

Stockland Parish Council

Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme (HLS)

Quantock Common

Work began on Quantock Common in 1998 with the main objectives being to extend the area of wet heath/Molinia mire (both of which are national Biodiversity Action Plan habitats) and to establish a regime of grazing to achieve optimum sward height. Also, to construct a hide to encourage access by parishioners for wildlife watching. The hide is in position, and the quality of the mire is improving rapidly; it is already very species-rich. Work in progress at the eastern periphery of the open area is producing a wood-pasture.

The funding for most of this work has been provided by Natural England under the HLS agreement and consists of two main parts:

Capital works - including fencing, gates and a timber stile, scrub and bracken control, provision of bat, bird and small mammal boxes and construction of a bird hide; under the HLS agreement a total of £ 6,296 was made available over the first three years of the agreement and was allocated as follows:

	£
Scrub control/management	670
Fencing/gates/stiles	2,211
Bracken control	250
Bat/Bird boxes (10)	280
Small mammal boxes (10)	100
Special project: Construction of bird hide	2,785
TOTAL	£ 6,296

Annual Payments of £ 4,545 per year for 10 years (2009 - 2019), for general maintenance of scrub and woodland, on-going restoration of heathland, cattle grazing, and bracken control etc.



Bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*)



Raft spider (*Dolomedes fimbriatus*)



Early marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*)

