

## **ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL TREATMENT SCHEME (RockETS) BACKGROUND INFORMATION June 2010**

---

### **Introduction**

This grants programme is a direct result of the introduction by the Government (in April 2002) of the Aggregates Levy on aggregate and crushed rock quarried in the United Kingdom. Part of the Levy is being used to address the environmental costs of aggregate extraction and encourage the use of recycled minerals. It has now been confirmed that Devon County Council has a further allocation of £120,000 available for 2010/11 to distribute to projects over the County of Devon, including Plymouth and Torbay Unitary Authorities, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Park Authorities.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Devon produces approximately 3.6 million tonnes of primary aggregates (sand, gravel and crushed rock) each year. The extraction and transportation of these aggregates can have a significant effect on communities and their environment.

In order to be considered for funding, projects should demonstrate a direct link to aggregates extraction and/or transportation. Not all forms of quarrying are subject to the Aggregates Levy - therefore only projects that are linked to aggregates that have paid the levy (or would have paid it in the case of redundant quarries) will be considered.

### **Eligible aggregates include:**

- Sand
- Gravel
- Crushed rock
- Offcuts from dimension/building stone (except sand used for glass and limestone used for cement).

### **Exempt materials include:**

- Flurospar
- Gypsum
- Lignite
- Coal
- Slate
- Shale
- Peat
- Ball Clay & China Clay
- Any material that is used in agricultural or industrial processes
- Rock used for building

As a basic rule, four conditions must be satisfied for a project to be eligible:

1. There is an impact on the local area or community that results directly from past or present quarrying and its associated activities such as transportation,
2. The proposed project compensates for that impact,
3. The project will have spent the grant funding by 31 March 2011 for 2010/11 applications,
4. The application will be submitted by 16 July 2010 for 2010/11 applications.

Additionally, the RockETS aims to support projects which:

1. Take place within the geographical county of Devon, and
2. Reduce the effects of quarrying that are suffered by communities or individuals as a result of quarrying or the transport of quarried products, and
3. Consist of works or other activities that would not otherwise be achieved as a result of the legal or statutory obligations of mineral operators, landowners or statutory undertakers, and
4. Show evidence of support from local community organisations, Parish Councils, environmental organisations and special interest groups.

## **Types of project**

Examples of the types of projects that may be eligible for a grant from the RockETS are given below:

1. Projects that restore (or provide access to) land adversely affected by quarrying to beneficial use. Land may be restored for biodiversity, for geological interest, for historic interest and for amenity. This can include management and interpretation of sites.
2. Projects that remove threats caused by current extraction to monuments / sites / structures, to biodiversity, to geology and to amenity.
3. Projects that reduce impacts caused by quarrying on archaeological sites, regionally important wildlife sites, local amenity and quality of life.
4. Restoration of monuments / sites / structures.
5. Conservation of wildlife habitats following damage caused by quarrying. This can include management and interpretation of sites.
6. Projects that promote a better understanding of quarrying in local communities. This may, for example, include education about how aggregates are extracted, how and where it is used, what the additional benefits of quarrying are, what the restoration plans for the quarry site are and whether the local community can feed into these plans.
7. Projects that survey the nature, extent and relative importance of the impact of quarrying in a given area.
8. If communities become fragmented due to aggregates extraction and transport, projects mitigating this impact may be considered. For example, projects that restore or improve community buildings, or the provision of new footpaths / cycleways.
9. Provision of community facilities which will encourage enjoyment of the Parish environment such as a wildlife area, new benches, public art or a play area.

### **How to submit an application**

Applications must be submitted using a RockETS Application Form, which is available from:

RockETS Administrator  
ABG Lucombe House  
Devon County Council  
County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
EX2 4QW

Tel. 01392 383195

Or can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/planning/rockets>