



ENGLISH
NATURE

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Review of the Grant Scheme 1 April 2002 – 31 March 2005



working towards *Natural England*
for people, places and nature

Foreword

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the work undertaken by English Nature as a distributor of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The report focuses on the 2002–2005 grants scheme and provides information about the impacts of aggregate extraction on biodiversity and geodiversity and the range of projects that we have supported.

In the last three years the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) has given a tremendous boost to nature conservation in England. Between 2002 and 2005, English Nature distributed over £10 million to 191 projects, all of which sought to address the impacts of aggregate extraction. The diversity of projects funded is considerable, ranging from support for Cornwall County Council to safeguard a coastal site from future extraction, through to supporting a local community group in Cambridgeshire to restore limestone grassland in a disused aggregate site. English Nature hopes that the momentum the ALSF grants scheme has given to projects will be sustained in the years to come.

The next couple of years will see big changes for English Nature as it combines with The Countryside Agency and the Rural Development Service to become *Natural England*. It is timely therefore to look back at our grants scheme, and reflect on the diversity of projects that we have been able to support and the benefits these have brought at a local level.

The organisation is also looking forward. Our current 2005–2007 scheme is being delivered in partnership with The Countryside Agency's ALSF grant scheme. The benefits of this combined working are already evident, with projects seeking more community and educational outcomes, which will benefit both landscape and nature conservation.



Sir Martin Doughty
Chair designate *Natural England*
Chair, English Nature
from May 2001 to November 2005



Sir Martin Doughty

Understanding the impacts

Extraction of both marine and terrestrial aggregates plays a vital role in supplying minerals needed by both local and national economies. As individuals we use an average of four tonnes of sand, gravel or crushed rock a year, materials that are found in everything from our toothpaste to the homes we live in. Industry and Government have recognised that it is important that extraction of this aggregate takes place with minimal impact on the environment.

Terrestrial aggregate extraction impacts upon land of nature conservation value in a number of ways:

- through the direct impacts of land take and the subsequent loss of both the ecological and geological resource;
- through less direct effects such as inappropriate management, modifications to water quality and quantity, dust, noise and disturbance, pressure on habitats and species, and loss of access to geological features;
- through the positive benefits that can arise from appropriately planned, operated, restored and managed sites, such as habitat creation and restoration, habitat linking, and accessible and visible geological sections.

Marine aggregate dredging licences cover 1,700 square kilometres of the seabed, and this dredging removes the surface layer of the seabed which inevitably affects marine life. Noise and plumes of sediment arising from dredging operations also have the potential to affect life in adjacent areas.

Condover Quarry, Shropshire. Shropshire County Council



Dredger. British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA)

Aggregates Levy

The Aggregates Levy came into force in April 2002, and is levied on primary aggregates (mainly sand, gravel and crushed rock). Part of the money raised through the levy has been allocated by HM Treasury to finance the Sustainability Fund, and is intended to bring about environmental benefits in areas affected by aggregate extraction. English Nature was identified as a major distributing body by Defra who manage the Fund.

Aims of the scheme



Polytrichum piliferum. Shropshire County Council

English Nature's ALSF grant scheme has funded projects which aimed to mitigate the effects of aggregate extraction for the benefit of local communities and nature conservation. We have, whenever possible, sought to engage the aggregate industry and the participation of local communities in projects. All projects funded by English Nature focus on one or more of the following aims:

- contributing to the development and delivery of UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plans;
- supporting the management of geological sites, and facilitating improved interpretation;
- addressing the effects of old mineral planning permissions;
- enhancing access on sites for scientific study, education, recreation and tourism;
- building the capacity of communities and the various interested groups to be involved in, contribute to and benefit from their natural environment; and
- improving people's quality of life (especially those who have been affected by aggregate extraction activities).

Marine grant scheme

English Nature launched the ALSF marine grants scheme in April 2004, providing grants specifically for projects addressing the impacts of extraction in the marine environment.

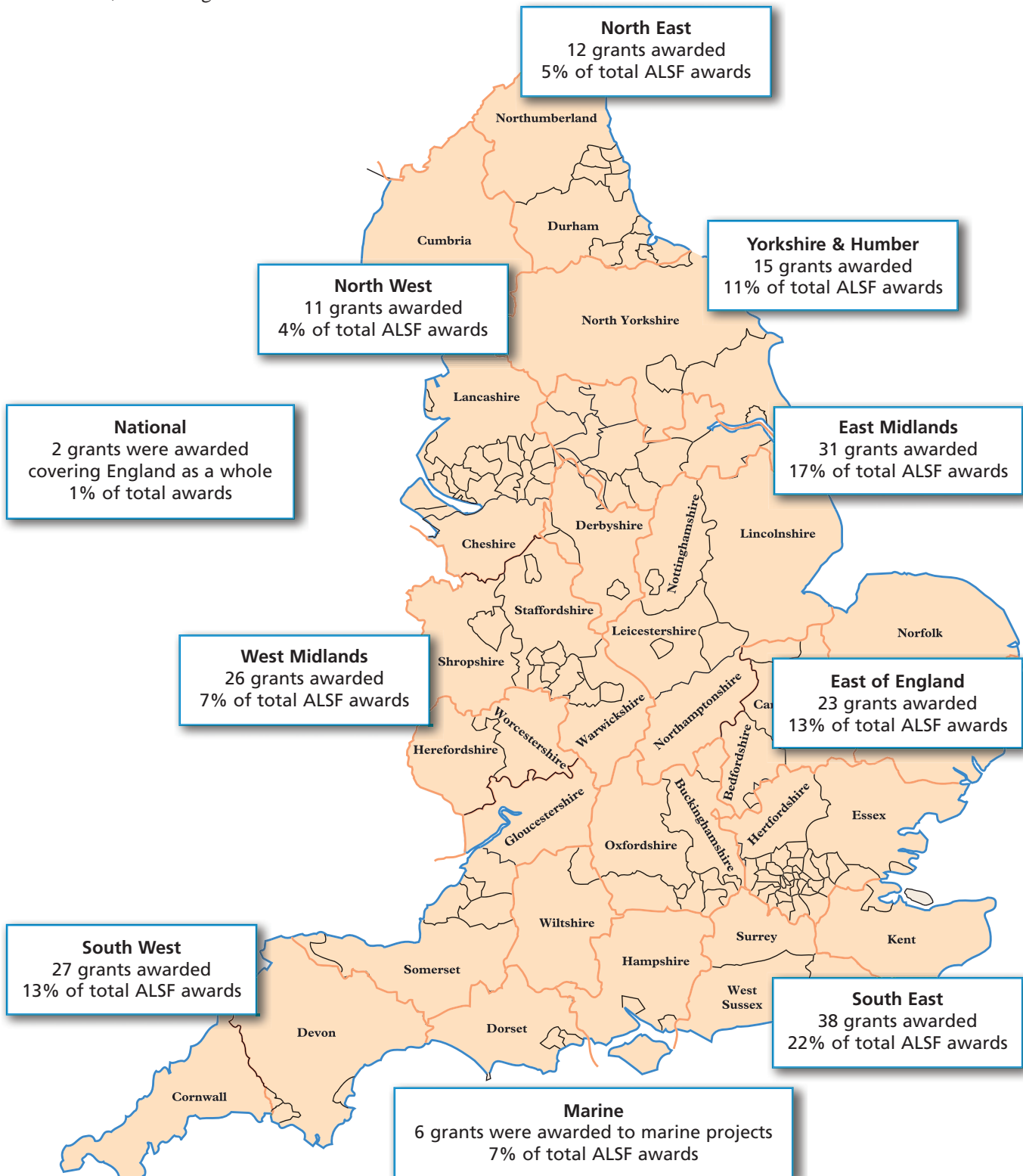
We have awarded six grants through the marine grant scheme, distributing £600,000 as grants in the 2004/05 financial year.

Clee Hill quarry face. Hanson Aggregates



Grants awarded through the scheme

English Nature's ALSF Grant Scheme has been heavily over-subscribed, and over the past three financial years we have received 435 applications for funding. In total 191 grants have been awarded since April 2002 to March 2005, amounting to around £10.7 million.



A list of successful applications can be found at Annex A

English Nature's added value

As part of administering a successful grant scheme, English Nature uses its staff and expertise to provide specialist advice to specific projects and other organisations at a local, regional and national level. For example:

- Conservation Officers and specialist staff have provided nature conservation advice for individual ALSF projects;
- staff have become involved in, and provided technical advice, to other ALSF grant schemes;
- working with English Heritage and The Countryside Agency staff, have coordinated a Milestone Event to celebrate and raise awareness of the ALSF scheme as a whole;
- staff have worked closely with the minerals industry to ensure its involvement in, and support for, the scheme, which in turn has ensured more effective delivery of ALSF projects on the ground. At a national level this work has been managed through the Minerals and Nature Conservation Forum. (Information about the Forum can be found at <http://www.qpa.org/natureconservation/home.htm>); and
- the independent Grants Panel is an important feature of English Nature's ALSF grants scheme. The value brought to the process through the involvement of the minerals industry, minerals planners and community representatives has helped us through the decision-making process and also informed the evolution of the scheme.

ALSF celebration event is a real milestone

In 2003, almost 200 delegates representing 90 different organisations attended a Milestone Event to celebrate the achievements of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

Attendees included the Quarry Products Association and representatives from aggregate companies, Defra, Treasury officials and ALSF distributing bodies, and successful applicants, such as voluntary sector representatives and small community groups.



ALSF milestone event.
Paul Keene/English Nature



Key speakers at the milestone event - Sir Martin Doughty, English Nature Chair; Simon van der Byl, Director General of the Quarry Products Association (QPA); Tom Levitt MP. Paul Keene/English Nature

The high attendance at the ALSF Milestone Event, and enthusiastic receptions for the speakers, reflected the regard in which the fund is held. Time and again, the message came across that the practical, on-the-ground achievements of hundreds of projects would simply not have been possible without the financial backing of the fund. Simon van der Byl, Director General of the Quarry Products Association was quick to praise the ALSF and its management by the three main distributing bodies, English Nature, The Countryside Agency and English Heritage.

“We have no hesitation in welcoming the use of the fund for positive environmental, heritage and community projects,” said Mr van der Byl, “and we encourage our industry to look for opportunities to work with the community groups, conservation groups and others to seek ALSF funding for worthwhile projects. We are clear that the fund should be used to bring real benefits to local communities in quarrying areas.”

The future of the scheme

Comments from a new member of the ALSF Grants Panel

“It has been a personal revelation to witness the magnitude of imagination and enthusiasm displayed in geodiversity and biodiversity applications received from organisations around the country. I suspect that much of this environmental and community creativity, and the desire to be involved and get things done, was always ‘out there’ but previously remained hidden and untapped simply through lack of a suitable channel or initiative to support it. The ALSF Partnership Grant Scheme therefore plays a unique and vital role.

Pure conservation and emergency ‘salvage’ operations have been supported and human resource networks aiming to continue geodiversity work have been established as a result. The grant scheme has also supported community uses of aggregates quarries and coastal extraction sites for outward bound activities and seen money put to very good use in improving the intellectual and physical access of such sites through interpretive literature, educational and leisure initiatives.

I think that the ALSF Partnership Grant Scheme is something that we should all be very proud of and feel privileged to have a role within. I very much look forward to the future of the scheme.”

Mr Graham Worton

Keeper of Geology, Borough Geologist, and Museum Manager Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

English Nature’s Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) grant scheme has made a significant difference to the type and scale of nature conservation work that is undertaken in England. In particular the scheme represents the first grants scheme which identified geological conservation as a priority.

It is important that we continue to review priorities for geodiversity and biodiversity, identify emerging areas of work that will need support and continue to push for the need to disseminate the outputs of all ALSF funded work.

We believe there is a need for continued support for practical delivery and management on the ground, but also that support must be made available for strategic and research-based work to inform policy and planning in the future.



Pond Dipping at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. Huntingdon District Council

Cornish dunes saved from extraction

Gwithian Dune Restoration
2004/5 £350,000 grant awarded

The challenge

Sand has been extracted at Gwithian Sand Pit since the end of the Second World War and permission exists for extraction to continue to the year 2042. Continued extraction would result in a significant loss of habitat and dramatic impact on the landscape of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

ALSF achievement

Over 2,100 hectares of land has been opened up to the public for the first time, since the ALSF scheme began in 2002.

The solution

ALSF funding enabled Cornwall County Council to purchase the 40 hectare site and mineral rights from the owners, Hanson Aggregates. Cornwall County Council can now restore the site to a dune and wetland mosaic, and encourage Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species back to the area. An access and management strategy will also be developed, with a view to declaring the site a Local Nature Reserve, to be enjoyed by future generations as an important conservation and recreation amenity.

Steve Crummay, the Natural Environment Service manager at Cornwall County Council said: “After several years of some very challenging work, it is wonderful to see the project actually being delivered. The change in use of this part of the dune system will make a significant difference to a very special site and all those that have an interest in the area. It has only been through the efforts of many different organisations and individuals that we have been able to achieve such a positive outcome.”

Aerial view of Gwithian Dunes.
Steve Hartgroves/Historic Environment Service,
Cornwall County Council



Local community involved in park regeneration



Children litter picking at Marden Quarry. Friends of Marden Quarry

Marden Quarry **2002–2004 £88,092 grant awarded**

The challenge

Marden Quarry is virtually the only exposure of Magnesian Limestone north of the Tyne. It was originally quarried in 1684 for the production of agricultural lime, later for burnt lime for cement, and has more recently become a source of aggregate. Converted to an informal nature park in 1977, it has since been designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). The site, situated in the busy residential town of Whitley Bay, holds interesting elder scrub, limestone grassland flora and valuable waterfowl pond. The ‘Friends of Marden Quarry’ identified the need to work with the local community and appoint a Project Manager to take the lead in the regeneration of the park.

The solution

An ALSF grant has kick-started the regeneration of the park, resulting in litter picking, installation of fencing and gates, community work with the police to reduce crime at the site and involvement with local schools to replant the site and make bird and bat boxes. Work was completed in partnership with a number of organisations including North Tyneside Council, the Environment Agency, Northumbria Police and Youth Offenders groups.

ALSF achievement

Thanks to ALSF-funded projects over 46,800 school children now have a greater understanding and appreciation of their local environment, and the quarrying process.

Important geological site now accessible to the public

ALSF achievement

All ALSF projects are required to erect new entrance signs, notice boards, interpretation panels, bird hides and/or viewing platforms. These new interpretation and access facilities have improved the appearance of aggregate quarries, and provided communities with a greater understanding of their local environment.

Clee Hill, Shropshire
2002–2004 £47,541 grant awarded

The challenge

The rocks visible in the quarry faces at Clee Hill Quarries were formed around 300 million years ago, when molten rock was injected into layers of sand, mud and coal. This geological process is very unusual and is why the site has been designated a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The site has been quarried for aggregates, for use in construction projects, roads and flood defences across the country, and access to the quarry's geological features for study and general interest was difficult due to the nature of the extraction at the site.

The solution

Thanks to an ALSF grant visitors to the Clee Hill Quarries will now be able to learn more about Shropshire's fascinating geological history. The project, led by Hanson Aggregates and their partners used the grant to create footpaths and viewing areas, supported by new interpretation panels. Overlooking the quarry the new infrastructure is ideal for use by geologists, students, school parties, and other interested visitors.

Laurence Crump, Head of Geological Service at Hanson Aggregates said: "The viewing area makes these key geological features much more accessible to the public. The information boards will also help visitors to gain a greater understanding of the local geology, quarrying industry and mining heritage of Clee Hill Quarry and the surrounding area."

Viewing platform and interpretation at Clee Hill.
 Hanson Aggregates



Future secured for rare amphibian



Natterjack toad. English Nature 6,087

Cumbrian Natterjack Toad Implementation Strategy 2002–2004 £47,469 grant awarded

The challenge

Cumbria is home to nearly half the natterjack toad colonies in Britain. Historically large areas of coastal dunes have been destroyed through sand winning, which in turn has prevented the natural evolution of the dune system and compromised the habitat of the natterjack toad.

The solution

The Herpetological Conservation Trust was awarded an ALSF grant to appoint a Project Officer to boost efforts to safeguard this often under-appreciated amphibian. By involving local communities in conservation work, the project aimed to improve and enhance the natterjack toad habitat, and raise awareness locally with regard to natterjack toads, coastal dune systems and the potential environmental impacts of mineral extraction.

Jim Foster, English Nature's Vertebrate Ecologist said: “This project has helped secure the future of Cumbrian natterjacks through carefully targeted specialist assistance on habitat management. We are hopeful that the ongoing monitoring will demonstrate that the status of our rarest amphibian has been enhanced.”

ALSF achievement

155 ALSF funded projects have helped to deliver Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets, including work for water voles, silver studded blue butterfly, great crested newts and many bird species.

Nature reserve with a colourful past is now blossoming



Local children helping to tidy up Swaddywell Pit.
Langdyke Countryside Trust

Swaddywell Pit nature reserve 2004/5 £32,273 grant awarded

The challenge

Swaddywell Pit, located near Peterborough, is a recently established nature reserve with a very colourful past. The site was first used as a quarry in Roman times and takes its name from a nearby spring where, reputedly, an ancient sword was once found. Over time Swordy Well became Swaddywell.

The site, made up of limestone grassland and wetland areas, then went on to become the subject of many poems by John Clare. In 1915 Swaddywell became one of England's earliest nature reserves. However, in 1924 the site was sold and quarrying resumed. Since the 1980's, the quarry has been used as a rubbish tip, a racetrack, a venue for raves and a spot for fly tipping.

The solution

Thanks to an ALSF grant Swaddywell is being returned to some of the natural glory John Clare would have known. The grant enabled the local community to lead a project to erect stock fencing around this disused quarry so it can be grazed, which in turn will encourage the regeneration of flowers typical of limestone grassland. The grant also allowed the design and production of site information boards and a leaflet.

Dr Richard Keymer, Chair of the Langdyke Countryside Trust, said: "We are delighted to have received this grant and very grateful to English Nature. It will allow us to take forward the work of restoring Swaddywell to something like its former glory – a beautiful and peaceful landscape of orchids and other wild flowers to be enjoyed by the local community."

ALSF achievement

Over 13,800 hectares of land has been managed, restored or re-created as part of ALSF funded projects.

Dudley volcano's new burst of life

Barrow Hill – The Dudley Volcano 2004/5 £28,025 grant awarded

The challenge

Barrow Hill, in Pensnett, is designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Quarrying at the site has revealed evidence of a basalt intrusion in the hill itself, which formed around 300 million years ago, during a period of volcanic activity. After aggregate extraction ceased the site lapsed into neglect, and scrub encroachment meant that the quarry faces and the site became inaccessible to the public.

The solution

Thanks to an ALSF grant the Black Country Geological Society was able to implement a site management plan, and improve the site's geological value by removing scrub to allow the public to enjoy the volcanic features. As a result of the improved access at the site, Barrow Hill was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 2005. Waymarked walking routes were developed around the site, with the help of the Action Heart Walking for Life scheme. These routes were originally set up to cater for ex-cardiac patients at the adjacent hospital, but they now attract many members of the public who can enjoy the site and the healthy exercise.

Alan Cutler, Black Country Geological Society, said: "We were delighted to receive this funding. The grant-funded work has improved the site's geological value by opening up access to volcanic features within one of the two disused dolerite quarries for both educational and leisure visitors."

ALSF achievement

37 ALSF-funded projects have helped to deliver local geodiversity priorities, and 40 rock faces have been cleared or exposed.

Local residents taking part in the 'Walking for Life' scheme. Action Heart, Barrow Hill



Local community and aggregates industry work together

Holme Park Quarry
2003/4 – £119,770 grant awarded

The challenge

Holme Park Quarry in Cumbria is an active limestone aggregates quarry that has been in operation for over 50 years. It is currently worked by Aggregate Industries UK Ltd.

ALSF achievements

Increased communication between local communities and aggregate operators has developed valuable relationships, which has enabled the two groups to work together to bring about physical improvements to disused aggregate quarries.

Quarrying activities have impacted significantly on the surrounding villages and wildlife, leading local residents to form a liaison committee, with representatives from the County Council, Parish Councils, Aggregate Industries and English Nature. The Committee put together an integrated package of works designed to mitigate the impact of the extraction activities on local wildlife and to improve the quality of life for local communities.

The solution

Supported by an ALSF grant of £119,770 the Liaison Committee employed a Project Officer to manage the works on-site. Dry stone walls were restored to allow stock to graze the site, which in time will provide flora with a rich habitat. Improved access means that the area has been opened up as a resource for quiet enjoyment and for educational purposes for local schools. On-site interpretation boards and leaflets enable local communities to find out more about the wildlife and geology on their doorstep, and how human intervention has influenced the landscape.

Jane Hopwood, Chairman of the Quarry Liaison Committee said: “This grant from English Nature's ALSF grant scheme will bring many benefits for wildlife and the people of Holme and Burton, and we are very grateful for this generous support.”

Picnic area at Holme Park Quarry, Cumbria.
Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee



Gravel pits now open to the public

Aldermaston Gravel Pits 2004/5 £42,160 grant awarded

The challenge

Extraction at the Aldermaston Gravel Pits began in 1949, and when it ceased the pits were flooded to create eight separate lakes. Designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) the 23.5 hectare site features a small heronry, and is home to kingfisher, Cetti's warbler and over-wintering snipe. Although created by aggregate extraction, the site has suffered from the impacts of more recent extraction and processing activity. This impact has been compounded by the loss of species, such as the nightingale.

The site was purchased by English Nature's 'Nature for People' fund in late 2003 and was subsequently leased to the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, who now manage the site.

The solution

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust were awarded an ALSF grant of £42,160 to recreate a wetland habitat including reedbeds, lakes and wet woodland, as well as carrying out surveys to inform the site's future management. Ongoing gravel processing and the flooding of low-lying areas during winter months meant that access to the site would have to be developed in-line with strict health and safety measures.

Pathways in areas otherwise vulnerable to flooding were improved, and a boardwalk was put in place to enable wheelchair users to visit the site. Two dipping platforms were also erected to provide safe access to the water's edge for visiting school groups, and bird-hides and benches were installed to provide a varied and interesting recreational resource. Guided walks and interpretative materials have also provided visitors with a greater understanding of the natural history of the site.

Funding also provided an opportunity for a 'Friends of Aldermaston Gravel Pits' association to be established, and its volunteers are able to assist with the management of the site, monitoring activities and guided walks.

Aldermaston Project Officer, Ali Morse said: "This money has been fantastic for the site. It has allowed us to create almost a kilometre of paths and boardwalks featuring bird hides, screening, and dipping ponds, providing safe and easy access for the public. People are able to come and see the birds, dragonflies, butterflies and plants at a site which has never before been open to the public."



New bird hide at Aldermaston Gravel Pits.
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire
Wildlife Trust

ALSF achievement

Over 12,300 people have volunteered in their spare time to be involved in, contribute to and benefit from the natural environment; 2,600 people are new volunteers.

Protected species can be observed from the comfort of your own home



Female peregrine falcon feeding her newly hatched chick. National Trust

Plymbridge Peregrine Watch 2003 2003/4 £11,900 grant awarded

The challenge

Cann Quarry on the outskirts of Plymouth was once quarried for diorite aggregate. For several years peregrine falcons have nested in the disused quarry, as suitable habitats and nesting sites for this protected species are only available locally due to quarrying activity. The ultimate aim of this project was to protect the falcons breeding on the quarry cliffs, the population having suffered from persecution in the past through disturbance, egg stealing and poisoning.

The solution

The National Trust was awarded an ALSF grant of £11,900 to monitor the peregrine population and encourage the local community to participate in the project.

A 24-hour monitoring scheme was set up involving National Trust staff, local birdwatchers, local communities, schools and colleges. A semi-permanent observation platform was installed on the site along with a web camera, designed by a local college of further education, to promote the project. Location of the project near a Sustrans cycle trail also provided the project with additional publicity and interest.

National Trust Warden, Gus Fergusson, said: "The whole project is a great example of community involvement and sponsorship. Nearly 20 local organisations are involved in the project and the purchase of a remote controlled camera - thanks to a grant from ALSF - has been a vital tool in education and for the promotion of wildlife. It has brought the open countryside into the living rooms of people across the world. This amazing project has been achieved thanks to the overwhelming support of local people who are rightly proud of this site."

The project has attracted over 17,000 visitors and the peregrine watch website and webcam has had over 700,000 hits. The peregrines also had a successful year, by rearing three young on the site!

Peregrine web address; www.plym.peregrines.co.uk



People enjoying the new peregrine falcon viewing platform. National Trust

ALSF achievement

Nearly 2,300 community events have been held, enabling over 247,000 people to have a greater understanding of their local environment.

Important geological sites declared

**RIGS Recording and Designation and GIS Development
2002/2004 £50,000, 2004/5 £19,400 grants awarded**

The challenge

Regionally Important Geological and geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are important sites which do not have formal statutory protection in the same way as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), but they underpin and complement the SSSI coverage. RIGS are selected by voluntary local RIGS groups, who work with the local authority to protect the sites through the planning process. Hereford and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust identified the need to systematically survey aggregate sites in the area and assess their scientific, educational and community benefits.

The solution

The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust was awarded an ALSF grant to identify over 40 site locations, and survey and declare these sites as RIGS. The geological records and photographs from each site were entered onto a geoconservation database and GIS system, which was designed as part of the project. This will enable the records to be accessed and viewed in the future. In addition, three sites were chosen for the location of site interpretation panels, to provide visitors with a greater understanding of the geology and landscape at each site, and how this relates to the aggregates industry.

ALSF achievement

Over 1,600 geological sites have been included in ALSF projects, of which over 880 have been audited, and of these over 170 new Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) have been declared.

Interpretation panel at Shavers End Quarry.
Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust



Geological work being undertaken at Welton-Le-Wold. Welton-Le-Wold project



Quarry reveals secrets of the Ice Age

Whitemoor Haye Woolly Rhino
2002/3 £15,405 grant awarded

The challenge

Geological finds are not uncommon in the world of quarrying – indeed quarry operatives are well-versed in the process of dealing with discoveries. However, sourcing funds to rescue and record important finds and unexpected geological deposits is difficult. When staff at Lafarge Aggregates uncovered the rare skeleton of an ice age woolly rhinoceros at Whitemoor Haye in Staffordshire, they immediately sought advice on what to do next.

ALSF achievement

7 ALSF projects have been funded to safeguard important geological specimens, stratigraphy and structures.

Only then did the significance of the 40,000-year-old find come to light. The important next step was to excavate the remains, and its neighbours, so protecting the finds and allowing extraction to continue.

The solution

Following the initial dig, further excavation was funded by an ALSF grant of £15,405. This was awarded within a fortnight to ensure that rescue could be completed before the weather turned.

The rhino remains were taken to Birmingham University's archaeological unit for cleaning and identification. The archaeological team then made contact with geologists and ice age experts to help them better understand the find. The rhino was later transported to the Natural History Museum in London to be conserved and displayed.

Andy Carrant, from the Natural History Museum, is an expert on ice age mammals, he said: “This is the best example of a woolly rhino I have ever seen. The bones are exceptionally well preserved – usually remains have been scavenged by predators and only fragments survive.”

Whitemoor Haye Woolly Rhino remains.
Birmingham University, Field Archaeological Unit



Ross Halley, Lafarge Aggregates Regional Planning Manager commented on the find saying: “Many of our sites are rich in historical finds, but this is one of the most significant, so we were keen to co-operate in the excavations, by funding the initial investigation and ensuring the archaeologists had everything they needed on-site.”

Fascinating marine life of south-east England

Case study

12



An educational opportunity using an inflatable basking shark. Lisa Browning/South East Wildlife Trusts

ALSF achievement

6 marine projects have increased our knowledge and understanding of the extent and quality of the nature conservation resource associated with marine sand and gravel. They have also helped raise people's awareness of the importance of the seabed where sand and gravel occur.

Conservation of Marine Sand and Gravel Biotopes in South-east England 2002–2004 £173,190 grant awarded

The challenge

A key aspect for marine projects is raising awareness of the importance of sand and gravel in supporting marine biodiversity. This is the core principle of one of the projects that was awarded funding through ALSF in 2002.

The solution

The South East Wildlife Trusts embarked on an ambitious 18-month project to improve the understanding and management of the wildlife-related impacts of the marine aggregate industry. A workshop attended by over 100 delegates was held to kick-start this process.

A review of Environmental Statements submitted with applications to extract marine aggregates has been completed, making recommendations on improvements for future applications. A variety of initiatives were developed to raise awareness of the wealth of wildlife which lives in the sea, off the south east coast. This audience includes industry and regulators but also, importantly, the general public in the south east of England which is a major consumer of marine aggregates.

Annex A

Awarded Projects 2002-2005

	Organisation	Project	Award
East of England Region	Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	Amwell Quarry – Wetland Restoration for Water Voles	£46,803
	Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	Developing a Strategic Network of SPA reedbeds for Bittern	£11,452
	Huntingdonshire District Council	Hunts Ouse Valley Biodiversity	£33,000
	Huntingdonshire District Council	Habitat restoration and creation on two small plots adjoining the Paxton Pits SSSI	£15,500
	Huntingdonshire District Council	Interpretation and Outreach at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve	£7,500
	Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	Hall Marsh – Wet Grasslands for Wildlife and People	£65,000
	Pensthorpe Conservation Trust	Rehabilitation and Interpretation of Pensthorpe Aggregate Workings (2)	£47,075
	Porter & Makins Ltd	Rehabilitation and Interpretation of Pensthorpe Aggregate Workings (1)	£174,250
	Queen Mary University	Rescue excavation and conservation potential of interglacial sequence at Norton Subcourse, Norfolk	£64,863
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	The Lodge – Recreation of Bedfordshire Heath	£25,936
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Hanson – RSPB Wetland Project	£18,104
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Acquisition of land to extend the RSPB Lodge Nature Reserve	£157,500
	Suffolk County Council	Co-ordinating Biodiversity Action in Suffolk	£38,700
	Suffolk RIGS	Making geodiversity more accessible	£27,140
	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Acquisition and restoration of land at Hill Farm, Wangford	£39,514
	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Lackford – The Living Lakes – A superb opportunity for wildlife and people	£35,596
	The Greensand Trust	RIGS Project – Bedfordshire	£32,500
	The Marston Vale Trust	Recreating our Domesday Woodland Heritage – Phase 1	£100,000

Organisation	Project	Award
The Marston Vale Trust	Recreating our Domesday Woodland Heritage – Phase 2	£122,200
The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough	Wildlife Trust Ecology Groups	£105,041
The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough	Restoring Biodiversity	£196,828
Thornham Field Centre Trust	Thornham Biodiversity & Geology Project	£61,180
University of Portsmouth	Rescue excavation of giant fossil fish	£3,529
Total Grant Awarded		£1,429,211

Organisation	Project	Award
Aggregate Industries UK Ltd	Enhancing Charnwood Forest's ancient semi-natural habitats on Bardon Hill	£20,000
Derby Museum and Art Gallery	The Sanctuary Bird and Wildlife Reserve – access, interpretation and habitat creation	£79,850
Derbyshire County Council	Derbyshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan Project	£24,259
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	Taking Action for Biodiversity	£96,714
Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire	Towards an understanding of the ice age – Welton-le-Wold	£42,317
Lafarge Aggregates Ltd	Enhancing Buddon Wood's native woodland and geology	£24,725
Langdyke Countryside Trust	Swaddywell Pit	£32,273
Leicestershire County Council	Watermead Country Park Phase 1	£37,000
Leicestershire County Council	Watermead Country Park Phase 2	£102,727
Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust	Cossington Meadows	£213,525
Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust	Promoting the nature reserves of Leicestershire and Rutland	£7,960
Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust	Limestone grassland re-creation strategy & integration of geological features in Leicestershire & Rutland	£13,650

Organisation	Project	Award
Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust	Cossington Meadows (2) – access and stock grazing	£19,500
Lincolnshire County Council	Linking Lincolnshire Limewoods	£137,000
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Deeping Gravel Pits	£91,096
North Lincolnshire Council	Lincolnshire Fen Edge Heathlands	£78,000
Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group	Biodiversity Action Plan Group: Aggregates Integration for Nottinghamshire	£47,070
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Grassland Biodiversity Enhancement Project	£44,060
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Idle Valley Wide Area Project	£22,740
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Habitat management and interactive computer-based interpretive facilities at Attenborough Nature Reserve	£34,750
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Visitor environmental education facilities at Attenborough Nature Reserve	£142,717
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Biodiversity on former aggregates sites in Notts	£43,091
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Acquisition and establishment of Glebe Field, Attenborough	£22,800
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Attenborough Project Officer: Enhancing Attenborough SSSI for Wildlife and People	£31,700
Peak District National Park Authority	Newts and Ponds in the White Peak	£49,950
Peak District National Park Authority	The Vision Project	£143,681
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Wildlife habitat restoration in the Peak District	£45,849
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Trent Sites Manager	£47,595
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Life After Gravel – Stanwick Gravel Pits, Nene Valley, Northamptonshire	£49,968
The Arkwright Society	Dunsley Meadows Restoration Project	£21,070
The Woodland Trust	Tattersall Carrs – Improving biodiversity	£17,935
Total Grant Awarded		£1,785,572

North East Region	Organisation	Project	Award
	Durham Wildlife Trust	MAGical Meadows – Regenerating the north-east Magnesian Limestone grasslands	£68,887
	Durham Wildlife Trust	Wild Wetlands (Mineral Valleys Project)	£94,000
	Durham Wildlife Trust	The Durham Sustainability and Biodiversity Education Programme	£45,210
	Durham Wildlife Trust	Aggregates for Wildlife Project Officer	£42,476
	Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Connecting Communities and Conservation	£48,850
	Ponds Conservation Trust	Escomb Lake and the Paradise Project	£32,926
	Priors Action Group	Bringing people and wildlife together at the disused Marden Quarry	£88,092
	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	Revitalising Marsden Old Quarry LNR	£47,025
	Stockton on Tees MBC	Wynyard Woodland Park Project (1)	£11,847
	Stockton on Tees MBC	Wynyard Woodland Park Project (2)	£51,799
	Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	Gravel Hole enhancements	£1,800
	Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	Tees Valley Geodiversity Action Plan	£20,420
	Total Grant Awarded		£553,332

North West Region	Organisation	Project	Award
	Cheshire County Council	Mid-Cheshire Sandstone Ridge Environment Project	£20,000
	Cheshire RIGS/Cheshire College of Higher Education	Survey of Cheshire RIGS sites and database production	£40,342
	Cheshire Wildlife Trust	The Lost Meres and Mosses of Delamere Forest	£31,750
	Groundwork Rossendale	Hallfold Lodge	£44,249
	Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee	Holme Park Quarry enhancement project	£119,770
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Oakwood regeneration at Haweswater	£2,995	

Organisation	Project	Award
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Habitat restoration works at Geltsdale	£1,431
Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	South Solway Dunes Habitat Restoration and Access (1)	£118,454
The Herpetological Conservation Trust	Cumbria Natterjack Strategy Implementation	£47,469
The Woodland Trust	Longacre Wood Extension	£22,344
Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside	Darwen Valley Parkway Community Project	£33,206
Total Grant awarded		£482,010

Organisation	Project	Award
Aylesbury Vale Countryside Service	Buckingham Sandpit Geo & Eco Conservation	£25,200
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust	Developing Access to Aldermaston Gravel Pits	£42,160
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust	Berkshire Wildlife Heritage Sites Project	£47,421
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership	Dragonflies of the Blackwater Valley	£12,550
Forest Enterprise	Integrated Forestry and Lowland Heathland Restoration Project	£15,188
Groundwork Kent Thames-side	A walk into history: renovating the Swanscombe Skull Site	£16,631
Groundwork Solent	Alver Valley Country Park	£30,225
Groundwork Thames Valley	Colne Valley Regional Park (Thames Valley)	£89,125
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Marine Biodiversity and Aggregates in SE England	£191,208
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Restoring the Dockens Water	£74,426
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	Broadwater Lake encouraging nesting terns	£9,050
Island 2000 Trust	Eastern Yar Rivers Restoration	£285,429
Kent RIGS Group	Rescue Geology at Aylesford (Gravel) Pit SSSI	£49,891

Organisation	Project	Award
Kent Wildlife Trust	Wetland Habitat Enhancement and Development at Oare Marshes Local Nature Reserve	£37,000
Lee Valley Regional Park Authority	Valuing Wet Woodlands – A community biodiversity project	£150,000
London Borough of Greenwich	Learning through the landscape	£5,000
London Borough of Sutton	Wandle Valley Wetland Reedbed	£14,910
London Borough of Sutton	Beddington Farm Sand Martin Species Recovery and Awareness Plan	£39,000
Lower Windrush Valley Project	Enhancing Gravel Pit Biodiversity	£68,250
Oxfordshire Geology Trust	Exposing and recording Oxfordshire's geodiversity in quarries	£7,040
Oxfordshire RIGS Group	Faringdon Earth Heritage Project	£42,700
Oxfordshire RIGS Group	Conserving Geodiversity in Aggregates Sites	£99,125
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Creation & Restoration of Linear habitats on newly acquired land at Rainham, Wennington and Aveley Marshes RSPB Nature Reserve	£50,000
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Dungeness Shingle and Wetland Project	£23,865
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Creation of scrapes and permanent pools at Wennington and Aveley Marshes	£40,354
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Restoration of Tilford Woodlands and Lowland Heath (Farnham Heath)	£118,013
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Dungeness Shingle and Wetland	£69,659
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Acquisition, clean up and management of extension to Rainham, Wennington & Aveley Marshes RSPB Nature Reserve	£38,700
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Extension to Brading Marsh Nature Reserve	£186,000
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	Rye Bay – Enhancing & Promoting a Shingle Environment (1)	£201,650
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	Rye Bay – Enhancing & Promoting a Shingle Environment (2)	£41,559

Organisation	Project	Award
South East England Development Agency	Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve	£70,250
Surrey County Council	St Nicholas School Nature Reserve	£12,878
Sussex Ornithological Society	Tern Breeding Raft & Kingfisher Bank – New Lake; Reedbed Restoration – Ivy Lake, Chichester Gravel Pits	£11,524
University of Liverpool	Sampling and curation of Holocene back-barrier sediments	£4,325
Vale of White Horse District Council	Barton Fields – Abingdon	£12,117
Waverley Borough Council	Farnham Biodiversity Project	£68,750
West Sussex County Council	'Extracting the Best' A biodiversity handbook for quarry managers and staff	£14,442
Total Grant Awarded		£2,315,615

Organisation	Project	Award
Butterfly Conservation (Devon Branch)	Broadcroft Quarry Successional Habitat Project	£2,643
Caradon District Council	Bodmin Moor Interpretation Project (1)	£20,759
Caradon District Council	Bodmin Moor Interpretation Project (2)	£20,493
Cotswold Water Park Society	Life after gravel – Minerals Project Officer	£34,599
Cotswold Water Park Society	Acquisition of Cleveland Lakes	£192,187
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	Exploring the geodiversity of Cornwall	£21,020
Dart Estuary Environmental Management	Sustainable Dredging for Habitat Protection	£44,986
Dorset Wildlife Trust	Kingbarrow Quarry Project	£125,350
Field Studies Council and Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust	Preventative Measures to prevent damage to Slapton Ley SSSI/NNR resulting from a breach by the sea	£29,973
Gloucester City Council	Understanding Robinswood	£23,375

Organisation	Project	Award
Gloucestershire Geo-Conservation Trust	RIGS recording and aggregates collection	£46,900
North Somerset Council, Goblin Coombe Environment Centre	Purchase of Cleeve Wood	£46,250
Ockment Community Centre Association	East Ockment River Bank and Old Corn Mill Leat	£88,476
Purbeck District Council	Purbeck Biodiversity Project	£15,670
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Acquisition of Land at Venn Ottery Common, Aylesbeare Devon	£9,105
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Futurescapes in the Cotswold Water Park (An integrated vision for habitat creation following minerals extraction)	£49,321
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Pushing Forward Biodiversity in the West Mendip Aggregate Extraction Area	£95,683
South Gloucestershire Council	Golden Valley LNR	£40,375
South Penquite Farm	Geodiversity & Biodiversity surveys for South Penquite farm	£6,925
Stroud Valleys Project (on behalf of the Severn Vale Biodiversity Partnership)	Severn Vale Biodiversity Project	£19,526
Stroud Valleys Project	Severn Vale Biodiversity	£60,933
Teignbridge District Council	Teignbridge Biodiversity Action Plan Project	£51,209
The Grasslands Trust	Cheddar/Blackdown The Lots Wildflower Grassland Restoration	£199,800
The National Trust	Plymbridge Peregrine Watch 2003	£11,900
The National Trust	Plymbridge Peregrine Watch 2004	£4,800
The National Trust	Bat Conservation and Habitat Protection Project	£83,917
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	Langford Lakes Nature Reserve – A Natural Extension	£90,000
Total Grant Awarded		£1,436,175

	Organisation	Project	Award
West Midlands Region	Abberley & Malvern Hills European Geopark	Local Geodiversity Action Plan for the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark	£21,325
	Black Country Geological Society	Barrow Hill – The Dudley Volcano	£28,025
	Black Country Geological Society	Black Country Geodiversity Action Plan	£11,160
	Hanson Aggregates UK	Clee Hill Quarry – the influence of geology on quarrying and restoration	£47,541
	Herefordshire Nature Trust	Increasing Biodiversity in Mabley Woods in Partnership with the Woolhope Dome Project	£34,228
	Herefordshire Nature Trust	Wet woodland creation on aggregate sites in Herefordshire	£20,942
	Herefordshire Nature Trust	Awareness of aggregate extraction and biodiversity in Herefordshire	£11,919
	Herefordshire Nature Trust	Herefordshire's Biodiversity Partnership Project	£44,749
	Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust	RIGS Recording and Designation & GIS Development	£50,000
	Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust	RIGS Identification and Designation	£19,400
	Kemerton Conservation Trust	Kemerton Estate Restoration Scheme	£16,247
	Malvern Hills Conservators	Malvern Hills North and Central Malvern Hills Grazing Project	£23,548
	Science Learning Centre	Scoping study for Earth Science interpretation and industry links at Science Learning Centres	£3,629
	Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Living with Limestone – A Community Biodiversity Action Plan – Oswestry Hills, Shropshire	£48,000
	Shropshire County Council	Biodiversity Action in Shropshire	£57,096
	Shropshire Geological Survey	Geoconservation Quarry Trails around Shropshire's classic sites	£12,685
	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Brown End Quarry Visitor Implementation Project	£28,015
	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Geodiversity in Staffordshire	£44,130
	The Friends of Ludlow Museum	A Museum Resource Centre for Shropshire – fulfilling the potential	£47,478

Organisation	Project	Award
The National Trust	Creation of herb-rich grassland	£7,620
The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country	Exploring Wolverhampton's Geology	£22,000
University of Birmingham Field Archaeology Unit	Whitemoor Haye Woolly Rhino Site: scientific investigations	£15,405
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	Restoration of Shire Oak Park and Pinfold Lane Quarry	£43,650
Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group	Wood Farm Quarry Geoconservation Project	£15,200
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	Action for Wildlife in Warwickshire	£37,866
Worcestershire County Council (on behalf of the Worcestershire Biodiversity Partnership)	Worcestershire Wet and Dry (Aggregates) Project	£32,754
Total Grant Awarded		£744,612

Organisation	Project	Award
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	Cromwell Bottom Biodiversity Restoration Project	£40,000
English Nature	Tyrham Hall Lakes – Hatfield Moor	£120,900
Lower Ure Conservation Trust	Swale and Ure Washlands Project	£174,560
North East Yorkshire Geology Trust	Love Lane Quarries Earth Heritage Project	£20,750
North Lincolnshire Council	Coversands Heathland – Restoring the Cover	£225,784
North Pennines Partnership	North Pennine AONB Geodiversity Action Plan	£39,700
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Fairburn Ings Fen Management Project and Infrastructure Development	£17,500
Ryedale & Scarborough RIGS	Ryedale & Scarborough RIGS Quarries Project	£40,091
Sheffield Wildlife Trust	Action for Biodiversity in Sheffield	£40,378
The Trustees of Quarry Moor	Quarry Moor Enhancement Project	£71,500
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	Coalfields Heathland Project (CHP)	£31,730

	Organisation	Project	Award
	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	North Cave Wetland	£127,600
	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Potteric Carr Development Scheme – Phase III	£50,000
	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Staveley Nature Reserve	£125,165
	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Water for Wildlife	£53,522
	Region Total Grant Awarded		£1,179,180

Nationwide Projects	Organisation	Project	Award
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Habitat Creation on Mineral Extraction Sites – Handbook and Training Courses	£38,015
	UK RIGS	UK RIGS Education Officer – England	£36,165
	Total Grant Awarded		£74,180

Marine and Coastal Projects	Organisation	Project	Award
	Cornwall County Council	Gwithian Dunes Restoration	£350,000
	EMU Ltd	Marine biodiversity and aggregate dredging in both a 2 and 3 dimensional context	£142,648
	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust	Conservation of marine and gravel biotopes in SE England	£173,190
	Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	South Solway Dunes Habitat Restoration and Access (2)	£50,508
	Teemouth Industry and Wildlife Partnership	ReactiTees – Hartlepool	£57,808
	The Shark Trust	South Coast Skates and Rays – assessing the impacts of aggregate extraction	£13,240
	Marine and Coastal Projects Total Grant Awarded		£787,394
Total Grant Awarded 2002-2005		£10,787,281	

Annex B

Financial summary 2002–2005

Allocation from Defra

Financial Period	Amount
2002/3	£4,949,000*
2003/4	£4,213,000
TOTAL 2002–2004	£9,162,000**
2004/5	£4,111,361
TOTAL ALLOCATION	£13,273,361***

* A percentage of the 2002/3 allocation was returned to Defra due to the late start of the grant scheme in August 2002 and the lack of end of year flexibility

** Original allocation was £9.8m however £638,000 was allocated at Defra's request to the Mineral Industry Research Organisation (MIRO)

*** English Nature's overheads during the past three years have been less than 7% of the total allocation

Grants awarded

Financial Period	Grant Allocation
2002/3	£2,795,063
2003/4	£4,155,344
TOTAL 2002-2004	£6,950,407
2004/5	£3,836,874
TOTAL AWARDED	£10,787,281

Number of applications received

Financial Period	Biodiversity applications	Geodiversity applications	Bio/Geo applications	Marine applications	Total number of applications received
2002–2004	168	44	46	0	258
2004/5	110	38	20	9	177
TOTAL	278	82	66	9	435

Number of projects awarded grant

Financial Period	Biodiversity projects	Geodiversity projects	Bio/Geo projects	Marine projects	Total number of projects
2002–2004	77	16	13	0	106
2004/5	51	14	14	6	85
TOTAL	128	30	27	6	191

Applicants wanting further information about the Partnership Grant Scheme can find more details at www.english-nature.org.uk



ENGLISH NATURE

English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency. Working in partnership to conserve and enhance our landscapes and natural environment, to promote countryside access and recreation as well as public well-being, now and for future generations.

For further information about the ALSF Partnership Grant Scheme, please contact the ALSF Grants Management Team at:

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Aerial view of Holme Park Quarry, Cumbria.
Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee.



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