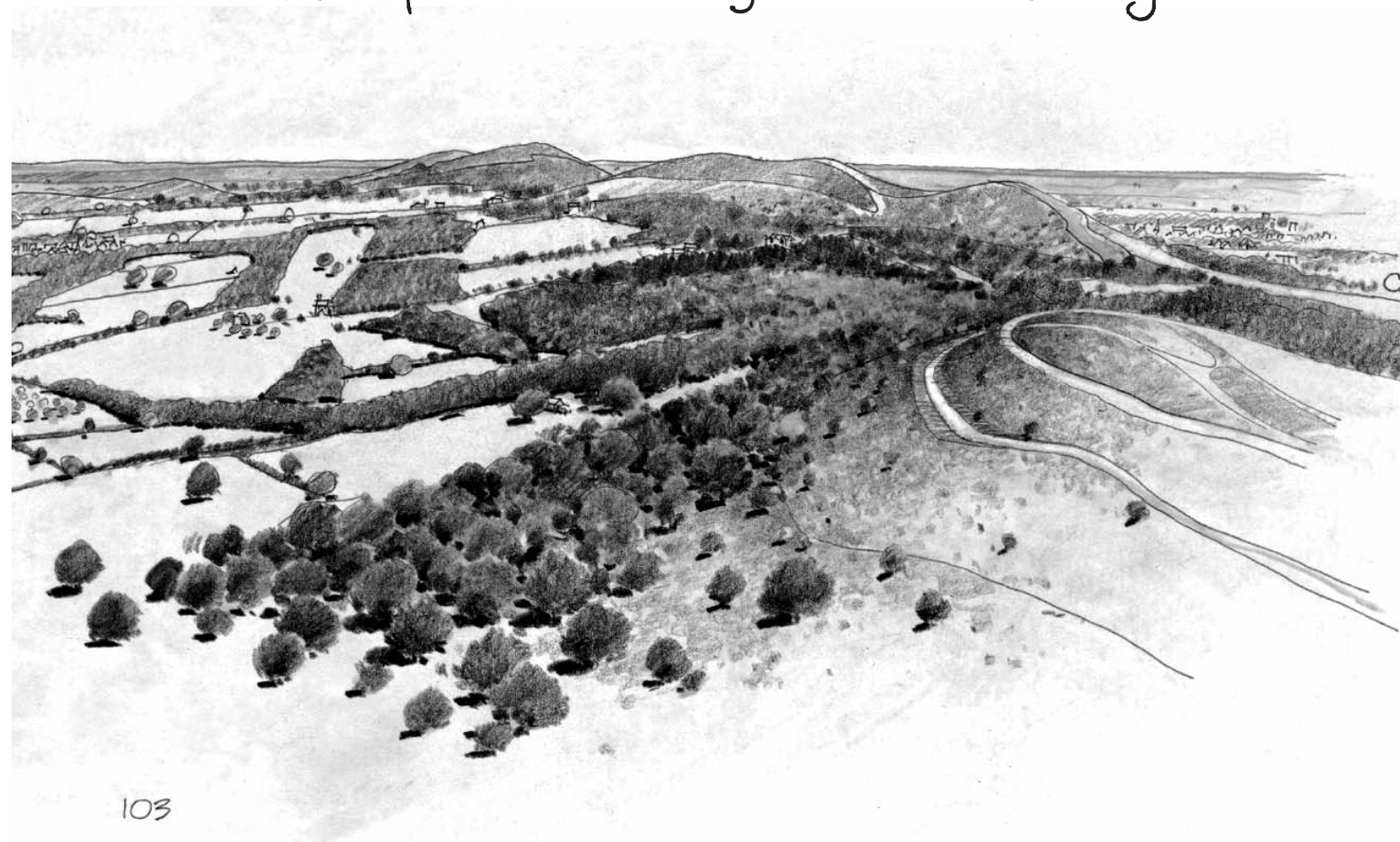


Landscape & Biodiversity Enhancement Grant Scheme 2010-11 For Rural Herefordshire

*and the Malvern Hills
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*



103

Projects in the
Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
are NOT eligible for support through this scheme

Supported by



Introduction

Herefordshire Council's Countryside Team is pleased to once again be in a position to offer cash grants towards work and projects that help enhance the landscape, biodiversity and countryside character of rural Herefordshire.

This grant scheme is aimed at small landowners, Parish Councils, community groups and other individuals provided the land on which the application falls is within the boundary of the County of Herefordshire or the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Please note: projects within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty can not be supported by this scheme

The Landscape & Biodiversity Enhancement Grant Scheme is non-statutory and is able to consider a range of eligible works; these may include: Traditional 'standard' orchard planting/gapping-up, hedgelaying and replanting hedgerows. Grants **can not** be given where the work or site:

- *is already under another funded management scheme (eg Countryside Stewardship, DEFRA, ELS or HLS, Section 39 or Section 106 Agreements, SSSI agreement)
- *forms part of a managed garden or curtilage of a residential dwelling or business;
- *is subject to a planning or other legal condition or consent;
- *has already started on the project;
- *is receiving support or grant from any other local authority, exchequer or European Union initiative (inc. Council Fruit Tree Kit or free tree schemes)

A full set of terms and conditions forms part of the formal grant offer procedure.

ALL other grants or income being received for the proposed work area must be disclosed (eg area payments, lottery funding, rent, sales etc)

The maximum grant offer available, regardless of the work applied for is:

£500 (£1000 in AONB)

For potential projects within the Wye Valley AONB please contact the AONB Unit directly for details of their own grant schemes/project support - contact details on page 2

Please read through all sections of this booklet BEFORE completing your application. Failure to supply all the required information will delay your grant assessment. Failure to comply with deadlines/conditions stated will lead to withdrawal of grant. If you have a question concerning your application please contact

James Bisset, Principal Countryside Officer
PO BOX 41, LEOMINSTER HR6 0ZA or jbisset@herefordshire.gov.uk

REGARDLESS of when you apply, all work must be completed and invoices & claim form submitted to arrive no later than

14th February 2011

Application Process

The application process has been kept as quick and simple as possible for applicants. Applications will be assessed on a first come first assessed basis. The assessment is essentially a desk-based exercise and will bring together information supplied in the application and data held by, or available to the Countryside Service/AONB Unit to score an application against a range of applicable criteria. A site visit may be undertaken at this time.

Applicants will normally be notified of their success or failure to secure a grant within six weeks of receipt of application.

Do not start work on your project until you have received and confirmed acceptance of your offer of grant as retrospective funding is not possible.

There is only a limited amount of cash available so early application is recommended to avoid disappointment. Orchard projects requiring new fruit trees should be submitted by SEPTEMBER in order to reserve the varieties required at the nursery. Orchard planting applications received after mid-September will have to demonstrate the availability of trees before a grant offer can be made.

Claiming Grant

Ensure all work is completed with regard to current best practice and conditions/materials specified in this leaflet and offer letter. Complete the grant claim certificate received with your offer letter, attach photocopies of all relevant/required invoices, variety lists, photographs etc and return it to Herefordshire Council Countryside Services at the address specified to arrive no later than 14th February 2011.

Any grant claims received after this date will be deemed late, invalid and will not be paid.

Payment will be made by Herefordshire Council following checks to ensure work is complete and to required standard. Payment will normally be authorised within six weeks of receiving a completed claim form and you should receive actual payment with TEN weeks of submitting a claim.

For advice on projects within the Malvern Hills AONB please contact them directly:

Malvern Hills AONB: Manor House, Grange Road, MALVERN WR14 3EY

Tel: 01684 560616 Email: aonb@worcestershire.gov.uk

For projects within the Wye Valley AONB please contact the AONB Unit directly for information on their own dedicated grant schemes:

Wye Valley AONB: Hadnock Road, MONMOUTH NP25 3NG

Tel: 01600 710814 Email: development@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

Work areas, grant rates and minimum specifications

The following pages will cover the different areas of work that may be eligible for grant-aid along with the fixed rate of grant where appropriate and details of eligible varieties and minimum expected work specifications.

1. Orchards

1.1 Planting/gapping-up traditional standard orchard.

Grant paid: Std rate: £5/tree (MHAONB: £10)

- * All trees must be grown on M25 or equivalent very vigorous rootstock.
- * All varieties to be planted should be old and have been traditionally grown in the County. Can include Apples, Perry Pears, and other top fruit types
- * Varieties to be planted + rootstock must be stated in application.
- * All trees will be guarded and protected
- * All formative pruning must be undertaken and the tree maintained/replaced at applicant's expense for a minimum of TEN years.
- * A copy invoice clearly stating varieties and rootstocks planted must be submitted with claim for grant.

2. Hedgerows

2.1 Hedgelaying

Grant paid: Std rate: £3.00/metre (MHAONB: £5.50)

- * Should follow local styles and create a stock-proof barrier
- * Cost includes all preparation work, stakes, bindings and clearing-up.
- * **Cost includes erection of stock-fencing**
- * It is expected that work be carried out by a trained/experienced hedgelayer.
- * **Work must only be carried out between November and February.**
- * At least one standard tree must be left in every 50m length of hedgelaying.
- * Hedge coppicing is not eligible for grant under this scheme.

2.2 Hedge planting (including gapping up)

Grant paid: Std rate: £2.50/metre (MHAONB: £3.75)

- * Should use a mix of locally characteristic shrub hedge plants. At least 4 different species. All species to be used must be stated in application.
- * Grant is paid based on a minimum of 6 tree/shrub plants per metre.
- * **Cost includes erection of stock-fencing if required.**
- * At least one tree must become a full standard in every length of hedge or at least one every 50 metres.
- * Some form of weed/grass control should be used to cover the first 5 years.
- * A copy invoice clearly showing the number and species of tree/shrub planted and photos must be submitted with claim for grant.

Other types of work may be supported within the Malvern Hills AONB area - please contact the AONB unit to discuss your proposed project/application

USEFUL INFORMATION

TRADITIONAL HEREFORDSHIRE FARMHOUSE ORCHARDS

Some suggested apple varieties

(American) Mother (d)	Lord Hindlip (d)
Adam's Pearmain (d)	May Queen (d)
Allington Pippin (d)	Mere de Menage (c)
Ashmead's Kernel (d)	Newton Wonder (c/d)
Autumn Pearmain (d)	Nine Square (c/d)
Blenheim Orange (d)	Orleans Reinette (d)
Brookes's (d)	Peasgood's Nonsuch (c)
Byford Wonder (c)	Pitmaston Pine Apple (d)
Catshead (c)	Pomeroy of Hereford (d)
Court Pendu Plat (d)	Ribston Pippin (d)
Crimson Queening (d)	Rosemary Russet (d)
Devonshire Red (d)	Rushock Pearmain (d)
Downton Pippin (d)	Saint Celia (d)
Duke of Devonshire (d)	Sam's Crab (d)
Dumelow's Seedling (c)	Scotch Bridget (c)
Edward VII (c)	Stirling Castle (c)
Gascoyne's Scarlet (d)	Stoke Edith Pippin (d)
Genet Moyle(c)	Ten Commandments (d)
Gladstone (d)	Tillington Court (c)
Golden Harvey (d)	Tom Putt (c/d/cider)
Golden Spire (c/d)	Tyler's Kernel (d)
Herefordshire Beefing (c)	Wyken Pippin (d)
Hunt's Duke of Gloucester (d)	Yellow Ingestrie (d)
Irish Peach (d)	Dessert (d) Culinary (c)
Keswick Codlin (c)	
King Charles Pearmain (d)	
King's Acre Bountiful (c)	
King's Acre Pippin (d)	
Lady's Finger of Hereford (d)	
Lord Grosvenor (d)	

Most Cider orchards contained a range of cider varieties to give a long season and balanced tannin/acidity to produce a tasty cider.

Other Fruit Types

Pears (dessert, culinary and perry)
Plums (dessert and culinary)
Damsons and Gages (multi-use)
Medlar (large bush not a standard tree)
Quince (large bush not a standard tree)
Mulberry (smallish tree, slow growing)
Apricots & Peaches (often in sheltered walled gardens)

USEFUL INFORMATION

HEDGEROWS - Some suggested hedgerow & hedgerow tree species

Hedging Plants

Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*)
Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*)
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)
Wild Service (*Sorbus torminalis*)

Trees left as standards

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*)
Black Poplar (*Populus nigra*)
Damson (eg. Shropshire Prune)
Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
Oak (*Quercus robur* or *petraea*)
Small Leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)
Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
Wild Service (*Sorbus torminalis*)

When choosing species for your new hedge have a close look at existing hedgerows in your area and see what species they include and which ones are doing well in similar conditions. The percentage mix of species in existing hedgerows should act as a guide for your hedge, generally not more than 80% of any one species is recommended with a maximum of 4-5 species in total. Stock proof hedges should be based on 80% hawthorn.

Notes to help applicants

Where a 'per unit' rate of grant is given no further quotations are required with application. But please note requirement for copy invoices for materials etc as stated.

Full details of the proposed fruit varieties or hedge/tree species and rootstocks/tree sizes to be used must be included the application.

A detailed location plan is required with every application. **This must include a full six figure Ordnance Survey grid reference.** Please ensure the plan shows the location of any public highways, bridleways or footpaths as public visibility will help support an application.

Copies of old maps showing orchards/hedgerows etc and information on the history of a farm/orchard or existing fruit varieties will help support an application.

The cost of any stock-proof fencing required has already been included in the grant rate for eligible work types.

You should have been advised when the land was designated or through the search process when buying the land of any statutory designations attached to it such being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Listed Building, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Bat Roost etc. The same search should have revealed any outstanding charges against the land from planning conditions, other grant schemes etc. Any designations/charges must be stated in the application. Failure to reveal such details may render your application invalid.

Landscape & Biodiversity Enhancement Grant Application Form 2010-11

Applicants Name:
Contact Name (if different to applicant):
Correspondence address:
POSTCODE:
Daytime telephone:
E-mail:
Are you the landowner? YES / NO If you answer NO please provide proof that actual owner is happy for you to undertake the work
Has any other grant ever been awarded in respect of the land at the work site? YES / NO Has any condition or charge ever been made in against the land at the work site? YES / NO If any answer is YES please include full details with application.
Are there any other statutory or voluntary designations covering the work site?(Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Ancient Monument, etc) YES / NO If yes please give details.
Notes and supporting information:

FINANCES

Ref	Work Type	Length/ Quantity	Unit Rate	Total Grant
1	Orchard Planting			
2.1	Hedgelaying			
2.2	Hedge planting			
TOTAL GRANT APPLIED FOR				£
(Maximum Grant: £500 - AONB £1000)				

Declaration

By signing and submitting this application the applicant certifies that all the statements made and information included in this application are correct.

The applicant also agrees that:

by submitting an application you are agreeing to allow a person appointed by the Council, funding partners to access the land in order to inspect the site/work undertaken.

all relevant insurance cover is in place and that all work will be carried out in accordance with current Health & Safety Executive policy.

the work will be maintained and managed to current best practice for at least TEN years and then allowed to reach maturity.

acceptance of any grant offer implies acceptance of the full terms and conditions supplied with that offer

if an offer of grant-aid is made and accepted then all work will be completed and the final grant claim submitted no later than 14th February 2011.

Sign:

Print full name:

Date: