

The Greenhow Fund

PROJECTS FUNDED

The Greenhow Fund was established in 2006 by Hanson UK following the granting of planning permission at their Pateley Bridge Quarry.

A total £10,000 of grant funding has been available to spend each year and a total of 51 projects have received support. These have made a significant and long lasting positive impact and include: grants to support the repair of our iconic dry stone walls, funding to help protect the special habitats of the area including our traditional hay meadows and peatland, support for local groups doing fantastic volunteer work and grants to protect the areas nationally important lead mining history.

Below are case studies of funded projects.

Repairing our iconic dry stone walls

The landscape of Nidderdale AONB is characterised by the strong and regular grid pattern of dry stone walls. Since 2006 The Greenhow Fund has in total supported 14 landowners and groups to repair dry stone walls in the area. All of the dry stone walls repaired have particular landscape significance or deliver public benefits by being on a public highway or on bridleway.

- **Applicant:** Harrogate and Nidderdale District Scouts
- **Project:** Repair and rebuild of 250 metres of perimeter wall at the Thornthwaite Scout Camp

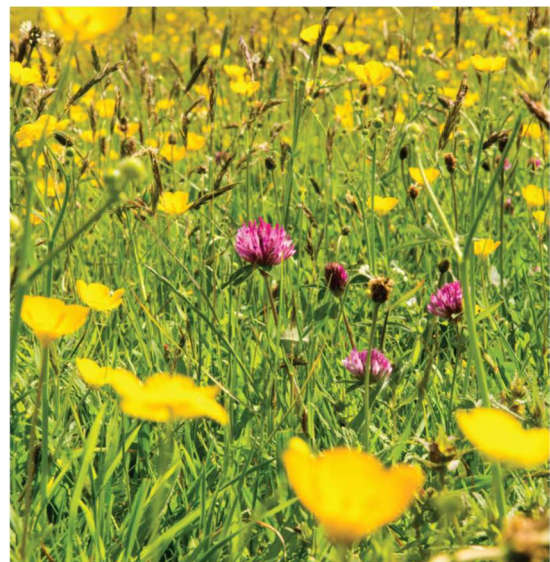
Funding provided through the Greenhow Fund supported the rebuild and repair of the perimeter walls around the Scout Camp. The popular and well used site was made safe to the benefit of local and regional scout groups, the general public and made a significant contribution to the landscape.

Restoring our traditional hay meadows

Species rich grasslands and meadows are a valuable habitat for plants and wildlife but are an increasingly scarce sight in Nidderdale AONB. Over the last fifty years approximately 97% of meadows in the UK have been lost. The Greenhow Fund has supported 4 landowners who have worked to restore and enhance 20 hectares of traditional hay meadows in the area.

- **Applicant:** Private Landowner
- **Project:** Hay meadow restoration

This project significantly enhanced a well visited hay meadow, within short walking distance of Pateley Bridge. Funding from the Greenhow Enhancement Fund has allowed the landowner and grazier, both of whom wish to manage the meadow with conservation of wildlife, to organise appropriate grazing, pay for seed costs and interpret the site to visitors. Two hectares of meadow have been enhanced through the addition of wildflower seed of local provenance and introduction of traditional native breed at risk livestock (both cattle and sheep) to manage it to increase biodiversity and visitor experience.



Providing information and improving access for local people and visitors

Since 2006 The Greenhow fund has supported 8 projects that provide information about the special landscape, wildlife and historical features in the area including events at festivals, interpretation boards and walking trails.

- **Applicant:** Upper Nidderdale LPS
- **Project:** Prosperous Interpretation

Prosperous Smelt Mill and Lead Mines is a nationally important example of the areas lead mining heritage and is designated as a Scheduled Monument. Although the site was well visited many users had little or no understanding that the site was a lead mine or how the mining would have been carried out.

This project brought to life this nationally important historic landscape through on-the-ground interpretation complemented by digital interpretation, a trail leaflet and an audio MP3 download.



Conserving special habitats

The AONB's landscape is diverse, full of contrasts and rich in wildlife. It is home to habitats that have internationally important conservation status. The Greenhow Fund has supported surveys, management plans and practical conservation work that protect some of the most special areas.

- **Applicant:** The Yorkshire Peat Partnership
- **Project:** Humberstone Peatlands Project

Peatlands are one of the special habitats in Nidderdale AONB. They are unique and internationally important habitats with acidic soils and low amounts of nutrients. Specialist species have adapted to live on them, which are being, or have already been, lost on degraded and damaged peatlands.

Focussed on a hill farm this project has undertaken practical restoration work and raised the profile of the importance of peat habitats and provided opportunities for people to learn about them. The project has:

- planted one hectare of sphagnum moss (which plays an important role in the continuation and creation of peat bogs) on bare degraded peat
- delivered three educational events attended by 100 people
- installed two on site interpretation boards
- created one leaflet for visitors to learn more about the peat landscape.



Supporting community and voluntary groups

The Greenhow Fund has supported the operations of a number of local groups and organisations including the Nidderdale AONB Volunteers and wildlife groups. Funding has been used in a variety of ways including the purchase of tools and delivery of training for volunteers.

- **Applicant:** Open Country
- **Project:** Dacre Nature Reserve

The main aim of this project is to create a nature park which can be accessed by community groups to learn and enjoy the wildlife and landscape surrounding the site. The practical work necessary to create the nature park includes securing the south boundary of the site using traditional dry stone walling, creating a wildflower meadow, planting an orchard, and creating a seating/education area. The work will be undertaken by the conservation work parties from Open Country once a month for 12 months. The group consists of individuals with learning disabilities and mental health issues, and the practical work will be of great benefit to not only wildlife but to the individuals' physical and mental well-being.

