

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Traditional Boundaries Pilot Grant Scheme 2020/21

This is a pilot grant scheme for the restoration of traditional boundaries in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. To apply for the scheme you will need to fill out the application form and submit to us by Monday 5th October at the latest. Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis.

Background

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park has a wealth of traditional field boundary types, including Pembrokeshire hedgebanks (cloddiau), earth banks and drystone walls. The type of boundary often reflects the local conditions, availability of materials and the age of the boundary itself. These boundaries make a significant contribution to the landscape and ecology of the National Park.

Under threat

The importance of traditional boundaries within the farming system has declined, along with the availability of farm labour required to maintain them. Without periodic maintenance hedgerows become thin and gappy and unfenced banks become eroded and tumbledown, a process exacerbated by livestock movement. Without significant action there is a risk many of our boundaries could disappear forever.

The grant scheme

We are operating a pilot grant scheme to provide opportunities for landowners to receive financial support with all aspects of the management and restoration of traditional field boundaries. The grant pot is limited and because the launch of the scheme has been delayed due to Covid 19 we will be operating on a first come first served basis for works planned for this coming winter so interested applicants are advised to get applications in as soon as possible.

How does it work?

Once the application form has been received someone from our Conservation land management team will contact you to discuss your boundary in more detail and to carry out a socially distanced site visit if necessary.

Once the scope of work on the boundary has been agreed it will be up to the applicant to arrange quotes from a private contractor for completion of the work. We can provide details of contractors as well as specifications and guidance to share with your contractor. As an applicant you may also provide a quote to carry out the work yourself if desired, however we may ask for evidence of the necessary skills.

Once we have agreed on your quote for completion of the works we will make you a formal offer of grant. We are offering to fund 70% of the cost of all restoration and creation works with the exception of fencing which will be funded at 50% as per our current Conserving the Park land management scheme.

The applicant will commission the works and the grant will be paid on completion of the works and submission of an invoice and photo evidence/satisfactory site inspection by park staff.

What do we fund?

All aspects of traditional boundary restoration including repair of earth banks and stone faced banks, restoration of drystone walls , hedge laying and coppicing, creation of new hedgerows and gapping up existing hedgerows.

Applications will be limited to one boundary per applicant.

We prefer to fund the restoration of entire boundaries from node to node (i.e from field corner to field corner or field corner to gate) rather than partial restoration. However, we accept that in some cases (e.g . long lengths of drystone walls around commons) that a rolling programme of partial restoration may be the only option.

Priorities

In the event of over subscription to the scheme we may consider the following when prioritising applications

- Wildlife value
- Proximity to or visibility from public rights of way
- Contribution to the landscape
- Historic value

Further assistance

If you require any assistance or further information please contact us on 01646 624800 or by email at devplans@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk

You can download the application form here

<https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/conservation/traditional-boundaries-grant-scheme-2020-2021/>