



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND 2008-9

Many people, businesses, communities, and other organisations have great ideas for projects to make the Chilterns a better place to live, work and visit. The Chilterns Conservation Board wants to help turn those ideas into reality.

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) supports projects that bring environmental, social and economic benefits to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It aims to develop and test new methods of achieving a more sustainable way of life in this area of great beauty and diversity.

What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable Development involves working towards four main goals at the same time:

1. Social progress which meets the needs of everyone
2. Effective protection of the environment
3. Ensuring a diverse and prosperous rural economy
4. Prudent use of natural resources

Who can apply?

- Businesses
- Community, voluntary, and partnership groups
- Charities
- Public bodies and local authorities
- Individuals

Individuals or businesses can only be beneficiaries where the project shows a clear benefit to the wider community.

You don't have to live or work within the AONB to apply. You must simply demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon the AONB and satisfy the essential criteria listed below.

What Kind of Project Is Eligible?

Essential Criteria

To be funded, projects must demonstrate that they will:

- promote or support sustainable development
- have the clear support or involvement of local communities
- further the purposes of the Chilterns AONB (see below)
- help to deliver the AONB management plan (see www.chilternsaonb.org for further information)

The Conservation Board has two statutory purposes:

1. To conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.
2. To increase the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the area of outstanding natural beauty,

and in so doing, to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the area of outstanding natural beauty.

Priorities

Funded Projects are likely to relate to one or more of the following areas

- Biodiversity
- Landscape
- Diverse Local Economy
- Built environment
- Historic environment
- Renewable Energy
- Access
- Interpretation
- Public awareness and enjoyment of the AONB

Applications are particularly encouraged from

- **Local businesses**
- **Local community groups** – particularly from those not traditionally involved in the conservation of the AONB

Priority will also be given to projects which:

- demonstrate innovation, experimental approaches or best practice
- encourage links between urban groups and those resident in the AONB
- involve young people
- combat social exclusion and promote diversity
- support the development of new partnerships
- bring organisations and people together to tackle problems
- have little access to alternative public funding

- lever in contributions from other sources
- address issues of the project's long-term sustainability for example through income generation
- deliver on the ground as opposed to feasibility studies

Grant Aid

What can the SDF fund?

- Project materials, equipment and implementation.
- Publicity and marketing
- Contractors costs
- Research
- Awareness Raising
- Training and Skill Development

A flexible view will be taken on supporting essential overheads.

When do projects have to be completed by?

All work must be completed and claims received at the CCB offices by 28th February 2009.

What cannot be supported?

Projects which -

- are related to statutory duties or conditions of planning permission
- do not offer significant public benefits
- simply continue the management and maintenance of existing facilities or resources
- staff costs, unless exceptional circumstances apply

What level of funding can SDF provide?

The percentage level of funding depends on the applicant's status.

- *Voluntary organisations* – the level of grant support will not normally exceed 75% of total project costs. In exceptional cases, 100% may be provided. Applicants should value and include in-kind contributions e.g. volunteer time, loan of equipment etc as part of the match funding package. Volunteer time is valued at £50 per day or £6.25 per hour. Specialist, technical or professional volunteers are valued at £100 per day or £12.50 per hour.
- *Private individuals/ business* – a maximum of 50% of total project costs.
- *Public bodies*
A maximum of 50% of total project costs. It is expected that Local Authority applicants would fund at least the same contribution (in cash terms) as they are applying for from the SDF. Public bodies will not be offered funding for projects for which they would ordinarily or statutorily be responsible.

Exchequer funding

If ownership of the project is led by an Exchequer organisation, the total contribution from exchequer sources (including the SDF contribution) must not exceed 50 per cent of eligible costs. In other words, the Treasury shouldn't be paying for everything by just putting together funding from different Exchequer sources.

Exchequer funding sources include Natural England, Defra, English Heritage, , Environment Agency, Forestry Commission. Funding sources not considered to be Exchequer funded include Local Authorities, National Lottery, Education Authorities.

In all cases, an agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will need to be signed prior to receipt of the grant.

How can I apply for SDF funding?

If you think that your project fits the SDF criteria then please fill in the application form attached and return it to:

Kath Daly
Chilterns Conservation Board
The Lodge
90 Station Road
Chinnor
Oxfordshire OX39 4HA

Tel: 01844 355524
Fax: 01844 355501
kdaly@chilternsaonb.org

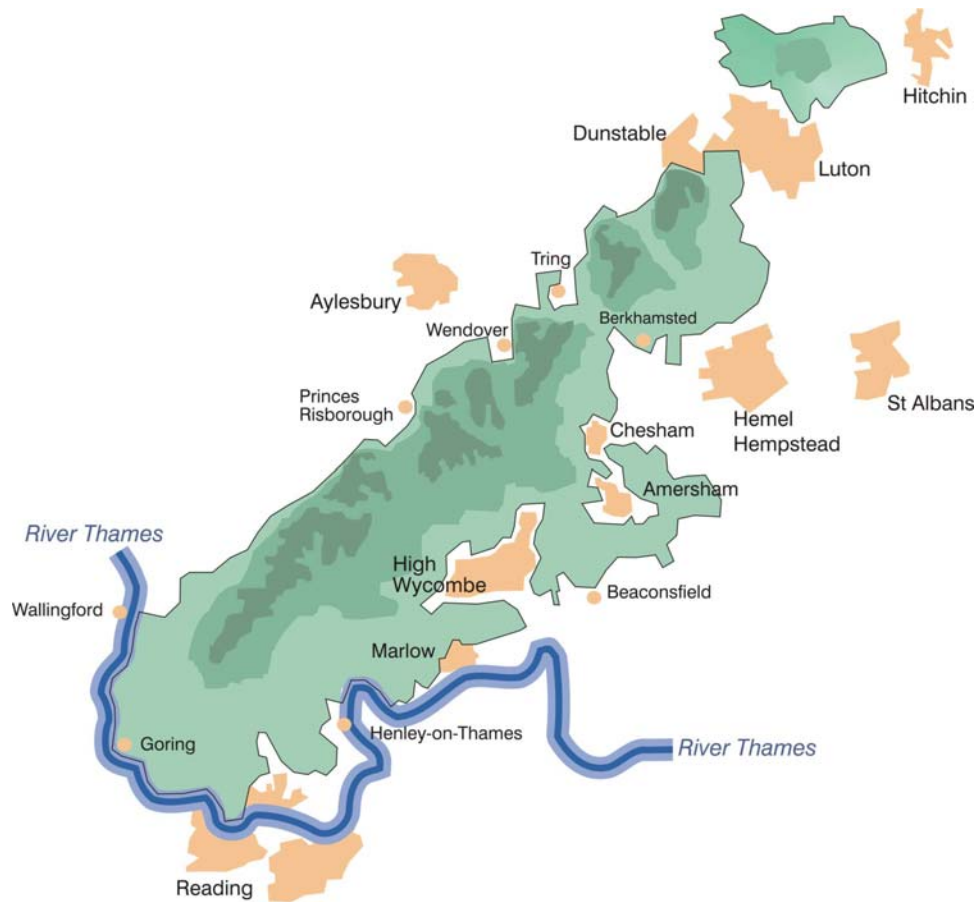
It is usually best to discuss your project before submitting an application. Please contact:

Kath Daly kdaly@chilternsaonb.org 01844 355524

The Chilterns Sustainable Development Fund is managed by the Chilterns Conservation Board. Resources are provided by DEFRA via Natural England.

The Chilterns

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



The Chilterns was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1965 because its landscape is of national importance. It covers 833 sq.kms (324 sq. miles) and has a population of 70,000.

The Chilterns Conservation Board was established by Parliamentary Order on 14th December 2004. It has 29 members appointed by local authorities, parish councils and the Secretary of State.