

## Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership-Call for Applicants Traditional Hedge Laying Grant 2024/25

### GUIDANCE NOTES

#### 1. WHAT THE GRANT WILL FUND

Hedge laying in the ‘traditional style’ in accordance with standards set out in [Glastir Small Grants Capital Works Technical Guidance Booklet: Landscape and Pollinator 2021, Section 902 Hedge laying](#). (Further guidance and standards available in sections 4,5 & 6).

The work may be carried out by the applicant or by a contractor employed by the applicant, but the payment rate is set at £15 per metre (inclusive of VAT).

More than one hedgerow can be laid on a farm but please bear in mind this is a competitive process and the total proposed hedgerow length is capped at 300 metres and only one application per farm or farmer is eligible.

What the grant will fund	What the grant will not fund
Active farmers – you must have a farm customer reference number & main holding number.	Non-farmers.
Hedges adjacent to or within <u>50m</u> of a Public Rights of Way (including roads & Commons).	Hedges not adjacent to or not within <u>50m</u> of a Public Right of Way.
Hedges where both sides are owned by the applicant.	Hedges where only one side is owned.
Hedges within the BBNPA area.	Hedges outside the BBNPA area (Map available to check).
Applicants that are not already receiving grants or payments for the proposed works.	Applicants that are already receiving grants or payments for the proposed works.
Hedges outside of a statutory designated area (e.g. SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), SAC (Special Area of Conservation)).	Hedges within a statutory designated area (e.g. SSSI, SAC).

Hedges within Local Wildlife Sites or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.	
Hedges that improve connectivity in the landscape e.g. link to another hedge, copse, woodland etc.	Isolated hedges that do not improve connectivity in the landscape.
Work must be (able to be) completed by 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025.	Work that cannot be guaranteed to be completed by 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025.
Only one application per farm holding number & farm applicant	Multiple applications
Applicants who commit to long term sympathetic management of the hedge (10yrs+) *1	Applicants who cannot commit to long term sympathetic management of the hedge (10+yrs) *1
Hedgerows in the wider landscape	Garden or house hedgerows

\*1How to manage your hedgerow sympathetically is covered in section 6

## 2. PAYMENT RATES AND TIMESCALES

- The grant will offer payment at a set rate of £15 per metre, we will not pay VAT on top of this.
- The maximum number of metres of hedge laying will be capped at 300m in total per farm.
- Payment will be in arrears.
- Only one application per farmer/farm holding.
- The application window will open on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and close on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 12 noon.
- All applications will be processed by the grants panel during the first two weeks of October.
- Applicants will hear if they are successful by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October.
- Works can only commence once a contract is signed by both parties.
- Works must be completed and grant claims submitted by February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025.  
NOTE : Any works that cannot be completed by then will not be able to be claimed.
- After works are complete, please contact [hedgerowgrant@beacons-npa.gov.uk](mailto:hedgerowgrant@beacons-npa.gov.uk) and a site inspection will be arranged.
- Subject to a successful site inspection your payment will then be issued by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

### 3. HOW TO APPLY

Please read these guidance notes in full and satisfy yourself that you can meet all the necessary criteria before applying.

Fill in the application form available from: [BBNP \(Brecon Beacons National Park\) WEBSITE](#)) or [hedgerowgrant@beacons-npa.gov.uk](mailto:hedgerowgrant@beacons-npa.gov.uk)

For a discussion or any queries please contact [hedgerowgrant@beacons-npa.gov.uk](mailto:hedgerowgrant@beacons-npa.gov.uk)

### 4. EXPECTED HEDGEROW STANDARDS

Taken from Welsh Government guidelines set out in [Glastir Small Grants Capital Works Technical Guidance Booklet: Landscape and Pollinator 2021, Section 902 Hedge laying.](#)

- Ensure that all redundant fencing or wire is removed.
- Lay the hedge by partially cutting through suitable stems at ground level, at an angle of approximately 30°.
- Lay the cut stems as close to ground level as possible, and secure in place with stakes.
- Retain all large, mature trees where undertaking hedgerow renovation work, particularly those with features such as holes, splits, cracks or dense ivy cover as these provide roosting sites for bats.
- Ensure there is at least 1m between new planting and protective fencing.
- Ensure that the hedge can grow to a 3m width. There must be a gap of at least 3m between double fences.
- Do not:
  - Use wire or baler twine to secure either the stakes or cut stems.
  - Plant any ash trees as part of any planting mix due to ash dieback disease (*Chalara fraxinea*), in any planting mix, either for woodlands or when establishing or restoring hedgerows.
  - Cause damage to any existing hedge banks during ground preparation, planting or fencing.
  - Use trees and shrubs as strainers or fencing posts, or use them to support fencing wire, staples or netting.

**Additional guidance which may be useful in addition to the specifications above:**

- Depending on the volume of timber felled you may need to obtain a Felling Licence from Natural Resources Wales.
- Ensure that you have the appropriate Flood Risk Activity Permit if you are planting or fencing near a main river, flood plain or flood defence structure. Alternatively, ensure you have the appropriate Ordinary Water Course Consent if you are carrying out works near an ordinary water course. The permit/consent (or

confirmation that a permit/ consent is not needed) should be retained and made available on request.

- If undertaking any spraying as part of this activity, ensure you have obtained any consents that may be necessary.
- Where activities include the installation of access furniture such as stiles or gates on a Public Right of Way, it is your responsibility to ensure you obtain approval under Section 147 of the Highways Act, 1980, from the appropriate Highway Authority.
- Carry out hedge restoration work between dates permitted by Cross Compliance rules.
- Restricting the hedge restoration dates further to between November and March will be even more beneficial to wildlife such as dormice.
- Stems for laying should be about 5cm – 10cm thick at the base, and 2.5m – 3.5m in height. Beyond this stage coppicing should be considered as a more suitable alternative.
- An additional 1 metre at the base between hedge and fence (on top of the minimum 3 metre width) will create additional wildlife habitat.
- If planting any gaps, using the widest selection of species available will provide a greater selection of food sources for wildlife.
- Aim to lay hedges in the winter months between November and March.
- Whenever possible follow local traditional methods and customs.
- In the interest of biodiversity, remove only as much elder as is necessary and cut back any bramble, briar or other climbing growth where this impedes laying operations.
- Hedge laying should aim to be upslope and in the same direction wherever possible.
- Maintain existing ash trees where possible.
- Retain all large mature trees where undertaking hedgerow renovation work, as these can provide roosting sites for bats.
- Where work is required to a tree that has been identified as a bat roost (either because bats are known to be present or where positive signs of bat use have been found), a Habitats Regulations licence from Natural Resources Wales must be obtained.

## 5. ILLUSTRATIONS OF LOCAL HEDGEROW STYLES



Photo 1: Example of 'Brecknock' laid hedge



Photo 2: Example of 'Carmarthenshire' laid hedge (c) Malcolm Edwards

Photo 3: Example of Monmouthshire' laid hedge



## **6. SYMPATHETIC HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT**

After laying, the hedge should be left for at least 2 years, and then trimmed. It may be maintained by regular trimming every 2 years or so.

When the hedge becomes gappy at the base it should be sided-up for 2-3 years to allow the strong leading shoots to grow on, and the laying process followed again.

Hedge laying rotations can vary between 10-30 years.

Guidance on how to manage hedgerows is available on the BBNPA webpages:

[Hedgerows | Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority \(beacons-npa.gov.uk\)](https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/hedgerows)

More information on hedges is available from [Guidance | Hedgelinek](#)

