

Historic significance

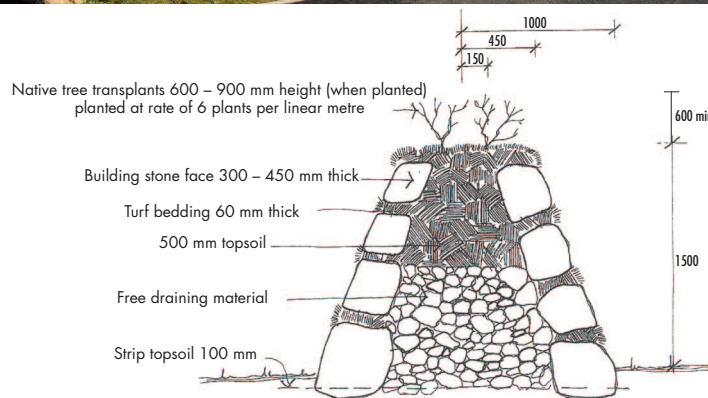
- An important note for Pembrokeshire hedgebanks is that the vast majority of hedgebanks that are present today in Pembrokeshire are historic boundary features.
- These can be identified on Tithe maps – which predate the Inclosure Act of 1845.
- By looking at field sizes in Pembrokeshire it is thought that many are much older than 1845.

Ecological interest and habitat connectivity

- The structural resilience of Pembrokeshire hedgebanks has resulted in their long-term retention to produce a valuable, interconnected ecological habitat.
- The establishment of trees and woody species on the banks; are also only a part of the ecological benefit afforded by hedgebanks, as they also support:
 - Flora such as wildflowers, ferns and grasses etc which grow along the sides and the bases of the banks.
 - Fauna – such as chough and other birds and animals that use the hedgebanks as corridors and homes.

Boundary features

- Pembrokeshire hedgebanks are an excellent boundary structure as they provide screening, links to adjacent hedges as well as assisting with the interaction with the landscape of Pembrokeshire. They are suitable in nearly all environments from agricultural fields, urban landscapes as well as house and garden boundaries.



Hedgebank construction

- The Pembrokeshire hedgebank varies visually throughout the county; from construction type, size, condition and associated species.
- The most common construction method is to produce a tapered structure that is 'battered' (faced) with stone separated by turf bedding.
- The stone typically gets smaller as you go up the side of the bank.
- The internal construction incorporates free draining material at the base up to about halfway, with the remaining space filled with topsoil to enable planting of native species along the apex of the bank.

SuDS - Sustainable Drainage Schemes

- Pembrokeshire hedgebanks can also be useful in terms of assisting with drainage on development sites as:
 - The hedgebank feature increases the immediate surface area for interception.
 - The hedgebanks typically incorporate plants and trees to intercept rainfall and absorb water.
- The bank can also act as a physical, semi-permeable barrier that can protect from flooding on adjacent land.

'Hedgerow spotting'

Very exposed areas

Where there are very exposed areas such as the St David's Peninsula, the hedgebank feature (Cloddiau) will sometimes only be topped with turf and wild flowers, with small woody specimens scattered along the hedgebank such as:

- Blackthorn
- Gorse
- Hawthorn

Less exposed areas

In areas where there is still some exposure which will restrict larger trees from establishing, the hedgebanks will be more typically supporting structurally continuous hedgerows with increased species diversity such as:

Smaller trees

- Crab apple
- Wayfaring tree
- Holly
- Hazel

Hedge species

- Hawthorn
- Elder
- Blackthorn
- Wild privet

Sheltered Areas

Hedgebanks located in areas with the least exposure to the elements will normally support a variety of woody specimens of various sizes from large trees to established hedgerows and even climbing species may also be present:

Tree/larger species

- Ash
- Elm
- Sycamore
- Oak

Smaller species

- Hawthorn
- Elder
- Blackthorn
- Hazel
- Wild privet
- Spindle
- Dogwood

'Climber' species

- Honeysuckle
- Dog rose





Hedgebanks and associated hedgerows

- The landscape and environment of Pembrokeshire results in some areas of the county being more exposed than others.
- This in turn reduces the ability of some species from establishing.
- This produces a great variety in the shapes and form of hedgerows supported by Pembrokeshire Hedgebanks; from scattered gorse growing along hedgebanks in Porthclais, through to mature linear rows of trees growing on hedgebanks in Newport.
- It is possible to gauge how exposed an area is in Pembrokeshire by spotting a specific species and seeing how big they have grown in a particular area.



Legislation

- Hedges and hedgerows form an important feature in the landscape and provide habitats for many species of wildlife.
- They are often also of archaeological and historical value.
- For this reason, most countryside hedges are protected by law under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- Hedgerows are protected where they are identified as being 'important' within the Regulations; based upon criteria relating to archaeological, historical, wildlife or landscape value.
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1160/made

Further information

For more information visit:

www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/default.asp?PID=655

Please note:

This leaflet is intended to be a helpful and simple guide and should not be regarded as a full interpretation of the law. If you have any doubts, please contact us:

Development Management

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Llanion Park
Pembroke Dock
Pembrokeshire
SA72 6DY

Telephone: 01646 624800

Email: dc@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk

LANDSCAPE LEAFLET 2

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority 2019

The Pembrokeshire Hedgebank

A brief guide to the iconic landscape feature of Pembrokeshire



Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park