



Grants Guidance

What is "Champion Bowland"?

Champion Bowland is a small charity which works to enhance the outstanding landscape of the Forest of Bowland AONB. It does this by raising funds from visitor donations and charitable activity; and these funds are then awarded to local projects which benefit the environment, local communities and visitors.

How much funding is available?

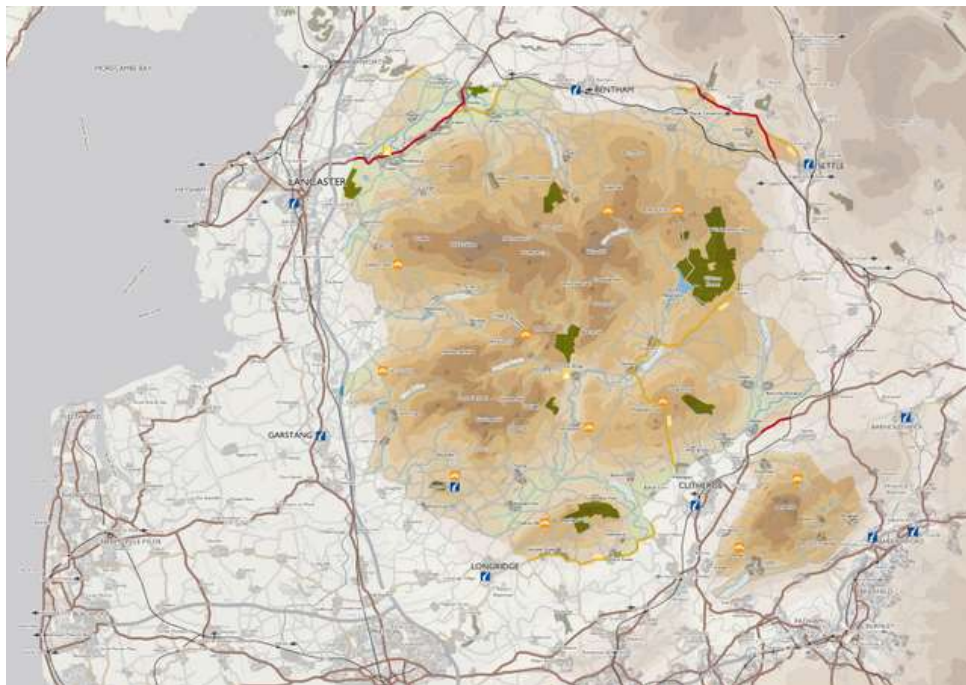
Projects can apply for up to a maximum of £750 (this includes VAT if the applicant organisation is not VAT registered).

Up to 100% grant funding may be available for suitable projects although applicants will be expected to contribute in kind towards project delivery

Who can apply?

Public, private, voluntary sector, individuals, businesses or community groups can apply. *Individuals or businesses can only be beneficiaries where the project shows a clear benefit to the wider community or visitors to the Forest of Bowland AONB.*

All projects must be carried out within the Forest of Bowland AONB itself or bring clear benefits to the AONB if located within a 2 kilometre buffer zone around the statutory designated area.



For a more detailed interactive map visit <http://forestofbowland.com/main-map>



Eligible Projects

Projects applying to the fund must achieve **at least 3** of the following objectives to the satisfaction of the Trustees:

1. Improve, conserve and protect important landscapes and habitats in the Forest of Bowland
2. Provide information for visitors about the Forest of Bowland special qualities and facilities in the area
3. Improve access for all sectors of the community
4. Maintain the landscape and access to it, to improve visitor enjoyment
5. Improve and promote the built and cultural heritage of the area
6. Improve the appearance of tourism, heritage and community facilities
7. Demonstrate commitment to the project by way of providing match funding*, maintenance, in-kind contributions or your own fundraising

* excludes other Forest of Bowland AONB grant sources

How will applications be assessed?

Applications for grants should be made using the application form.

Applications will be assessed by the Trustees who may take advice from representatives from a range of organisations, which work within or are involved in work carried out in the Forest of Bowland. This may include County or District Council Officers working in the Forest of Bowland AONB, the Environment Agency, The Wildlife Trust and other relevant bodies where appropriate.

The Fund aims give a decision on an application within 4 weeks. The assessment will also take into account cost-effectiveness and value for money.

Payment Process

Payment will be made upon production of a brief final report, proof of expenditure in the form of invoices, and photographs of the completed project

All projects will be monitored prior to final payment.

Background

The Forest of Bowland was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1964 covering 312 square miles of moorland, fringe farmland, woodland and open river and reservoir landscapes. The Forest of Bowland AONB is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. The AONB is managed by a partnership which works to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of this special area. The primary purpose of the AONB designation is to protect and conserve the natural beauty of the area, whilst having regard to the social and economic needs of the landowners, farmers and communities. The AONB also has a duty to cater for recreation and tourism, but only if this is consistent with protecting the natural beauty of the area.

Champion Bowland is a small charity which supports the purposes of the AONB. It is independently managed by a Board of Trustees, and it receives administrative support from the AONB Unit.