

Heritage Lottery Fund



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From the South East England team

9 September 2003

Our Ref : HF-01-00411/2

Ms S Dawes
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
South East Regional Office
2 nd Floor, Frederick House
42 Frederick Place
BRIGHTON
West Sussex BN1 4EA

Dear Sam

Project Title: DUNGENESS SHINGLE AND WETLAND PROJECT

As you know your application for funding towards the costs of the above project has now been assessed and I am pleased to inform you that we have decided to award a grant of up to £622,000 (60% of the eligible project costs of £1,094,577) towards habitat conservation and creation, better visitor management and facilities, car parking, enhanced physical and intellectual access, landscape improvements, an extension to the visitor centre and funding for a project officer for 3 years and an educational development officer

The attached appendix sets out the main elements of the project to which HLF has agreed to contribute along with anticipated partnership funding.

This award is subject to your organisation entering into a contract with the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF). This contract will include special as well as standard conditions relating to the project.

The following documents define the project for which the grant is offered:

1. This letter
2. Your Stage 2 application received on 11 November 2002
3. Documents submitted by you in support of your application in the two red ring binders:
4. Design report and detailed drawings for the environment centre as attached to your letter of 25 July.

7 Holbein Place London SW1W 8NR Telephone 020 7591 6000 Fax 020 7591 6273

Textphone 020 7591 6255 www.hlf.org.uk

Administered by the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund



INVESTOR IN TRUSTEE

We aim to send out your contract with the following documents within seven weeks of the date of the grant award:

- Two copies of the contract for the Council to sign and return
- Monitoring documents setting out our monitoring requirements with a set of standard forms for you to complete during the course of the contract (we may need to change the Monitoring Documents from time to time during the life of the project)
- A standard NHMF publication, "How to acknowledge your Grant"
- A guide note on the EC Procurement Regulations

The standard forms will include the PMI which HLF will need to sign to allow the project to commence. Should you wish to prepare the information which needs to accompany the PMI while we draft the contract, I have included a blank one which sets out what we shall need. These are referred to below.

Please note that you must not commence project work until you have received our authority to do so. This will be given when certain pre-conditions, defined in the Monitoring Documents, have been satisfied. These include contract signature, evidence concerning partnership funding, and the existence of a robust project management organisation and plan.

It is our intention to appoint an external Project Monitor to carry out monitoring of your project on our behalf. The Project Monitor, whose name will be given when appointed, will become your principal interface with HLF.

Because of my new position as Acting regional Manager I shall need to transfer responsibility to a new case officer for the implementation/monitoring stage. This will be Sarah Cooper (Senior Grants Officer) who can be contacted on 020 7591 6198. Her email address is sarahc@hlf.org.uk Sarah will take over immediately after you receive the contract and monitoring documentation.

Details of this award should remain confidential until you have discussed publicity with Lisa Cox (020 7591 6102) of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Press Office. She will be able to advise regarding any publicity material you may wish to issue or if you have queries about publicity and the media.

May I apologise for the length of time this application has taken to reach decision. I wish you every success with your project.

Yours sincerely
Michael

Michael Houghton (Dr)
Acting Regional Manager
South East England
Direct Line: 020 7591 6170

cc David Streeter



**THE DUNGENESS SHINGLE AND WETLAND PROJECT
– WILDLIFE EDUCATION AND ACCESS FOR ALL**

The Dungeness Shingle and Wetland Project - a partnership between the RSPB and the Romney Marsh Countryside Project/White Cliffs Countryside Project (RMCP/WCCP) - created a public amenity of exceptional environmental value with enhanced access, interpretation, habitat creation and a centre for Lifelong Learning in the Dungeness National Nature Reserve. It has maximised the area's already outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage for the enjoyment and benefit of both the local community and visitors to the area.

Dungeness is a unique and special place - a vast shingle triangle protruding out of the Kent coast into the English Channel. From its open landscape, incredible communities of plants and animals and eccentric weatherboard houses to its unusual shingle vegetation, its haunting beauty and charm is unforgettable. Much of the area is a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and has designations of the highest order – Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and now also a proposed Ramsar Site and proposed extensions to the SPA. Some of the buildings at Dungeness, such as the acoustic mirrors, are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Despite the area's beauty and protection, over half of the distinctive shingle habitat has been destroyed by unmanaged visitor access, deliberate human disturbance and industrial use. The acoustic mirrors are suffering from erosion, which will make them unsafe to visit. In addition, many residents at Dungeness suffer trespass and some do not feel a sense of ownership of the place nor understand why others appreciate the site. They feel that they do not have a stake in its future management.

The Dungeness Shingle and Wetland Project was designed to address these issues, so Dungeness becomes an area which local people and visitors alike can enjoy, benefit from and be proud of. The partners – RSPB and RMCP/WCCP - have been working together for several years and were keen to integrate their work still further with the implementation of this project.

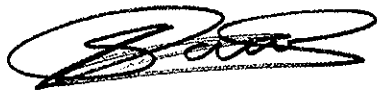
At the time of the application for funding, it was felt that there was no coherent management and a lack of suitable access facilities, visitors to the area failed to

benefit fully from what Dungeness has to offer and unwittingly contributed to reducing both the quality of life for the residents and the natural history interest of the area. With over half a million visitors to the area each year, effective visitor education and management was vital.

By managing and improving access through the provision of boardwalks, new nature trails, and viewing facilities, the project protected the vegetated shingle and is allowing regeneration. The creation of the reedbed helped fulfil the UK Government's Biodiversity Action Plans for reedbeds and bitterns and contributed to the aesthetic improvements to the area.

Intellectual access has been improved through formal and informal interpretation. The Environment Centre and the Education Development Officer have provided an education scheme that helps students of all ages experience Dungeness directly, as a living classroom. The scheme has contributed to the long-term understanding of the importance of this special place and its conservation. The Dungeness Project Officer now provides a direct point of contact with local residents and a means of involvement and feedback for them, giving them a sense of ownership of their place through for example, voluntary work.

Through this project the long-term, sustainable future of Dungeness as a place of quiet enjoyment and as an educational resource has been ensured. This benefits the local community and the residents' livelihoods by maintaining the very special reasons that an increasing number of people choose to visit.



Samantha Dawes
Conservation Manager
The RSPB South East Region